

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO MR. J.C. "PEPE"
TREVIÑO

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2007

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. J.C. "Pepe" Treviño for his induction as the 2007 Laredoan of the Year by the Laredo Morning Times newspaper. The award demonstrates his incredible dedication to the City of Laredo, Texas.

Mr. Treviño was born on May 31st, 1930, as one of the three children of Jose C. Treviño and Victoria Salinas Treviño. He graduated from Martin High School and then attended Laredo Junior College. At just 17 years of age, he married his sweetheart, the late Rose Ella Tarvar, and had six children: J.C. III, Diana, Roberto, Anna Laura, Guillermo, and Carlos. Mr. Treviño worked hard to build a financial empire from scratch that encompasses drayage and long-haul trucking; beer and soda distribution; maquila, warehouse and residential development; and commercial waste disposal.

Mr. Treviño is truly the self-made man. He rose far above his humble beginnings yet never forgot where he came from. Those groups that benefited from his charity include the Sacred Heart Children's Home, the Laredo Boys and Girls Club, and the Laredo Community College. He served for nearly 31 years on the Laredo Community College Board. For his dedication and hard work in making the Laredo business community stronger as well as his passion for philanthropy, he will be honored by the Laredo Morning Times Newspaper as the 2007 Laredoan of the Year.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to have had this time to recognize the hard work and dedication of Mr. J.C. "Pepe" Treviño.

HONORING BISHOP EDWARD SMITH

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2007

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, today I rise in honor of Bishop Edward Smith on his 20th anniversary as Presiding Bishop of the Progressive Churches and as pastor of the Progressive Church in Columbia, South Carolina.

On April 15, 2007, Bishop Smith was honored by his home church, the Progressive Church of our Lord Jesus Christ, Inc., in Columbia. The following is a summary of the tribute that appeared in the church program:

The year 2007 is a milestone in the life of Bishop Edward Smith. This year marks his 20th anniversary as pastor of the Progressive Church in Columbia, S.C., and his 50th anniversary as pastor of the Progressive Church in Denmark, S.C. During this week, we pause to honor a dedicated man of God for his

many years of ministry and service, and for his commitment to winning souls for the kingdom of God.

Bishop Edward Smith was born and raised in Birmingham, AL. After graduating from high school, he enlisted in the U.S. Army and was sent to Fort Jackson Army Base in Columbia.

Having been raised from a child to attend church, Bishop Smith began attending different churches in Columbia. One day he met Sister Edna M. Friday, niece of the late Bishop J.D. Williams. She invited him to attend services at the Progressive Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ, where she was a member. After visiting the church for several months, he was baptized.

On August 6, 1952, young Brother Edward Smith was married to Sister Edna M. Friday. They were blessed with three children: Elder William E. (Sheneice) Smith, David N. (Carolyn) Smith, and Joyce D. (Lewis) Grimes. Bishop and Sister Smith also have three grandchildren: David N. Smith II, Brandon E.B. Smith, and Adrienne M. Smith.

Soon thereafter, Brother Smith had to make a decision between continuing his military career as a soldier in the U.S. Army or coming back to South Carolina and the Progressive Church. He made the choice to stay in South Carolina because of the Progressive Church.

In the years since, Bishop Williams has faithfully served the Progressive Church at the local and national level.

Bishop Smith's greatest desire is to see souls saved and delivered from sin. Known as a "no-nonsense man," he often states that he does not preach to excite people's emotions, but rather that God has called him to "provoke thought and bring conviction." In a time when many pastors are compromising God's Word, we are thankful to God for giving us a Pastor and Bishop who has the people of God at heart.

ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN
HERITAGE MONTH

SPEECH OF

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 7, 2007

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, in many ways the history of America is the history of American immigrants, the people who came here from somewhere else to make a better life for themselves and their families. In so doing, they each have made America stronger as a Nation and culturally richer as a people.

That's why it gives me great pleasure to recognize the month of May as Asian Pacific American Heritage Month and, in so doing, recognize the approximately 80,000 Asian Pacific Americans who live in the 7th Congressional District in Washington State, the district I proudly represent. We are home to Asian Indian, Cambodian, Chinese, Filipino, Hmong, Japanese, Korean, Laotian, Vietnamese, Pacific Islanders, Samoan, Tongan and representatives of other Asian American cultures as well. Their contributions to Seattle, the sur-

rounding communities, and to America deserve to be celebrated, not just merely recognized.

Throughout the year, I am honored to join constituents at commemorative events like the International District Street Fair, Bon Odori and Tet in Seattle. These and other truly unique cultural celebrations enrich our communities and our personal lives. For instance, every chance I get, I now enjoy Sumi-e painting, a Japanese art form, where ink is used to depict a subject in the fewest number of strokes. When someone of Irish decent like me can assimilate an Asian art form, it is a reminder that America's great strength is America's great diversity.

Asian Americans immigrated to the United States in the late 19th century, but many faced prejudice, racial injustice and discrimination. They responded with quiet, dignified resolve and made America stronger by their commitment to equality for all. Trying to mention all the significant achievements and role models from the Asian American community would fill a very large roomful of books, but I am proud to mention some in the 7th Congressional District.

In Seattle, the United States Courthouse is named for William Kenzo Nakamura, a Japanese American who was posthumously awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for his courage in World War II, an honor especially poignant because William and his family were forcibly relocated to a federal internment camp at the beginning of the war. The courthouse is a perfect symbol and memorial to an American who sacrificed his life so that others might be free. Elsewhere in Seattle, the Wing Luke Asian Museum, Seattle Asian Art Museum, Filipino American National Historical Society, and Densho: The Japanese American Legacy Project, strengthen America by preserving the heritage of Asian Americans.

Today, Seattle is truly a global city, with a culturally diverse population that underscores our deep involvement in global issues and trade. Over one quarter of the jobs across Washington State are directly tied to international trade. In fact, trade is growing and we are succeeding because of the relationships we have built with the help of the Asian American community.

It is my hope that recognizing May as Asian Pacific American Heritage Month reminds us of the role immigrants have played in shaping the history of our Nation. Ahead, we must examine the issue of immigration, and I believe we can and should be guided by reflecting on the contributions that immigrants have made and continue to make.

As we look ahead, let us honor and remember our past, and remember that we are all immigrants and when we pause to honor Asian Pacific Americans, we honor all Americans.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

IRAQI HYDROCARBON LAW

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2007

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I submit the following for the RECORD:

READ THE IRAQI PARLIAMENT'S HYDROCARBON LAW: THE IRAQI "HYDROCARBON LAW" CONTAINS THREE SENTENCES ON OIL REVENUE SHARING AND 33 PAGES ON PRIVATIZATION

Dear Colleague: An issue of critical importance, the Iraqi "Hydrocarbon Law", was again broached yesterday for the third time in the Democratic Caucus and I want to provide you the facts and evidence to support the concerns I have expressed.

As you know, the Administration set several benchmarks for the Iraqi government, including passage of the "Hydrocarbon Law" by the Iraqi Parliament. The Administration misled Congress by emphasizing only a small part of this law, the "fair" distribution of oil revenues. Consider the fact that the Iraqi "Hydrocarbon Law" contains a mere three sentences that generally discuss the "fair" distribution of oil.

Except for three scant lines, the entire 33 page "Hydrocarbon Law" is about creating a complex legal structure to facilitate the privatization of Iraqi oil. As such, it is imperative that all of us carefully read the Iraqi Parliament's bill because the FY07 Iraq Supplemental puts Congress on the record in promoting oil privatization.

The U.S. Troop Readiness, Veterans' Care, Katrina Recovery, and Iraq Accountability Appropriations Act of 2007, released yesterday, contains Sec. 1330(2)(A) requiring a report by the President on "whether the Government of Iraq has enacted a broadly accepted hydro-carbon law that equitably shares oil revenues among all Iraqis." The Iraqi "Hydrocarbon Law" is not broadly accepted and does far more than share revenues. The final 3 months of war funding are tied to the favorable completion of this report and a favorable vote by Congress.

It is also important to highlight Sec. 1311(2) of the Supplemental bill, which prohibits funds "to exercise United States control over any oil resource of Iraq." The crucial issue is not the U.S. government control of Iraqi oil resources. Rather the issue is Congress passing a measure that pressures Iraq to pass their "Hydrocarbon Act" so that multinational oil corporations (many based in the U.S.) will exercise control over Iraqi oil resources.

Here are the annotated facts, according to reliable media sources:

FOREIGN OIL COMPANY CONTROL

"The law, if passed, is expected to open the country's billions of barrels of proven oil reserves, the world's third largest, to foreign investors."

"Under the new law, the Iraq National Oil Company would have exclusive control of only about 17 of Iraq's approximately 80 known oil fields."

"The law would also allow the government to negotiate different kinds of exploration and production contracts with foreign oil companies, including Production Sharing Agreements, or PSAs. Energy lawyers favor these because they allow oil companies to secure long-term deals and book oil reserves as assets on their company balance sheets."

"The proposal would provide for production sharing agreements that would give international firms 70 per cent of the oil revenues to recover their initial investments and subsequently allow them 20 per cent of

the profits without any tax or restrictions on the transferring of funds abroad.

"Energy lawyers agree. "Pretty much all the major oil companies are taking a very close interest in the future potential in Iraq," says Mathew Kidwell, a partner in the Dubai office of Fulbright & Jaworski. "We have certainly had discussions with a number of our oil industry clients about the legal framework."

IRAQI SELF GOVERNANCE THREATENED

The unions were kept in the dark, as were most members of Iraq's parliament, until the draft law was leaked to the media. Even then it was still out of the reach of most of Iraq's citizens.

"Iraq will not be capable of controlling the levels—the limits of production, which means that Iraq cannot be a part of OPEC anymore. And Iraq will have this very complicated institution called the Federal Oil and Gas Council, that will have representatives from the foreign oil companies on the board of it, so representatives from, let's say, ExxonMobil and Shell and British Petroleum will be on the federal board of Iraq approving their own contracts."

"Under the proposed law, foreign companies would not have to invest their earnings in Iraq, hire Iraqi workers, or partner with Iraqi companies."

"Iraq's oil unions have threatened to shut-down production if foreign companies are allowed too much control."

"The Iraq National Oil Co. would restart but compete with foreign oil companies, who could win contracts giving them partial ownership of the respective fields."

PERSUASION BY FOREIGN OCCUPIERS

"The British Government intervened to help UK and US energy giants in their attempts to secure lucrative contracts to exploit Iraq's ruined oilfields."

"The Foreign Office delivered a report by the International Tax and Investment Center (ITIC)—a Washington-based think-tank backed by a host of multinationals, including oil companies such as Shell and BP—to Iraqi officials in Baghdad, it has emerged."

"The British ambassador to Iraq formally sent the 'road-map' study on the Iraqi oil industry to the then Iraqi minister of finance, according to documents seen by The Independent on Sunday. The study recommended the Iraqi government sign long-term production-sharing agreements with foreign oil companies."

"The ITIC hosted a conference in Beirut in January 2005 to give a formal presentation to Iraqi ministers. Executives from BP, Shell, ChevronTexaco, the Italian oil company ENI and its French rival Total attended."

If the above quotes are not persuasive, then I highly encourage you to read the Iraqi "Hydrocarbon Law" yourself. It is available, not because the Iraqi government released it, but because the Kurds released it. This version passed the Iraq Cabinet, and was referred to the Parliament. http://web.krg.org/uploads/documents/Draft%20Iraq%20Oil%20and%20Gas%20Law%20English_2007_03_09_h17m2s47.pdf

The following highlights are the major concerns of the Iraqi "Hydrocarbon Law":

The legislation ensures that the "Chief Executives of important related petroleum companies" are represented on the Federal Oil and Gas Council, which approves oil and gas contracts. This is akin to the foreign oil companies approving their own contracts.

The legislation ensures the Iraq National Oil Company has no exclusive rights for exploration, development, production, transportation, and marketing. The Iraq National Oil Company must compete against foreign oil companies with rules that benefit the foreign oil companies.

The legislation gives the Iraq National Oil Company some control of developed oil fields and "rights to participate" in undeveloped oil fields in Annex I and II, but these Annexes have never been made public.

The legislation gives the Iraq National Oil Company temporary control of the oil pipelines and export terminals, but then directs the Federal Oil and Gas Council to turn these assets over to any entity with no further instructions. The opportunity for a foreign oil company to have control over the Iraqi oil pipeline and export terminals would give that company enormous control of the Iraqi oil market.

The legislation demands that "contracts must guarantee the best levels of coordination" with the Oil Ministry, Iraq National Oil Company, the regions and oil companies. The legislation mandates that undeveloped oil fields be developed quickly and oil companies are given explicit authority to "collaborate."

The legislation does not require contracts to be published for public review up to two months after the approval.

The legislation contains only three sentences in regards to the fair distribution of oil, but do not resolve any of the issues facing this challenge. The legislation simply requires that future legislation be submitted for approval. Thus, this legislation does not even meet the President's benchmark.

The legislation provides up to 35 years of exclusive control over oil fields for foreign oil companies.

The legislation provides for a preference to Iraqis for jobs and services, but only if these benefits do not place extra costs or inconveniences on the foreign oil companies.

This war was about oil. We must not be party to the Administration's blatant attempt to set the stage for multinational oil companies to take over Iraq's oil resources. The war in Iraq is a stain on American history. Let us not further besmirch our nation by participating in the outrageous exploitation of a nation which is in shambles due to U.S. intervention.

Please join me in seeking to remove any reference to the Iraqi "Hydrocarbon Law" in the war spending bill.

Sincerely,

DENNIS J. KUCINICH,
Member of Congress.

TRIBUTE TO MR. HUGO A.
GUTIERREZ, SR.

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2007

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Hugo A. Gutierrez, Sr., an American hero—a soldier, a father, a husband, and a great leader in the city of Laredo, who recently passed away on March 27, 2007, after a courageous battle with cancer.

Mr. Hugo A. Gutierrez, Sr., was born on August 1, 1925, as the seventh of his parents' twelve children in Nuevo Laredo, Mexico. His family moved to Laredo, Texas, when he was a small child, and thus began his great love for the city and its people. His father passed away when he was only 14 and Hugo started working to provide for his family. Two years later, when his eldest brother, Adolfo, passed away from complications from appendicitis, Hugo began work as an electrician with the Koenig Electric Company so that he could

earn more money to feed and clothe his family.

At 18, Hugo served for 2½ years in World War II. He helped detect land mines to protect his fellow soldiers. After the war, he returned to Laredo and soon met his late wife, Ofelia Alvarado. Together they started a family. In 1959, he started his own electrical company, Hugo's Electric Company, in 1959.

Mr. Gutierrez's four sons, Hugo A. Gutierrez, Jr., Ricardo, Aldo, and Roberto learned the value of entrepreneurship by working with their father. In 1995, Mr. Gutierrez and his sons purchased a majority interest in what was then Falcon National Bank. At this point he became chairman of the board, and his son, Adolfo, took on the role of president and CEO of Falcon International Bank. Under their leadership, the bank became one of the premier financial institutions in south Texas.

Mr. Gutierrez was loved and respected by hundreds in the city of Laredo. He is survived by his four sons, sisters Mela Serna, Esperanza Pena, Rosa Smith, brothers Arnoldo, Hector and Feliciano and his 15 grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to have had this time to recognize Mr. Hugo A. Gutierrez, Sr.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CENTRAL ASSEMBLY OF GOD CHURCH

HON. ROY BLUNT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2007

Mr. BLUNT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize an institution celebrating its centennial milestone this month. The Central Assembly of God Church in Springfield, MO, has been at the center of the Pentecostal movement in Springfield since the turn of the 20th century.

Early in 1907, a woman, who had attended a California revival, came to Springfield and spent a week with Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Corum. She related the stories from the revival in Los Angeles and told them God was sending a refreshing message. Mrs. Corum began reading material from the revival. On June 1, 1907, Mrs. Corum received a spiritual awakening.

Prayer meetings resulted from this spiritual outpouring. Hearing about a revival, a group of friends from Joplin came to Springfield to join the prayer meetings. From 1907 to 1914, this band of Spirit-filled believers met in various places, including a large tent. The first pastor, Reverend Sig Eaton, was elected on December 7, 1914.

During the spring of 1918 the Assemblies of God International headquarters moved from St. Louis, MO, to Springfield, increasing the number in the local church. Because of the larger congregation, the group erected a 40 x 60 foot building, which was completed and occupied on July 1, 1920.

In December 1929, that building burned to the ground. The new church was erected in 1930. The church complex now covers 200,000 square feet, offering an assortment of services and activities for every age group. The latest renovation, completed in 2004, includes four levels of children's ministries classrooms; construction began on a new

22,000 square foot Youth and Community Center that includes a 350-seat youth chapel, wood floor gymnasium, cafeteria, kitchen, computer lab, game area, classrooms and an office wing. The retrofitted old sanctuary has become a spacious 16,000 square foot multipurpose hall that houses a large area for KidZone/Children's Church, as well as a facility with seating for some 700 people at round tables for other churchwide events. A large industrial kitchen and children's game area were also included in this space.

The congregation of Central Assembly has a rich tradition of not just meeting the spiritual needs of the community; but the physical needs as well. Currently, through initiatives such as a food pantry, strategic relationships with Pipkin Middle School, Boyd and Weaver Elementary Schools, and other community efforts, Central Assembly has expanded its influence beyond the walls of the church.

Central Assembly sent out its first foreign missionary, Forest Coover, on September 1, 1926 to Tibet. That international ministry continues today. The church has an impact that is global in its work and mission. Due to its strategic location in close proximity to the Assemblies of God headquarters and universities, Central has played an important role in the development of young leaders who now lead ministry and relief efforts around the world.

The group of congregants, today more than 2,000 strong, has come a long way from the early and humble beginnings of those who met in prayer meetings with the Corums. The Central family is thankful to the Lord for the evidence of His blessing through the years, keenly aware that the Church is made up not of bricks and stained glass but of born-again believers, with a desire to connect with God, with each other, and with their purpose in life.

I congratulate the Central Assemblies of God Church on their special anniversary and pray the congregation's future is filled with success in the spiritual missions that are the foundation of the church.

TRIBUTE TO RIVERSIDE COUNTY'S RECIPIENTS OF OPERATION RECOGNITION

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2007

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to a group of individuals—heroes—who are receiving the recognition and honor they deserve for their service to our country. Operation Recognition is operated by the Riverside County Office of Education with assistance from the Riverside County Department of Veterans' Services. The program awards high school diplomas to veterans who missed completing high school due to military service in World War II, the Korean War, or the Vietnam War, or due to internment in WWII Japanese-American relocation camps.

A recognition ceremony will be held on Wednesday, May 16, 2007, for the following individuals who received their high school diplomas through Operation Recognition: David Gregory Aguilera, Benjamin Alcala, Walter Morton Anderson, John Angelo Jr., Ronnie D. Archer, William Armstrong, Luis Velos Aviles Sr., Herb Bacon, Thomas Louis Baier, David

H. Bartash, Paul W. Bennett, Ronald C. Bissey, Alec Carson Boatman, David A. Bravo, William A. Bray, Aaron E. Bulin, James Elroy Butler, Robert Lee Chaffin, Arthur Charton, Israel Chavez, Gordon Michael Cody, Doyle L. Conklin, Ezra L. Craycraft, Donald Edward Davis, Moses F. Diaz, Howard Ellis, Scott Leslie Faust, John P. Flanagan, Frederick Lopez, Frank Garces, Benjamin Garcia, Robert George Greene, Patrick Roy Guaydacan, Gordon LeRoy Hall, Charles R. Hansen, Allen Hartley, William R. Haskin, Jimmy L. Henry, Arthur F. Hill, Ramon D. Holguin, Jerome Stephen Huggins, Barney M. Jensen, William Johnson, William L. Klaasen, Robert L. Knechtel, Edward Knight, Lonnie L. Lambeth, Joseph A. Landry, George Jefferson Lawrence Jr., Richard S. Leivas, August J. Liberino, Thomas John Martin, William Maycock Sr., Walter Maykulsky, Ray George McClintock, Eleuterio E. Medina, Forrest Leroy Mitchell, Frank R. Montejano, Curtis L. Murphy, William J. Murray, Jack I. Odell, Donald E. Pechous, Donald Edward Pedersen, Donald R. Phillips, Jerome Kern Pittman, John T.R. Pollock, John Puz, Walter S. Pynn, Gilberto Ramos, Rex Lee Reed, Richard M. Rego, Russell William Reichert, Alexander "A" Reyes, Raymond F. Reyes, William Leonard Robey, Juan M. Rodriguez, Luis Alfredo Rosado, Leo Marty Schlocker, Ernest George Schrader, Donald Clifford Secory, Robert Lewis Smith, Cecil T. Spires, Ronald Stiff, Steve P. Stone, John W. Swanson, Thomas Joseph Tarpai, Anthony R. Travers, David Scott VanNyhuis, Ralph Watkins, Michael L. Weir, Alvin Wilkiewicz, Donald Wohlt and Saturnino James Zabala.

Our country owes a debt of gratitude to all the above recipients for their service and sacrifice. I salute all the above individuals and congratulate them on receiving their high school diploma.

TRIBUTE TO HAROLD SNYDER

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2007

Mrs. LOWEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Harold Snyder on his 85th birthday.

Harold was born on April 25th, 1922, in New York City. The son of immigrants, he has lived the American dream, ascending from a poor childhood through hard work to a successful career, and continues to give back to his community.

In 1941, he proudly enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Corps and served as a gunner and radio operator of B-17s in the 301st Squadron.

After his service ended, Harold attended college on a GI Bill and received an undergraduate degree from New York University. He then pursued a Masters degree in Natural Sciences from Columbia University.

In 1963, Harold founded Biocraft Laboratories. A pioneer of the pharmaceutical industry, Harold has devoted his career to providing affordable prescription drugs to Americans. As the cost of health care has skyrocketed, Harold Snyder has fought to ensure that American consumers have access to the medications they need by leading the charge to develop less expensive, safe, effective generic pharmaceuticals.

In addition, Harold contributes to and advocates on behalf of a number of charitable causes including medical research, education and the Arts. He believes in the power to change the world for the better and has devoted himself to helping provide opportunity to others less fortunate than himself. Indeed, Harold has graciously helped to give hope to many facing all kinds of struggles, to give back to a world that he feels has provided him with exceptional opportunities. I am honored to call Harold Snyder my good friend.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me today in recognizing the tremendous accomplishments of Harold Snyder and to wish him a Happy 85th Birthday.

A TRIBUTE TO DIXON OSBURN

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2007

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, for 14 years, Dixon Osburn has been the Executive Director of the Service Members Legal Defense Network, an extremely effective and principled organization that has fought against the unfair discrimination against gay, lesbian and bisexual people in the U.S. armed services. It is hard to combine passion and common sense in a political cause—people who feel strongly often have an understandable difficulty in controlling their strong feelings to the point where they can follow the most rational strategies, and serving as the head of an organization exacerbates this, since the head of such a group is required to preach thoughtfulness to people who are—often justifiably—far too angry to want to think about things.

Dixon Osburn as Executive Director of SLDN performed this extremely difficult task very, very well. No one ever doubted the depth of his commitment to the cause of fairness for LGBT service members, and no one could fault the analytical discipline he brought to the job. I believe that we will some day in the near future abolish this unfair “don’t ask, don’t tell” policy, which discriminates against individuals and deprives our military of personnel who would perform useful services at a time when we need that. When we do reach that goal, the important work that Dixon Osburn has done over these past 14 years will deserve a great deal of the credit.

INTRODUCTION OF QATARI-AMERICAN FRIENDSHIP DAY

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2007

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, today, I am pleased to introduce a bill congratulating Qatar on the occasion of Qatari-American Friendship Day. On Monday, May 14, 2007, the United States Embassy in Doha, Qatar will observe Qatar-American Friendship Day. Over the recent years, Qatar has become an important ally of the United States. It is a major defense ally in the Middle East, with Qatari and American forces both benefitting from close cooperation.

I first visited Doha, Qatar in 1999 for the historic municipal elections where women were first granted the right to vote. It is important to note that Qatari women have always enjoyed the same political rights as men. I am most impressed by the work of His Highness the Emir, Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani and Her Highness Sheikha Mozah Nasser al-Misnad and their commitment to the education of the young women and men of the Middle East. With their vision, Education City Qatar now hosts five major American universities, including Virginia Commonwealth University of the Arts in Qatar, Weill Cornell Medical College in Qatar, Texas A&M University at Qatar, Carnegie Mellon University in Qatar, and Georgetown University School of Foreign Service in Qatar.

I would like to highlight one of those programs, the Weill Cornell Medical College in Qatar. Nearly 10 years ago, Qatar, the Qatar Foundation, the people of Qatar, and the leadership of Weill Cornell Medical College entered into a partnership to establish a branch in Doha, Qatar—the first American medical school to succeed at such an endeavor.

The Weill Cornell Medical College in Qatar (WCMC-Q) celebrated its official opening on October 12, 2003 and will soon be celebrating its first graduating class. WCMC-Q aims to further Cornell University’s commitment to education, research, patient care and the advancement of the art and science of medicine while supporting the Qatar Foundation’s efforts to serve the local community. The College offers a complete medical education, leading to a Cornell University Doctor of Medicine (M.D.) degree, with teaching by Cornell faculty. It is the first American university to offer its M.D. degree overseas, and the first higher education institution in Qatar to be co-educational. Prospective students will be subject to the same entrance requirements as in the United States, with no geographical restrictions, and will be the first school of medicine established by an American university to award the same degree abroad that it bestows upon students in the U.S. While the State of Qatar underwrites the educational costs of Qatari students, it also offers a loan forgiveness program for foreign students if they commit to practicing medicine in Qatar for a specified period after graduation. Since 70 percent of the inaugural class are women for the Pre-medical Program, WCMC-Q is already demonstrating its ability to have an extraordinary impact in a region with few higher education options for women.

In addition to providing a superb medical education, WCMC-Q serves as a model for strong partnership and cultural understanding in the Middle East. It has served as an anchor that in turn has inspired other leading institutions of higher education, that I mentioned previously, to establish similar programs in Education City.

The leadership and the people of Qatar have clearly demonstrated their commitment to putting education and tolerance above hate and misunderstanding, one that fosters mutual respect, understanding, and peace in a very real and practical application. I am pleased to congratulate Qatar on the special occasion of Qatari-American Friendship Day and hope that our nations continue our long-lasting friendship into the future as we both strive for freedom and peace throughout the world.

HONORING DR. ZUHAIR MUNIR OF DAVIS, CALIFORNIA RECIPIENT OF THE UC DAVIS PRIZE FOR UNDERGRADUATE TEACHING AND SCHOLARLY ACHIEVEMENT

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2007

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Zuhair Munir, the 2007 recipient of the UC Davis Prize for Undergraduate Teaching and Scholarly Achievement. This prize has been awarded annually since 1986 to recognize scholars who are successful not just in their research, but convey their excitement and love of scholarship to students at the university. Dr. Munir has been a leader in the field of materials science for many years, conducting research in areas which have yielded remarkable technological advances, but his hallmark at UC Davis has always been as a professor who cares deeply for students throughout their studies.

Dr. Munir was born in Baghdad, Iraq and immigrated to the United States as a teenager. He earned 3 degrees from the University of California, Berkeley: his bachelor’s degree in 1956, a masters in 1958 and then his doctorate in 1963. He joined the professorial staff at UC Davis in 1972, and has worked there ever since. In 2000 he was appointed Dean of the College of Engineering and he served there until 2002. In 2003, he was promoted to Distinguished Professor in the College.

Throughout his career, Dr. Munir has worked on the cutting edge of materials science, working to understand the properties of various materials and the ways they can interact and transform under the right conditions. This has included work studying the effects of electrical fields on crystals, and as an innovator in the field of combustion synthesis.

His proficiency as a professor and mentor have long distinguished Dr. Munir, and evaluations submitted by students consistently rave that he is among the best and most engaging of their professors. Throughout his career, he has made a point of encouraging students to venture beyond his lectures and come work in the laboratory so that they can gain a better perspective on the practice of science. By encouraging students to explore problems for themselves rather than simply providing the answers, Dr. Munir has inspired generations of students to pursue in-depth study of materials science and chemical engineering, and pursue work in related fields.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, it is appropriate at this time that we thank Dr. Munir for his years of exemplary work as a scholar and educator, and congratulate him on receiving this award. His commitment to educating young students has been unwavering, and he deserves our thanks.

MINING LAW REFORM LEGISLATION

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2007

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Speaker, 135 years to the day after President Ulysses S. Grant

signed the 1872 General Mining Law, I am introducing legislation to provide much-needed fiscal and environmental oversight for the hardrock mining industry operating on Federal lands.

This legislation would overhaul that antiquated statute penned into law by President Grant on May 10, 1872—a law that contains no environmental protection provisions governing the mining of hardrock minerals such as platinum, gold, silver, and copper on public domain lands in the western States. The 1872 Mining Law also allows extraction of these minerals from the public domain without the payment of a royalty to the American taxpayers, and it allows a mining company to purchase mineral rich public lands for no more than \$2.50 or \$5 an acre, irrespective of the land's true value.

This legislation would bring the hardrock mining law into the 21st century.

The lack of a royalty in the 1872 Mining Law and the absence of deterrents or penalties for irresponsible mining have caused enormous taxpayer giveaways and liabilities. Under the Mining Law the Federal Government has handed out over \$245 billion in mineral rich public lands.

To be sure, Congress has attempted to reform the Mining Law at various times over its history—only to be thwarted each time by powerful mining interests. Former Congressman Mo Udall came close to achieving reform of the mining law in the 1970's. During the 102nd Congress in 1991, I introduced mining reform legislation. And we came close to enacting legislation that would have reformed this archaic law in 1994. But, at the last moment, after both the House and the Senate had passed separate bills, the Conference failed to reach a compromise, and the rest, as they say, is history. Since then, I have re-introduced reform legislation in each succeeding Congress.

Many Americans support reform and question why Congress does not address this issue. These people believe that American taxpayers are being robbed every time a multinational conglomerate breaks U.S. ground and mines our valuable minerals for free.

It is time, well past time, that the Congress replace this archaic law with one that reflects our values and goals. Ensuring a fair return to the public in exchange for the disposition of public resources and properly managing our public lands are neither Republican nor Democratic issues. They are simply goals that make sense if we are to be good stewards of America's lands and meet our responsibilities to the American people.

Madam Speaker, during the years I have labored to reform the Mining Law of 1872 those who defend its privileges—and it is indeed a privilege to be deemed the highest and best use of our public domain lands—have often alleged that reform legislation fails to take into account the contribution of hardrock mining to area economies. They claim that reform would have dire consequences on the industry, that if we do not provide the industry with unfettered access to public lands and public minerals, the industry could no longer survive.

Let me just say at the outset that there is no Member in the House of Representatives whose Congressional District is more dependent upon mining for employment and its economic benefits than this gentleman from West Virginia. And when we are talking about the

effects of mining, I would suggest that there is little difference between coal mining and gold mining. The effects, whether measured in terms of employment, or in terms of the environment, are the same.

With that noted, I have engaged in the effort to reform the Mining Law of 1872 these past many years not just for the apparent reasons—valuable minerals mined for free, Federal lands available almost for free, and no comprehensive Federal mining and reclamation standards. But also because I am pro-mining, because I no longer believe that we can expect a viable hard rock mining industry to exist on public domain lands in the future if we do not make corrections to the law today. I do so because there are provisions of the existing law which impede efficient and serious mineral exploration and development. And I do so because of the unsettled political climate governing this activity, with reform coming, if not in a comprehensive fashion, certainly on a piecemeal basis.

So I say to my colleagues from the Western States who resist reform, I understand your concerns. I have been in your situation. In 1977 I served on what is now called the Natural Resources Committee as a young freshman. I was confronted by legislation being advanced by my chairman, Mo Udall. And I recall that the coal industry was dragged kicking and screaming into the debate that led to the enactment of the Surface-Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977.

I voted for that legislation. It was not an easy thing for me to do. But I voted for that bill because in my region of the country we were grappling with a legacy of acidified streams, highwalls, refuse piles, open mine shafts, and other hazards associated with coal mining practices. That is a legacy, I would submit, that we are faced with today on lands administered by the Forest Service and the BLM in the western States due to hardrock mining practices.

The fact of the matter is that the gloom and doom predictions made by industry against the Federal strip mining act all those years ago did not materialize. Predictions, I would note, that are almost to the word identical to those which industry has leveled at times against this Mining law of 1872 reform legislation.

Yet, today, the coalfields of this Nation are a much better place in which to live. And today, we are producing more coal than ever before.

Certainly, coal continues to have its controversies, whether they involve mountaintop removal coal mining or the problems we are having with coal waste impoundments. But at least there are laws on the books to deal with those situations.

At least there are in place basic Federal mining and reclamation performance standards. At least when one mines coal on Federal lands a royalty is paid to the Federal Government. And at least we are making provision for the restoration of lands left abandoned by past coal mining practices.

None of this exists with respect to hardrock mining under the Mining Law of 1872.

I believe that with enough courage, and fortitude, we can continue to address the problems facing mining, and dovetail our need for energy and minerals with the necessity of protecting our environment.

For at stake here in this debate over the Mining Law of 1872 is the health, welfare, and

environmental integrity of our people and our Federal lands. At stake is the public interest of all Americans. And at stake is the ability of the hardrock mining industry to continue to operate on public domain lands in the future, to produce those minerals that are necessary to maintain our standard of living.

RESPONSIBILITY TO IRAQI REFUGEES ACT

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2007

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, today, along with Congresswoman JAN SCHAKOWSKY and Congressman CHRISTOPHER SHAYS, I am introducing the "Responsibility to Iraqi Refugees Act." Iraq is the world's fastest growing refugee crisis, yet the U.S. response has been minimal.

For one group in particular, however, our moral responsibility is unquestionable—Iraqis who are at risk because they helped the United States. Having cooperated with the United States military, the United Nations or even with a nongovernmental organization can literally mean a death sentence at the hands of any of the many sides in this civil war.

Our legislation would admit Iraqis to the United States who are at risk because they helped coalition or reconstruction efforts in Iraq, establish a Special Coordinator for Iraqi Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons and require strategies to ensure the well-being and safety of Iraqi refugees in the region; and increase the number of persecuted Iraqis who can be admitted to the United States as refugees.

I urge every Member of the House to co-sponsor this broad, ambitious and comprehensive response to the Iraqi refugee crisis before it is too late for the people whose only crime was working with Americans.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 9, 2007

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1684) to authorize appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for fiscal year 2008, and for other purposes:

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Chairman, Representative CARDOZA will highlight the importance of communications interoperability for our Nation's first responders, and the urgent need for cost-effective and forward-looking technology solutions. Last year, Congress established an interoperability grant program at the Department of Commerce to draw upon its spectrum and telecommunications expertise. This program is distinct from efforts by DHS, which, as evidenced by a recent report of the Government Accountability Office, still need much work to achieve full interoperability across our Nation.

I did not support the creation of this Cabinet level Department, but I applaud Chairman THOMPSON for his efforts in this reauthorization. Coordination is the goal, not confusion of authority.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1294, THOMASINA E. JORDAN INDIAN TRIBES OF VIRGINIA FEDERAL RECOGNITION ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. TOM COLE

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 8, 2007

Mr. COLE of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1294, the Thomasina E. Jordan Indian Tribes of Virginia Federal Recognition Act of 2006. This is a bill that is long overdue and provides an opportunity to right an historical wrong.

As clearly outlined in the language of this legislation, these six tribes are of great historical significance. These tribes were some of the first Native Americans to come into contact with European settlers, and save for the active cooperation of these tribes, a number of the first English settlements in America may not have survived.

Having clearly impacted the course of our Nation and having endured in a country of drastic change and challenges for four centuries, I am pleased to support a bill that will provide these six tribes federal recognition at long last.

Mr. Speaker, the only reservation I have with this bill is the fact that it prohibits every single one of these tribes from gaming. For if indeed this bill passes "into public law, these tribes should be afforded every right they deserve as a sovereign entity as granted to them under the Constitution of the United States. These tribes should not have to bargain away any one piece of their sovereignty they have

sought to preserve in order to receive federal recognition. This diminishes the tribes, and places them at a lesser status than states and other tribes. In the future, I hope that Congress recognizes that it is not fair to blackmail tribes into giving up part of their rights in order to provide them sovereignty.

With that said, Mr. Speaker, I recognize that these tribes negotiated with the House and the state in which they reside and ultimately agreed to this prohibition on their right to engage in certain forms of lawful economic activities. Therefore, although I fear the precedent this may establish, I honor the settlement reached between the House, the state of Virginia, and the tribes, and urge my colleagues to support passage of H.R. 1294.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2007

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Madam Speaker, unfortunately, I was unavoidably detained and missed rollcall vote No. 281.

I take my voting responsibility very seriously, and if I had been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 281.

TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK

HON. ADRIAN SMITH

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2007

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Madam Speaker, for the past 15 years, communities across the United States have set aside the first full week of May as Teacher Appreciation Week.

As the school year winds down in many areas of the country, this week gives us the opportunity to thank these individuals for making a difference and for helping all of us succeed in school and in life.

As a former educator, and the son of one of the best teachers I know, I wanted to take the time to recognize the educators who give so much of their time and personal freedom to accomplish so much for the future of our country.

As Henry Adams said, "A teacher affects eternity; he can never tell where his influence stops."

Today I encourage my colleagues to remember those teachers whose influence continues in these Chambers and throughout the world.

FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE

HON. F. JAMES SENSENBRENNER, JR.

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2007

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Madam Speaker, through the following statement, I am making my financial net worth as of March 31, 2007, a matter of public record. I have filed similar statements for each of the 28 preceding years I have served in the Congress.

ASSETS

Real property	Value
Single family residence at 609 Ft. Williams Parkway, City of Alexandria, Virginia, at assessed valuation. (Assessed at \$1,523,982). Ratio of assessed to market value: 100% (Unencumbered)	\$1,523,982.00
Condominium at N76 W14726 North Point Drive, Village of Menomonee Falls, Waukesha County, Wisconsin, at assessor's estimated market value. (Unencumbered)	148,300.00
Undivided 25/44ths interest in single family residence at N52 W32654 Maple Lane, Village of Chenequa, Waukesha County, Wisconsin, at 25/44ths of assessor's estimated market value of \$1,659,700.	943,011.36
Total Real Property	\$2,615,293.36

2007 DISCLOSURE

Common & Preferred Stock	No. of shares	\$ per share	Value
Abbott Laboratories, Inc.	12200	55.80	680,760.00
Alcatel-Lucent	135	11.82	1,595.70
Allstate Corporation	370	60.06	22,222.20
AT&T	2944,044	39.43	116,083.65
JP Morgan Chase	4539	48.38	219,596.82
Benton County Mining Company	333	0.00	0.00
BP PLC	3604	64.75	233,359.00
Centerpoint Energy	300	17.94	5,382.00
Chenequa Country Club Realty Co.	1	0.00	0.00
Comcast	634	25.95	16,452.30
Darden Restaurants, Inc.	1440	41.19	59,313.60
Delphi Automotive	212	2.90	614.80
Dunn & Bradstreet, Inc.	2500	91.20	228,000.00
E.I. DuPont de Nemours Corp.	1200	49.43	59,316.00
Eastman Chemical Co.	270	63.33	17,099.10
Eastman Kodak	1080	22.56	24,364.80
El Paso Energy	150	14.47	2,170.50
Exxon Mobil Corp.	9728	75.45	733,977.60
Gartner Group	651	23.95	15,591.45
General Electric Co.	15600	35.36	551,616.00
General Mills, Inc.	2280	58.22	132,741.60
General Motors Corp.	304	30.64	9,314.56
Hospira	1220	40.90	49,898.00
Idearc	67	35.10	2,351.70
Imation Corp.	99	40.38	3,997.62
IMS Health	5000	29.66	148,300.00
Kellogg Corp.	3200	51.43	164,576.00
Kimberly-Clark Corp.	6384	68.49	437,240.16
Merck & Co., Inc.	34078	44.17	1,505,225.26
3M Company	2000	76.43	152,860.00
Medco Health	4109	72.53	298,025.77
Monsanto Corporation	2852,315	54.96	156,763.23
Moody's	2500	62.06	155,150.00
Morgan Stanley/Dean Whitter	312	78.76	24,573.12
NCR Corp.	98	47.77	3,248.36
Newell Rubbermaid	1676	31.09	52,106.84
JP Morgan Liquid Assets Money Mkt	4533.72	1.00	4,533.72
Pactiv Corp.	200	33.74	6,748.00
PG&E Corp.	175	48.27	8,447.25
Pfizer	22211	25.26	561,049.86

2007 DISCLOSURE—Continued

Common & Preferred Stock	No. of shares	\$ per share	Value
Qwest	571	8.99	5,133.29
Reliant Energy	300	20.32	6,096.00
RH Donnelly Corp.	500	70.89	35,445.00
Sandusky Voting Trust	26	1.00	26.00
Solutia	1672	0.68	1,138.63
Tenneco Automotive	182	25.46	4,633.72
Unisys, Inc.	167	8.43	1,407.81
US Bank Corp.	3081	34.97	107,742.57
Verizon	1373.891	37.92	52,097.95
Vodafone	323	26.86	8,675.78
Weenergies (Wisconsin Energy)	1022	48.52	49,587.44
Total Common & Preferred Stocks and Bonds			\$7,136,650.77

Life Insurance Policies	Face \$	Surrender \$
Northwestern Mutual #4378000	12,000	75,412.27
Northwestern Mutual #4574061	30,000	181,284.03
Massachusetts Mutual #4116575	10,000	11,520.97
Massachusetts Mutual #4228344	100,000	286,415.27
American General Life Ins. #5-1607059L	175,000.00	40,950.00
Total Life Insurance Policies		\$595,582.54

Bank & Savings & Loan Accounts	Balance
JP Morgan Chase Bank, checking account	8,098.33
JP Morgan Chase Bank, savings account	43,935.47
M&I Lake Country Bank, Hartland, WI, checking account	10,236.24
M&I Lake Country Bank, Hartland, WI, savings	368.64
Burke & Herbert Bank, Alexandria, VA, checking account	1,998.58
JP Morgan, IRA accounts	118,610.24
Total Bank & Savings & Loan Accounts	\$183,247.50

Miscellaneous	Value
1994 Cadillac Deville—retail value	\$3,700.00
1989 Cadillac Fleetwood—retail value	2,475.00
1996 Buick Regal—retail value	3,100.00
1991 Buick Century automobile—retail value	1,750.00
Office furniture & equipment (estimated)	1,000.00
Furniture, clothing & personal property (estimated)	180,000.00
Stamp collection (estimated)	100,000.00
Interest in Wisconsin retirement fund	377,350.61
Deposits in Congressional Retirement Fund	175,108.36
Deposits in Federal Thrift Savings Plan	273,226.53
Traveler's checks	7,800.00
17 ft. Boston Whaler boat & 70 hp Johnson outboard motor (estimated)	7,000.00
20 ft Pontoon boat & 40 hp Mercury outboard motor	13,000.00
Total miscellaneous	\$1,145,510.50
Total Assets	\$11,676,284.67

Liabilities	Amount
None	
Total Liabilities	\$0.00
Net worth	\$11,676,284.67

Statement of 2006 Taxes Paid	Amount
Federal income tax	\$12,694.00
Wisconsin income tax	\$36,794.00
Menomonee Falls, WI property tax	\$2,343.00
Chenequa, WI property tax	\$23,791.00
Alexandria, VA property tax	\$12,177.00

I further declare that I am trustee of a trust established under the will of my late father, Frank James Sensenbrenner, Sr., for the benefit of my sister, Margaret A. Sensenbrenner, and of my two sons, F. James Sensenbrenner, III, and Robert Alan Sensenbrenner. I am further the direct beneficiary of five trusts, but have no control over the assets of either trust. My wife, Cheryl Warren Sensenbrenner, and I are trustees of separate trusts established for the benefit of each son.

Also, I am neither an officer nor a director of any corporation organized under the laws of the State of Wisconsin or of any other state or foreign country.

GRANDMOTHERS AND CHICKENS

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2007

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, my grandmothers were remarkable women. I enjoyed the time I spent with them up until they died late in years—one at 88; the other at 99.

They lived during times when there were few if any modern conveniences. No air conditioner. No microwaves. No electricity. They forged lives for their families out of sheer will and determination. My Grandmother Poe was of Scots-Irish decent. My mom's mother, Meme, was of German heritage. Both were wonderful cooks, and I always showed them utmost respect.

Sundays were special. When we visited them we would go to Church, and then back to one of my grandmother's house for the big Sunday lunch that was all home cooking.

The summer that I was 5 years old, I visited Grandmother Poe, and on one particular Saturday she was preparing for Sunday lunch. Fried chicken was the meal. I never made the connection between the chicken we ate on Sunday and the chickens that ran loose around my grandmother's house.

I soon learned that connection and one of those chickens was the next day's meal. Grandma Poe told me on that Saturday afternoon that we needed a chicken for Sunday lunch. So I eagerly and happily followed her out to the yard and was unaware of what was about to happen. I saw her small, petite hands latch on to the neck of a hen, and with the slightest of movements she popped the head off that chicken. I was horrified. I had never seen anything so ghastly. She calmly waited for the chicken to stop "running around with its head cut off," plucked the feathers off of it, and put it in a big 5-gallon bucket to be fried and eaten the next day. I don't think that I ate chicken on Sunday, but I learned respect and a little bit of fear of my Grandmother Poe that afternoon.

About a year later, a similar situation occurred with Grandmother Meme, when I stayed with her.

Sunday was to be another meal of fried chicken. So on Saturday, I was emotionally prepared in my youthful mind for the "chicken hunt"—ready to see the neck pop off of another unsuspecting chicken—just to be devoured by humans.

But this time, my Meme did not go wring a chicken's neck. Instead, just as calm as my Grandmother Poe had been, she picked up her 22 rifle, stepped out of the back porch, took aim at the moving, head-jerking hen, and pulled the trigger. She shot that chicken in the head and it flopped over with no movement at

all. One shot—one dead hen. I was stunned. She picked up the carcass and fried it, just as my other grandmother had done.

I gained a lot of respect for my gun-totin' grandmother that Saturday.

After those two incidents occurred early in my life, I was always careful on how I treated my grandmothers—careful never to anger either one of them—and remembering in a childlike way, the fate of those chickens. I admired my grandmothers and cherished all those special lessons they taught me for numerous years.

This Mother's Day, we pay tribute to those wonderful, hard-but-soft ladies like the generation of my grandmothers.

We praise and respect all of the American mothers this Sunday that have made us who we are and taught us about respect and honor of these remarkable women. And Madam Speaker, I still don't eat chicken. And that's just the way it is.

INTRODUCING THE RAILROAD COMPETITION AND SERVICE IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2007

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2007

Mr. OBERSTAR. Madam Speaker, on May 3rd, I joined with the gentleman from Louisiana, Mr. Baker, and ten of our colleagues, to introduce the "Railroad Competition and Service Improvement Act of 2007."

Twenty-six years ago, Congress voted to deregulate the Nation's railroad industry and enacted the Staggers Rail Act. The railroad industry was in crisis: Years of low profits, deferred maintenance, and ill-conceived regulatory policies had resulted in a very debilitated industry. We were assured that deregulation was the cure. We were told that economic regulation had outlived its usefulness; that it was preventing the industry from competing effectively with trucks, barges, and pipelines; and that there were a sufficient number of rail carriers to provide significant rail-to-rail competition. Congress voted to deregulate the industry.

Deregulation did produce some of the benefits predicted: America's railroads are financially much stronger today than they were in 1980. Industry rates of return that hovered in the 1–2 percent range in the 1970s were up in the 6–9 percent range in the 1990s. Today, U.S. railroads account for 42 percent of intercity freight ton-miles, more than any other mode of transportation. U.S. Class I railroads move three times more freight than all of Western Europe's freight railroads combined.

The 40 Class I railroads that existed in 1980 have consolidated into just seven Class I railroads serving the entire United States, four of

which control over 95 percent of the railroad business. This unprecedented consolidation has resulted in entire States, regions, and industries becoming captive to a single Class I railroad.

Example: Laramie River Station is served by a single railroad—BNSF—that delivers 8.3 million tons of coal annually from Wyoming's Powder River Basin to Laramie River Station, a distance of approximately 175 miles. When a long-standing contract for that service expired in 2004, BNSF published new rates for the same service that more than doubled the prior rate. Without Federal intervention, these increased rail rates are estimated to cost consumers \$1 billion over the next 20 years.

Example: Dairyland Power Cooperative, a generation and transmission cooperative located in LaCrosse, Wisconsin, has experienced similar problems. The Cooperative asserts that failure by the Union Pacific Railroad to deliver 25 percent of scheduled shipments of Utah coal resulted in Dairyland's overall fuel budget increasing by roughly 10 percent. Dairyland is also bracing for a 49 percent increase in rail rates later this year.

Example: Montana grain producers advise me that their counterparts in Nebraska—where a limited amount of rail competition exists—pay less in transportation costs than do Montana farmers to ship grain to Portland, Oregon, despite the 200 miles in additional distance the Nebraska grain must travel. The Montana farmers estimate that this disparity has cost them about \$60 million a year.

This lack of competition has resulted in record profits for railroads. North American railroads earned \$42 billion in revenue in 2006. In 2006, BNSF achieved \$15 billion in revenues, a 15 percent increase over 2005, exceeded \$5.10 in earnings per share, and attained \$712 million in free cash flow after dividends. The railroad's net income was \$1.89 billion, compared to \$1.53 billion in 2005.

BNSF's 2006 intermodal revenues increased to a record \$5.14 billion, an 18 percent increase from 2005's then-record levels. Consumer products revenues climbed to \$5.61 billion, a 14.6 percent increase. Agricultural products revenues were up 14 percent to \$2.43 billion. Industrial products revenues increased by 15 percent to \$3.60 billion. And coal revenues rose \$480 million—or 19 percent—to \$2.92 billion.

Union Pacific Railroad achieved \$14.9 billion in revenues in 2006, a 15 percent increase from 2005 revenues. The railroad's net income was \$1.6 billion or \$5.91 per diluted share, versus \$1 billion, or \$3.85 per diluted share, in 2005. Energy revenues increased by \$376 million, or 15 percent, to \$2.95 billion. Agricultural revenues were up 22 percent to \$2.4 billion. Industrial products revenues were up 13 percent to \$3.17 billion. And intermodal revenues were up 14 percent to \$2.81 billion.

CSX's revenues for 2006 were \$9.57 billion, a 12 percent increase over 2005 revenues. CSX's net income was \$1.31 billion in 2006, a 14 percent improvement from 2005, and the \$2.82 earnings per share is a 31 percent improvement over 2005. Metals revenues were up 18 percent to \$673 million. Forest products revenues were up 8 percent to \$773 million. Coal, coke, and iron ore revenues were up 14 percent to \$2.38 billion.

Norfolk Southern's net income for 2006 was a record \$1.5 billion, or \$3.57 per diluted share, an increase of 15 percent compared

with net income of \$1.3 billion, or \$3.11 per diluted share, for 2005. General merchandise revenues for 2006 climbed to a record \$5.1 billion, an 11 percent increase from 2005's then-record levels. Coal revenues increased 11 percent to a record \$2.33 billion. Intermodal revenues rose 9 percent to a record \$1.97 billion.

All of these gains for the railroads have come at a price for captive shippers, who look to the Surface Transportation Board (STB) for help. They quickly realize that they can't afford the \$178,200 filing fee or the millions of additional dollars necessary to fight their rate cases. Shippers see that the Board is more concerned about the financial health of the railroads than with the financial health of railroad customers, and they decide it's not worth the effort and cost to protest a rate case. Instead of alleviating the problems shippers face, the STB is actually discouraging captive shippers from filing rate cases.

This is hardly the competitive environment envisioned when Congress voted to deregulate the railroad industry, and when Congress tasked the STB's predecessor, the Interstate Commerce Commission, to ensure that rail rates remain reasonable when there is an absence of effective competition.

That is why I introduced legislation in the past four Congresses to reform STB's policies and procedures. Other Members of Congress, including Congressman BAKER, introduced similar legislation to reform railroad regulation. But to date Congress has failed to act upon these bills.

The "Railroad Competition and Service Improvement Act of 2007" will preserve existing rail-to-rail competition in areas of the United States where competition is working, and take action to reduce impediments to competition that adversely affects rail customers. The bill provides directives to the STB for implementing current law. It requires the STB to: (1) Ensure, to the maximum extent possible, effective competition among rail carriers at origins and destinations; (2) ensure reasonable rates for rail customers in the absence of competition; and (3) ensure consistent, efficient, and reliable rail transportation service for rail customers, including the timely provision of rail cars requested by rail customers.

The bill will also:

Eliminate "bottle-necks." Under the bill, on the request of a shipper, the carrier must establish a rate for any two points on the carrier's system where traffic originates, terminates, or can be interchanged. In addition, the reasonableness of the rate would be subject to challenge. This bill will give shippers access to competitive rail service even if a single carrier has monopoly control over a short, bottleneck portion of a route.

Create competitive rail service at switching points. The bill requires rail carriers to enter into reciprocal switching agreements where the STB finds that such agreements are in the public interest or where agreements are needed to ensure rail service is competitive. The bill also prohibits the STB from requiring that the petitioning carrier show conduct inconsistent with antitrust laws.

Eliminate "paper barriers." These barriers are contractual agreements that prevent short-line railroads that cross two or more major rail systems from providing rail customers access to competitive service on one of these systems. The agreements require the short-line

railroads to deliver all or most of its traffic to the major carrier that originally owned the short line facilities. Under the bill, the STB must terminate these restrictions, upon request, unless the STB finds that the termination would be inconsistent with the public interest or materially impair the ability of an affected rail carrier to provide service to the public.

Establish a new regulatory process for "Areas of Inadequate Rail Competition." The bill allows the STB to designate a State or substantial part of a State as an Area of Inadequate Rail Competition (AIRC), upon petition of a Governor or Attorney General of a State, or the Rail Customer Advocate of the Department of Transportation. Upon the designation, the STB has 60 days to provide remedies authorized by current law to resolve the anti-competitive conduct. The bill also requires the Rail Customer Advocate to conduct an oversight study of AIRCs within 1 year of the date of enactment.

Address rail service problems. The bill clarifies the railroad's obligation to provide reliable and efficient service, and allows rail customers to hold railroads liable for damages sustained due to poor service. The bill also requires the STB to post on its website a description of each complaint from a customer about rail service, and how and when the STB ultimately resolved the complaint. The STB is also required to submit an annual report to Congress regarding rail service complaints, and the procedures the STB took to resolve them.

Create an arbitration process for certain rail disputes. The bill allows one party to submit a dispute over rail rates, rail service, and other matters involving any agricultural product, including timber, paper, and fertilizer under the jurisdiction of the S11B for "final offer" binding arbitration.

Reduce fees for filing rail rate cases. Shippers are now required to pay a \$178,200 fee for filing a rate case. This rate is expected to rise again this year. Under this legislation, filing a rate case would cost the same as filing before a federal district court, about \$500.

Improve the rate reasonableness standard. The bill prohibits the STB from using their current practice of requiring shippers challenging rail rates to submit estimates of the costs, or constructing and operating a new, hypothetical railroad that carries only the commodity that the shipper transports. The STB currently compares the expense of the hypothetical railroad with existing rates to determine whether the challenged rates are reasonable or not. Under the bill, the STB would be required to adopt a new method based on the railroad's actual costs, including a portion of fixed costs and an adequate return on debt and equity.

Create an Office of Rail Customer Advocacy in the Department of Transportation. The Rail Customer Advocate would accept rail customer complaints; collect, compile, and maintain information regarding the cost and efficiency of rail transportation; and participate as a party in STB proceedings. The Rail Customer Advocate may also petition the STB for action.

Direct the STB to investigate complaints over service. Our bill directs the STB to follow up on complaints over rail carrier service, and suspend the action in dispute if it finds the allegation has merit.

I join with my colleagues from both sides of the aisle in introducing this bill. Together, we

will work to ensure passage of this important legislation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2007

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, on May 7, 2007, I missed rollcall votes Nos. 302, 303, and 304. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes Nos. 302, 303, and 304.

RECOGNIZING HOLY TRINITY
CROATIAN CHURCH

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2007

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, it is with great honor and enthusiasm that I recognize Holy Trinity Croatian Church in East Chicago, Indiana, as its members celebrate the church's 90th anniversary. The festivities for the celebration begin on Sunday, June 3, 2007, with the celebration of Mass, followed by a dinner and dance reception at Villa Cesare in Schererville, Indiana to celebrate this exceptional milestone.

On February 14, 1910, a group of men met to discuss building a church for the Croatian people in East Chicago. Holy Trinity Lodge became one of the main supporters of this project, and it appears to be the reason for the church being dedicated to the Most Holy Trinity. The first church board, assembled on April 14, 1914, consisted of President Nikola Mihalic, Secretary Mate Zivcic and Treasurer Peter Skefich. It was at this time that Father Judnic, the first pastor of the parish, made arrangements to come to East Chicago on Sundays and offer the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass for the Croatian people. With the church beginning to grow, the first Baptismal celebration took place on November 12, 1916, the first burial on November 22, 1916, and the first marriage on November 26, 1916.

With the completion of the church, the next undertaking was the school. The first enrollment in 1918 was 140 children for the first six grades. In September 1918, Sisters Anges, Stanislaus, and Catherine, the Sisters Adorers of the Most Precious Blood, arrived at Holy Trinity. On June 1, 1921, Confirmation was administered for the first time in the parish by Bishop Alerding. Father Judnic continued as pastor until August 1922, when he was succeeded by Father Francis Baboric, who served the congregation until March 1924. On April 15, 1924, Reverend Francis Podgorsek took over as the new pastor of the parish. It was through his leadership that the present rectory was erected in 1925. Due to Father Podgorsek's failing health, Father Paul F. Bogovich arrived as the first assistant to the parish and served in that capacity until he was appointed Acting Pastor on February 6, 1946.

A monumental event took place at Holy Trinity in 1951, when the First Solemn High Mass was offered by the first son of the parish ordained to the Holy Priesthood, Father Ben-

jamin Domsich. On March 17, 1963, Father Bogovich was vested the title of Very Reverend Monsignor by high recommendations from the Most Reverend Andrew G. Grutka. Another important historical event for Holy Trinity was the visit made by Cardinal Franjo Seper, Archbishop of Zagreb, Yugoslavia, on May 2, 1966.

Monsignor Bogovich lived his life for the church. His last Sunday Mass took place on May 26, 2002, and was offered in honor of his 62nd anniversary in the priesthood. Following his death, Father Matthew Kish stepped in and performed the Mass until October 2006. Holy Trinity now relies on a number of priests and senior priests to say Sunday Mass.

On November 19, 2006, the parish family came together to celebrate a First Communion Mass, the first of its kind in over a decade. Over the years, Holy Trinity has become home to a Girl Scout Troop, has actively participated in food drives for various local parishes, and at Christmas, has supported Catholic Charities helping needy families. Today, Holy Trinity follows in the footsteps of its founders. While Holy Trinity still treasures its Croatian customs, it has come to reflect the diversity of the surrounding community. Holy Trinity looks forward to a bright future and is proud of their many accomplishments.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring and congratulating Holy Trinity Croatian Church on its 90th anniversary. Throughout the years, the clergy and members of Holy Trinity have dedicated themselves to providing spirituality and guidance through the protection of the Croatian traditions and faith. Their constant dedication and commitment is worthy of our admiration.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND
IDEALS OF A NATIONAL SUFFRAGISTS DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 8, 2007

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of this resolution honoring women suffragists. How fitting that the House should consider this legislation just a few days before our Nation will celebrate Mother's Day.

Our foremothers, who fought so courageously for a woman's right to vote, passed on to us a precious gift: the gift of citizenship, of having a stake in our government. Imagine it: when Susan B. Anthony started the campaign for women's suffrage, one of her acts of "civil disobedience" was to cast a vote in the 1872 presidential election. Voting was her crime, and she was fined for it.

This seems so unbelievable to us now since our Nation has finally lived up to some of its early ideals—ideals such as "all persons are created equal" and that all of us have a right to elect our representatives.

We have even had the privilege of electing the first woman Speaker of the House—NANCY PELOSI—quite a milestone, especially considering the long and difficult struggles suffragists faced in their efforts to win the right of women to vote.

I am proud to pay my deepest respects to these amazing women who fought for our right

to stake a claim to our government and earn a seat at the table. Thank you.

STUDENT LOAN SUNSHINE ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. YVETTE D. CLARKE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 9, 2007

Ms. CLARKE. Mr. Speaker, I want to commend Chairman Miller for his leadership, promptness, and thoroughness on this issue and for bringing this bill to the House floor.

H.R. 890—The Student Loan Sunshine Act, establishes requirements for lenders and institutions of higher education in order to protect students and other borrowers receiving educational loans.

The key to both socio-economic mobility and stability has traditionally been through education. Education is critical to our economy as our global society transitions from an industrial to a technological society.

There have been an increasing number of students enrolling in colleges, even though college costs are escalating. Students are particularly hard hit by the increasing cost of college attendance. As a result, the majority of college students rely on some form of student loans to finance their education.

However, recently New York State Attorney General Andrew Cuomo has uncovered many unscrupulous lending practices and conflicts of interests in the student loan industry.

In light of Mr. Cuomo's discoveries, a bill such as the Student Loan Sunshine Act is desperately needed. This bill amends the Higher Education Act of 1965, and requires each lender entering into an educational loan arrangement with a postsecondary school to:

- (1) Report annually to the Secretary of Education specified information concerning their arrangements with schools;
- (2) Inform borrowers of their loan options under title IV (four) before extending private educational loans for attendance at schools; and
- (3) be barred by the school from marketing student loans in a manner implying the school's endorsement.

For the protection of students and their families, I cast an aye vote in support of H.R. 890, the "Student Loan Sunshine Act" and I urge my colleagues to protect the integrity of the student loan program.

For the protection of students and their families, I cast an aye vote in support of H.R. 890, the "Student Loan Sunshine Act" and I urge my colleagues to protect the integrity of the student loan program.

IN CELEBRATION OF THE 25TH AN-
NIVERSARY OF THE INDUCTION
OF THE "MIGHTY 33" INTO THE
GREATER CLEVELAND ALUMNAE
CHAPTER OF DELTA SIGMA
THETA SORORITY

HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2007

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the 33 African American women, including myself, who were initiated into the Greater Cleveland Alumnae Chapter of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., on April 3, 1982. This month, we celebrate 25

years of sisterhood, scholarship, and service to our beloved sorority.

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. is a public service, non-profit organization founded at Howard University in 1913 by 22 brave and ambitious African American women. The major programs of the sorority are the organization's Five Point Thrust of: economic development, educational development, international awareness and involvement, physical and mental health, and political awareness and involvement.

The Sorors of "The Mighty 33" have professional and academic accomplishments in the areas of politics, education, law, medicine, finance, business, and government service. The Sorors include: Wanda Rembert Arnold, Esq., Sandra Austin, Sandra Berry, Vera Brooks, Phoebe Carter, Lynn Davis, Ruth Fomby, Dr. Delores Groves, Frances Hunter, Marsha Johnson, Esq., Margaret Killough, Gloria Pace King, Josie Lindsay, Glenda Lottier, Louis Lynch, Ruby McCullough (deceased), Shirley McKinney, Dr. Shirley McNair Robinson, Lucile Minor, Beverley Grace Odeleye, Jewell Painter, Renee Paige, Bernice Phillips Prewitt, Lois Bradford Roberts, Carla Shannon, Barbara Stonebarclay, Renee Pye Street, Mary Taylor, Antoinette Venable, Deborah Allen Ward, Beverly Warfield, Marva Williams, Linda Winston and myself, Stephanie Tubbs Jones.

We continue to carry high the Torch of Wisdom and Pledge to uphold the noble ideals of our sorority.

On behalf of the Congress of the United States and the people of the 11th Congressional District of Ohio, I join with my Sorors and line sisters of "The Mighty 33" in celebrating our 25th anniversary in Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc. I am honored to be counted among such an accomplished and talented group of women. These Sorors will always be honored for their lifetime commitment to Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc.

HONORING MR. QUENTIN SMITH

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2007

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, it is with great admiration and immeasurable gratitude that I rise today to honor Mr. Quentin Smith for his many contributions to his community as an educator and civic leader, as well as to the entire country, as a member of the storied Tuskegee Airmen. His efforts as a veteran of the 99th Fighter Squadron, along with all of the Tuskegee Airmen, are worthy of the highest commendation.

For their efforts and their service, the surviving Tuskegee Airmen were recently recognized, though long overdue, with the Congressional Gold Medal in Washington, DC. These brave individuals had an overwhelming sense of patriotism and loyalty to their country. Unfortunately, these men, most of whom were college graduates or undergraduates, served at a time when they were not treated as equals. In a time when segregation existed in the military as well as in our communities, the Tuskegee Airmen, though not recognized at the time, are now rightfully remembered as one of the most successful units in our military's history, not only for their courage and

sacrifice in the air, but for the role they played in the progress of the military and American society as a whole. It was not until 1948, when President Truman ordered the equal treatment and opportunity for all service members, that the significance of their efforts began to be realized. Though we as a nation continue to strive toward improving our society, the progress we have made is in large part due to the efforts of people like Quentin Smith and the Tuskegee Airmen.

Beyond his selfless service in the United States Military, I would be remiss if I did not speak of Mr. Smith's continued service to his community and the State of Indiana. As a civilian, Mr. Smith continued to serve his community as an educator, counselor, and principal at the elementary, middle, and high school levels, as well as Adjunct Professor at Indiana University, Northwestern University, Valparaiso University, and Calumet College of Saint Joseph. A highly regarded member of the educational community, Mr. Smith has served in many prestigious capacities, including: Chairman of the National Association of Secondary School Principals' Committee to Evaluate High Schools, President of the Gary Reading Council, and State Commissioner of Education, to name a few.

In addition, Mr. Smith has for years been a pillar of his community through his service as a member of many civic organizations. In fact, he has served as President of several organizations, such as: the Lake County Welfare Board, Gary Common Council, Lake County Community Development Committee, Gary/Chicago Airport Authority, Urban League of Northwest Indiana, and the Gary Human Relations Committee.

While he has recently been honored for his military service, Mr. Smith has been a recipient of many prestigious awards for his involvement in enriching the lives of his students and his community. These awards include: the Distinguished Hoosier award, presented by Governor Mitch Daniels, the coveted Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Drum Major Award, presented by the Gary Frontiers Service Club, and the Teacher of the Year award, presented by the Delta Sigma Theta sorority. In addition, Mr. Smith is also a member of the City of Gary's Hall of Fame.

Madam Speaker, Quentin Smith has dedicated his life to bettering his community and his country. From his service as a member of the 99th Fighter Squadron to his service as an educator and public servant, he has been a true role model for all Americans. I respectfully ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring Mr. Quentin Smith for his lifetime of loyalty, dedication, and service to his community and the entire country. For this, Quentin Smith is worthy of the highest admiration, and I am proud to represent him in Washington, DC.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1294, THOMASINA E. JORDAN INDIAN TRIBES OF VIRGINIA FEDERAL RECOGNITION ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 8, 2007

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of this bill. I applaud the precedent set here, which subjects any casino projects to state laws and does not allow the tribes special gaming privileges. In considering this bill, I hope that we will be consistent in the tribes we support, especially when there is a potential for gaming. Native American communities rightly deserve to have sovereign control over their land, including the capacity to use tribal-run businesses to raise funds for the tribe. However, I oppose using lands not associated with the tribe or newly acquired lands for building casinos. My opposition stems from my own experience with legislation to federally recognize tribes. Vocal communities in my district have consistently stood up against the proliferating problem of off-reservation gaming—and we must do more to stop the most egregious forms of reservation shopping allowed by IGRA. Thus, it's important that we proceed with caution as we move forward with tribal recognition legislation, and that we make our intents transparent.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF A NATIONAL SUFFRAGISTS DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. YVETTE D. CLARKE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 8, 2007

Ms. CLARKE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Con. Res. 105—A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of a National Suffragists Day to promote awareness of the importance of the women suffragists who worked for the right of women to vote in the United States.

One suffragette in particular comes to mind—Ms. Sojourner Truth. Sojourner Truth was an ex-slave, abolitionist and feminist who fought for women's rights. In that regard, she delivered her famous "Ain't I A Woman" speech at the 1851 Women's Rights Convention in Akron, Ohio.

Her speech dispels the perception of women as fragile beings unable to hold our own in society. Ms. Truth outlined the work she has done—planting, plowing and gathering in barns. All without the assistance of a man. She then raises the question; Ain't I a woman?

Sojourner Truth called for the extension of voting rights to all women. Her presence at the Convention was an important milestone in the women's movement and her speech left an indelible mark on the Convention, thus becoming a milestone of the women's rights movement.

Sojourner's thought provoking speech resonates even today. Her courage helped to empower and ignite the spark in future generations of women.

Fannie Lou Hamer, an ideological descendant of the suffrage movement became known as the lady in the civil rights movement that was "sick and tired of being sick and tired."

Shirley Chisholm was the daughter of Caribbean immigrants. She was the first black woman to be elected to the U.S. Congress, (a beneficiary of a voting rights district). And the first black woman candidate for President of the United States. Shirley Chisholm was another descendant of the suffrage movement.

And, Mr. Speaker, thanks to the bravery, perseverance and determination of women such as Sojourner Truth, Fannie Lou Hamer and Shirley Chisholm—women on whose shoulders I stand—Here I Stand—elected in the 110th Congress and representing a voting rights district.

If Americans are honest, the list of individuals that have benefitted from the blood, sweat and tears of the women suffragists would fill volumes.

It is my hope that all suffragists, in particular those of color such as Sojourner Truth and Fannie Lou Hamer whose contributions have historically been sidelined, are recognized for the vital role that they played in giving all women the right to vote in the United States.

I ask my colleagues on both sides of the aisles to join me in voting in the affirmative for this important resolution.

CONGRATULATIONS TO PLUMBERS
LOCAL UNION 210 APPRENTICE
GRADUATES

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2007

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, it is with great sincerity and respect that I offer congratulations to several of northwest Indiana's most talented, dedicated, and hardworking individuals. On Friday, June 8, 2007, the Plumbers Local Union 210 will honor the graduating class of 2007 at the Annual Apprentice Graduation Banquet, which will be held at the Patio Banquet Hall in Merrillville, IN.

At this year's banquet, the Plumbers Local Union 210 will recognize and honor the 2007 Apprentice Graduates. The individuals who have completed the apprentice training in 2007 are: Kraig Bailey, Daniel Borowski, Micah Dolatowski, Steven Frederick, Michael Martin, Jr., Timothy Matson, Charles Standifer, Rickey Thomas, and Dustin Werner.

Northwest Indiana has a rich history of excellence in its craftsmanship and loyalty by its tradesmen. These graduates are all outstanding examples of each. They have mastered their trade and have demonstrated their loyalty to both the union and the community through their hard work and selfless dedication.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in congratulating these dedicated and hardworking individuals. Along with the other men and women of northwest Indiana's unions, these individuals have committed themselves to making a significant contribution to the growth and development of the economy of the First Congressional District, and I am very proud to represent them in Washington, DC.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY
AUTHORIZATION ACT
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 9, 2007

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1684) to authorize appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for fiscal year 2008, and for other purposes:

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Chairman, as Congress passes the Homeland Security Department Authorization bill, I must register my deep concerns with the recent operations of one branch of the Homeland Security Department, ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement).

I have very serious reservations with the immigration raids on local communities in my District—both the manner in which they were conducted and their lasting effects on our community. No one, especially our children, should have to live in fear. Nor should they have to live in ignorance of their basic rights in this country.

I have been working closely with local organizations and officials trying to convince ICE to mitigate its heavy-handed tactics and the ways they hurt our local immigrant communities. For instance, since ICE agents have been announcing themselves as "police," local governments are still struggling to regain the trust that they had worked for years to develop in order to combat crime in their jurisdictions. The responses from ICE officials regarding their policies and procedures—and their lack of concern for the ramifications their actions have on children and families in my community—are troubling.

As one example of the way these actions are terrorizing our communities, ICE officials held 7-year-old Kebin Reyes in jail with his father with only bread and water for about 10 hours. Allegedly, ICE officials repeatedly denied his father's requests to find alternative care for Kebin, and the child continues to suffer lasting trauma as a result of his detainment. So egregious was this detention that the American Civil Liberties Union filed a lawsuit on Kebin's behalf. ICE's apathetic response to

incidents such as these demonstrates their lack of concern for respecting the people in our communities as they carry out their duties.

As Congress reauthorizes Homeland Security, we must strike a careful balance between keeping America safe and respecting the human and civil rights of our local immigrant families. Protecting our borders cannot come at the expense of people's dignity.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY
AUTHORIZATION ACT
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. YVETTE D. CLARKE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 9, 2007

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1684) to authorize appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for fiscal year 2008, and for other purposes:

Ms. CLARKE. Mr. Chairman, since the Department of Homeland Security was initially created in 2003, Congress has been unable to pass a single authorization bill for the Department. Today marks an important accomplishment, as the 110th Democratic Congress will pass a bill that finally brings much-needed accountability to DHS.

Along with containing provisions to ensure full funding of security grants that go to our Nation's first responders; and to restore rights to DHS workers, providing them with the same protections received by employees of every other department and agency within our government; I am pleased to see this bill contain a provision requiring stronger oversight of the US-VISIT program.

Although Congress mandated this border management tool 11 years ago, US-VISIT is a completely broken program at DHS because there have been few attempts to develop an exit component and complete this important program.

Instead, DHS appears to be using the funds to create a vast and unauthorized database of personal information about every visitor to this country.

As the representative from one of the most highly diverse districts in America—a district that is both a home and a popular destination for many thousands of people originally from other countries—I am highly concerned about this program. Congress intended to create a border management tool, not a massive list of personal information about law-abiding visitors.

Again, I am pleased to see that this bill imposes greater oversight of this and other ineffective programs at DHS.