

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 27, 2007

Mr. SIMPSON. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 550, passage of H.R. 2546, to designate the "Charles George Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center" in Asheville, NC, I was unavoidably detained and unable to vote. Had I been present, I would voted "yea."

RECOGNIZING JORDAN JOSEPH GOSS FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 27, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Jordan Joseph Goss, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 447, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Jordan has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the years Jordan has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Jordan Joseph Goss for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING JENNY NEELEY

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 27, 2007

Mr. GRIJALVA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to take the opportunity to honor an environmental leader who has given southern Arizona many reasons to be proud. Arriving to Tucson after years split between Hawaii and Flagstaff, AZ, Jenny received her masters degree in public administration from the University of Arizona.

In Tucson, Jenny fell in love with the Sonoran Desert, and dedicated her professional career to protecting the native ecosystems of the Borderlands region.

Ten years ago, Jenny began working for a diverse coalition of neighborhoods, community groups, and environmental organizations called the Coalition for Sonoran Desert Protection. Focused on producing the best Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan ever assembled under the Endangered Species Act,

Jenny became a leader in advocating for sound public policy, the incorporation of science, and public oversight in Pima County's Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan.

Her contributions to the southern Arizona community and the U.S.-Mexico borderlands go much further. In 2001, Jenny took a position with Defenders of Wildlife, a nationally respected wildlife and habitat protection organization, in their southwest regional office. Over the last 6 years, Jenny has become a national leader in speaking out for wildlife and public lands in the ongoing immigration debate. She has continually advocated for an open and fair process behind the construction of border infrastructure, while pointing out the impacts that fence and wall construction have on the natural ecosystems that sustain our quality of life and environment.

Jenny builds alliances, and through her border wildlife work at Defenders of Wildlife, she brought together a diverse coalition of human rights, indigenous rights, environmental, and labor representatives to call for comprehensive immigration reform and the reversal of decisions to build walls on our southern border. In 2007, Jenny was honored with Derechos Humanos' Corazon de Justicia award for her commitment to justice and social change.

Jenny Neeley leaves her post as a professional land and wildlife conservationist this month as she heads to University of Arizona law school. Whether she returns to environmental advocacy work or not, she will leave a legacy that cannot be adequately expressed in words, and gives all of us that have known and worked with her hope that we can truly achieve the goals that we set out to accomplish together. The Tucson community and the wildlife of the Sonoran Desert will sorely miss Ms. Neeley, but I have no doubt she will go on to accomplish great things in her future endeavors. I wish her the best of luck.

RECOGNIZING THE AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 27, 2007

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the American Library Association for its annual conference being held this week in Washington, DC. I am also pleased to recognize Melinda Cervantes, County Librarian of Santa Clara County for representing our County librarians at this conference.

I have always supported America's public libraries and believe they are an essential part of building stronger and more educated communities. One of the basic tenets of democracy—equal access to opportunity—is played out every day in America's public libraries. Their doors are open and welcoming to anyone without having to show a diploma, a bank

balance, proof of residency or any other qualifier. You can read, learn, think, create, analyze, research, and contemplate any topic that might improve your mind, your skills, your daily life, or your future. The wealth of knowledge and opportunity available at the fingertips of all who possess a library card is powerful.

IN RECOGNITION OF REBECCA LANIER

HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 27, 2007

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I rise today in celebration of Ms. Rebecca Lanier. Ms. Lanier was born on March 24, 1892, in Mississippi and just celebrated her 115th birthday.

Ms. Lanier lived in Eutaw, AL, where her family sharecropped for most of her life. She moved to Birmingham in 1994, where she resided until 2004 when she unfortunately lost both of her daughters within three weeks of each other. Although Ms. Lanier outlived her daughters, she still enjoys her 7 grandchildren and "about" 30 great-grandchildren.

Ms. Lanier now lives with her grandson and his wife in Warrensville Heights, OH, a municipality in my congressional district. She has led a very healthy life and had actually never been a patient in a hospital until she suffered a fall 4 years ago. Ms. Lanier is very active. She walks with a walker and participates in Tai Chi for Health Class at the local Warrensville Heights Civic and Senior Center.

Although one of the oldest people in the world, Ms. Lanier does not have a birth certificate. Her grandson attested that when she was born, the State did not issue them. Rather, the record of her birth is written in an old family Bible. Ms. Lanier's zest for life is an inspiration to us all. Therefore, it is thus my pleasure, on behalf of the people of the 11th Congressional District of Ohio to recognize Rebecca Lanier as she celebrates 115 years of a truly blessed life.

RECOGNIZING TYLER DON GUESS FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 27, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Tyler Don Guess, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 447, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Tyler has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the

• 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.

years Tyler has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Tyler Don Guess for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

COMMENDING THE LEADERSHIP
TRAINING INSTITUTE OF AMERICA

HON. JOHN BOOZMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 27, 2007

Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam Speaker, I wish to recognize and commend the outstanding contributions of the Leadership Training Institute of America toward the development of the young leaders of America.

The Leadership Institute of America is an educational organization providing training and opportunity in leadership development and cultural dynamics. This organization's mission is to identify, inspire, and instruct students for leadership in society by equipping them with skills to allow them to defend their beliefs, including and understanding of why traditional values are vital to a free and secure society. It is these values that have, and continue, to make America great.

LTIA students receive exposure to the major world views, issues, and philosophies of today. They are encouraged to pursue careers in influential sectors of our society by applying the leadership, critical thinking, scientific, and historic training they receive at LTIA, which is grounded in the Biblical traditions of America's forefathers.

LTIA students represent future leaders in government, education, media, and business. They will be the backbone of our Nation and vital in sustaining its position as a world leader.

With great pride, I salute the Leadership Training Institute of America for its unrelenting dedication and commitment in training and equipping young leaders for the challenges they will face tomorrow in our dynamic and ever changing world.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 27, 2007

Mr. KIND. Madam Speaker, on Monday, June 25, 2007, I was detained in my district due to a canceled airline flight and was unable to have my votes recorded on the House floor for H. Res. 189 (Roll no. 549) and H.R. 2546 (Roll no. 550). Had I been present, I would have voted in favor of both measures.

TRIBUTE TO VANESSA BROWN

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 27, 2007

Mr. CROWLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the great accomplish-

ment of one of my constituents, Vanessa Brown of Co-Op City, the Bronx. I wish to recognize Ms. Brown for her outstanding achievement in being selected the district winner in the 26th Annual Congressional Art Competition for her inspiring and uplifting piece entitled "A New Starry Night."

Ms. Brown is currently a high school junior attending Lehman High School in the Bronx. She has demonstrated a commitment to pursuing her gift and to further developing her abilities, making her a deserving recipient of this honor. I am proud that this year my district is well-represented in this competition by Ms. Brown's work and I look forward to viewing it in these halls for the months to come.

Each year, Congress affords our Nation's most talented and budding artists the opportunity to have their work displayed in the Cannon Tunnel leading to the U.S. Capitol. This beautiful display is experienced daily by Members of Congress, their staff, our country's residents, and welcomed visitors from all around the world who are awarded the privilege of witnessing our young people's artistic endeavors and talents.

Madam Speaker, I salute the authentic, creative voice of Ms. Brown and I wish her continued success and all the very best in the future.

SUPPORT FUNDING FOR THE NA-
TIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE
ARTS

HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 27, 2007

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of funding for the National Endowment for the Arts. Grants funding from the NEA reaches people of all races, classes and geographic areas.

I have been personally involved with Childsplay in Arizona for many years and have seen first-hand the impact the arts can have on the community and good work the NEA performs. Through NEA grants, the arts are shared with those at all income levels and in all communities.

I remember specifically the impact one Childsplay production had on the children who attended. Eric and Elliott, a play that received \$23,000 in grant money from the NEA, dealt with teen depression and suicide. This play about hope shared the tools to recognize and cope with depression. It inspired young people to come forward to seek help.

Since its inception, Eric and Elliott has formed a unique partnership with the Mental Health Association of Arizona and a counselor now travels with the production to provide on-site counseling services to young people. The play earned the "Distinguished Play Award 2006" from the American Alliance for Theatre and Education.

This is just one example of many in which arts and arts education deeply impacts young people and adults.

Also, and importantly, where the Federal Government invests, the private sector and community follow. NEA funding from the Federal Government encourages the private sector and local communities to invest in arts organizations and signals that the arts are a worthy investment.

Millions of people have benefited greatly from NEA-funded programs over the last 40 years and I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting increased funding for this important organization.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JULIA CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 27, 2007

Ms. CARSON. Madam Speaker, on Monday, June 25, 2007, I was unable to vote on rollcall Nos. 549 and 550. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on these bills.

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL BILL
GORDON

HON. MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 27, 2007

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Retired Army Col. Bill Gordon of Fort Collins, Colorado.

Later today Colonel Gordon will receive the National Order of the Legion of Honor from the Government of France in recognition of his distinguished record of military service in France during World War II. The Legion of Honor is the highest honor conferred upon French citizens and foreign nationals by the French Government.

After playing on UCLA's first football team to compete in the Rose Bowl, Bill Gordon was commissioned through UCLA's Army ROTC Program in 1943. Following the 1944 D-Day invasion, Lieutenant Gordon was assigned as a replacement platoon leader in B Company of the 82nd Airborne Division's 507th Regiment.

In December 1944, the 507th was assigned to an area along the Meuse River just east of Nouzonville, France, to meet the onslaught of a German surprise attack in the Ardennes. After the Battle of the Bulge, Lieutenant Gordon was seriously injured during a parachute jump near the important German industrial City of Essen.

After the war Lieutenant Gordon was placed on reserve status in 1946, but was reappointed to the regular Army in 1949. Over the course of his 30-year career in the Army, Colonel Gordon served in both Korea and Vietnam. Among his many decorations are the Distinguished Service Medal, two Silver Stars, the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star with V, two Purple Hearts, 14 Air Medals with V, and the Defense Meritorious Service Medal.

Following his distinguished military career, Colonel Gordon and his family settled in Fort Collins, Colorado, where he served as Director of the Larimer County Emergency Management System and as Larimer County Administrator.

The sacrifices he made to ensure the liberty and freedom of future generations will never be forgotten.

Madam Speaker, like so many other young members of this Greatest Generation, Colonel Gordon set aside his ambitions and risked his life to ensure the continued freedom of our great nation. I am both humbled by his selflessness and incredibly proud of his heroic patriotism. As he receives recognition today from

the Government of France, I urge my colleagues in this House to join me in extending our gratitude to Colonel Bill Gordon.

RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF DERRICK BROOKS

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 27, 2007

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it is an honor for me to rise today to recognize the accomplishments of one of my constituents, Derrick Brooks of the National Football League's Tampa Bay Buccaneers. Derrick will be inducted to the City of Champions Wall of Fame exhibit at Pensacola Regional Airport. The Pensacola Sports Association will join Pensacola and Escambia County to honor the Pensacola native on Thursday evening at the Pensacola Civic Center.

At Booker T. Washington High School in Pensacola, Derrick excelled in both the classroom and on the field. By the end of his high school career he was named the USA Today High School Defensive Player of the Year, a Parade All-American, and was rated the best defensive player in the country by Super Prep magazine. Perhaps even more impressive for a football player of this stature, Derrick graduated with a 3.94 grade-point average.

Derrick was a 4-year letterman at Florida State University where he compiled 274 tackles, 5 interceptions, 8.5 sacks, 13 passes deflected, 4 forced fumbles, and 3 fumble recoveries. His senior honors included: First Team All-America by American Football Coaches, UPI and Walter Camp, GTE Academic All-America choice, First Team All-Atlantic Coast Conference, and Senior Bowl selection. Derrick was a finalist for the Vince Lombardi Award, symbolic of the Nation's top lineman/linebacker, for two straight years. As a junior, he was named First Team All-America by Football Writers' Association and Walter Camp, and he was a consensus First Team All-ACC choice and that conference's defensive player of the year. Derrick also earned Sophomore All-America honors from Football News and was a First Team All-ACC choice that year as well.

Derrick graduated from Florida State with a bachelor of arts degree in business communications and recently went back and earned his master's degree in the same subject.

Derrick is now the unquestioned leader of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers and arguably the most respected player in the NFL. Long considered the NFL's best linebacker, he has been selected to a team-record nine total Pro Bowls. Derrick was honored as the NFL's Defensive Player of the Year in 2002 and the 2006 Pro Bowl's Most Valuable Player.

Following the 2002 season, Derrick was the instrumental team captain that led the Buccaneers to their first Super Bowl championship, and he is ranked as the franchise's most prolific tackler with 1,775 stops.

Derrick has always given back to his community and he is considered one of the most philanthropic players in the NFL. In 2000 he was the co-recipient of the Walter Payton/NFL Man of the Year Award, and in 2004, was the winner of the prestigious 38th annual Byron

"Whizzer" White Award for his dedication to serve his team, community, and country in the spirit of the late Supreme Court Justice. In March 2003 Derrick established his own foundation—Derrick Brooks Charities, Inc.—which focuses charitable endeavors on children and has done considerable work with March of Dimes, D.A.R.E., and the Belmont Heights, Ybor City, and Brandon Boys and Girls Clubs.

Derrick is constantly distinguishing himself with achievements that are unmatched by any other player in NFL history and the city of Pensacola is recognizing this great man by inducting him to the City of Champions Wall of Fame exhibit; an honor that is shared by only three other people: Don Sutton, Emmitt Smith, and Roy Jones Jr.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am proud to recognize Derrick Brooks for his many outstanding accomplishments throughout his life, on and off the field, and wish him continued success throughout his career.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 27, 2007

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, on Friday, June 22, 2007, I was unavoidably detained due to a prior obligation. Had I been present and voting, I would have voted as follows:

1. Rollcall No. 543: "yes" on ordering the previous question.
2. Rollcall No. 544: "yes" on agreeing to H. Res. 502.
3. Rollcall No. 545: "no" on agreeing to the Flake amendment to H.R. 2771.
4. Rollcall No. 546: "no" on agreeing to the Jordan amendment to H.R. 2771;
5. Rollcall No. 547: "no" on motion to recommit H.R. 2771 with instructions.
6. Rollcall No. 548: "yes" on passage of H.R. 2771.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED
AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS
ACT, 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 26, 2007

The House in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2643) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes:

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. I rise today in strong support of the Conaway Amendment.

Supply and demand for energy is out of whack and our Nation needs more energy. Demand for natural gas is already building up across the economy, and proposals pushing cleaner energy will only accelerate this demand.

This amendment is a major opportunity for us to respond to today's energy crisis with a

national solution. I feel justified in supporting this amendment because I am from a coastal district. My constituents feel the same way as I do on this issue.

Chemical production and oil and gas exploration, processing, and refining are Texas's top coastal industries. My colleagues from Florida and California think only they have beaches, but coastal tourism is Texas's second largest coastal industry.

That fact alone shows the argument that oil and gas production and coastal tourism are mutually exclusive is just plain wrong. They are acting like Chicken Little, and cannot point to one beach in Texas that has been ruined by oil or natural gas production.

There will be less need for LNG facilities and LNG tankers when we tap our own offshore resources so we can use the safest mode of transportation in the world—pipelines.

My point is not that we can drill our way to cheap oil or drill our way to energy independence. If we allow domestic production to die out, conservation and research will not save us, and we will have to pay a terrible economic price.

I urge my colleagues to support oil and gas production and support the Conaway Amendment.

INTRODUCTION OF THE "ENHANCED FINANCIAL RECOVERY AND EQUITABLE RETIREMENT TREATMENT ACT OF 2007"

HON. ARTUR DAVIS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 27, 2007

Mr. DAVIS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, as a former assistant United States attorney, I am pleased to introduce the "Enhanced Financial Recovery and Equitable Retirement Treatment Act of 2007." This bill will enhance the Federal Government's capacity to collect unpaid judgments and restitutionary obligations owed to the United States and victims of crime, as well as strengthen the retirement benefits of assistant United States attorneys.

Madam Speaker, as you are aware, United States Attorney Offices are responsible for criminal and civil debt collection efforts that result annually in billions of dollars that are turned over to Federal agencies and crime victims. Unfortunately, however, there remain billions of dollars that go uncollected due to the competing demands on our law enforcement officers. "The Enhanced Financial Recovery and Equitable Treatment Act of 2007" will address this problem by improving the process by which the Department of Justice collects criminal and civil debts owed to the United States and the victims of crime.

But Madam Speaker, that is not all. The "Enhanced Financial Recovery and Equitable Treatment Act of 2007," in addition to improving debt collection, will also significantly aid our law enforcement efforts in another important way: it will ensure that assistant United States attorneys receive the same retirement benefits as all other Federal law enforcement officials, thereby increasing the retention of our career Federal prosecutors. Indeed, despite their vital role in prosecuting criminals, despite their vital role in defending the United States in litigation, despite their vital role in

keeping America safe, assistant United States attorneys are unfairly shortchanged in the retirement benefits they receive once their public service is complete. The retirement benefits of AUSAs are considerably lower than their law enforcement colleagues within the FBI, Secret Service, DEA, U.S. Marshals Service, and Bureau of Prisons. The "Enhanced Financial Recovery and Equitable Treatment Act of 2007" corrects this glaring inequality.

Madam Speaker, I think it is fair to say that our career Federal prosecutors have been under tremendous pressure these past several months and their morale has been tested like never before. But in spite of that, day after day, week after week, month after month, these men and women vigorously prosecute those that would seek to undermine our democracy and further weaken our rule of law. Our AUSAs deserve better, and we deserve better. Passing the "Enhanced Financial Recovery and Equitable Treatment Act of 2007" is the least we can do for those that work so hard to keep us safe.

U.S.S. BUNKER HILL RECIPIENT OF THE 2006 SPOKANE NAVAL TROPHY

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 27, 2007

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the U.S.S. *Bunker Hill*, the winner of the 2006 Spokane Naval Trophy. The U.S.S. *Bunker Hill*, a guided-missile cruiser homeported in San Diego, CA, was recently awarded the trophy for being the most combat ready ship in the Pacific Fleet.

The U.S.S. *Bunker Hill* was commissioned on September 20, 1986, and holds the longest active streak of Battle "E" awards for a guided-missile cruiser. Also known as "The Sword of the Fleet," the *Bunker Hill* is capable of maintaining herself at sea for months at a time. The mission of the ship is to conduct prompt and sustained combat operations at sea in support of U.S. national policy. Manned by nearly 400 officers and crew, *Bunker Hill* is readily equipped for immediate deployment in support of our national interests. The ship and its crew also provided humanitarian assistance and disaster relief to the victims of the December 2004 tsunami in Southeast Asia.

The trophy, which was commissioned by the citizens of Spokane in 1906 to embody the spirit of the Spokane community and their pride in the Navy, was originally presented to the first winning ship in 1907 by the city of Spokane and the Spokane Chamber of Commerce. At the time, the Spokane Naval Trophy was selected by the Secretary of the Navy to be awarded to the battleship or armored cruiser in the fleet that demonstrated the highest attributes in Naval gunnery marksmanship. Today, the Spokane Naval Trophy is stewarded by the Spokane Council of the Navy League of the United States. This year, as the Navy League celebrates the 100th anniversary of the Spokane Naval Trophy, they are proud of the excellence in combat systems readiness and warfare operations that the U.S.S. *Bunker Hill* has shown.

Madam Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in congratulating the U.S.S. *Bunker Hill* on receiving the Spokane Naval Trophy

and thanking the Spokane community for their support of the Navy.

HONORING GARLAND MAYOR RONALD JONES

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 27, 2007

Mr. HENSARLING. Madam Speaker, today I would like to honor Mayor Ronald Jones of Garland, Texas, winner of the mayoral runoff election on Saturday, June 16.

Mr. Jones has served in public administration for 29 years. He has served as assistant city manager for more than 5 years and as city administrator before that, showing his devotion to the City of Garland.

Mayor Jones has served in Christian ministry and pastoral administration for over 40 years. He was an adjunct professor in the Dallas County Community College District, teaching business management courses, and is a published author. Working in the private sector, Mayor Jones directed several entrepreneurial endeavors. He is a certified mediator and a negotiator—a skill that will no doubt serve him well at City Hall.

Most importantly, however, Mayor Jones has been married to Peggy for forty years, and they are the proud parents of Ronald E. Jones, II, a practicing attorney, and Reverend Daryl L. Jones. They also have six grandchildren.

Mayor Jones recently described his own approach to public service: "We are just stewards. . . We are here for a particular time, and then we are gone. All I want to do is to leave things better than I found them. That's what it means to me. And I think it means a lot for the Garland community."

Madam Speaker, as a Representative of the City of Garland, it is my pleasure to congratulate Mayor Jones on his election victory.

DR. MURIEL PETIONI HONORED BY BARNARD COLLEGE

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 27, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to share with my colleagues here in the House, wonderful news about one of my constituents—one of Harlem's most beloved living legends—Dr. Muriel Petioni.

In addition to her many accomplishments and awards, Dr. Petioni—noted physician, community activist and educator—recently received Barnard College's highest honor when she received the Barnard College Medal of Distinction at the College's 115th Commencement Ceremony. Located in my 15th Congressional District in New York, Barnard College is an independent liberal arts college for women affiliated with Columbia University.

Dr. Petioni was recognized for her commitment and tireless service to the Harlem community where she has worked for almost six decades to ensure that the residents receive the best quality healthcare possible. This remarkable woman is a true public servant, an

advocate for all people, and a woman whom I am proud and honored to call my friend.

Dr. Petioni—congratulations.

[From the New York Beacon]

DR. MURIEL PETIONI RECEIVES BARNARD COLLEGE'S HIGHEST HONOR

Dr. Muriel Petioni, physician, educator, community activist, and Harlem living legend, received the Barnard Medal of Distinction—Barnard College's highest honor—at the College's 115th Commencement ceremony May 15. The ceremony took place on Barnard's historic Lehman Lawn in upper Manhattan.

Dr. Petioni was honored for her almost six decades of service to the Harlem community, where she has worked diligently to ensure that the underprivileged and underserved, especially women and children, receive proper medical attention and equal access to health care.

Accompanying Dr. Petioni to Barnard's commencement were the Honorable David N. Dinkins, 106th Mayor of the City of New York; the Honorable Percy Sutton, former Manhattan Borough President; Dr. James E. Gunther, pastor emeritus of the Transfiguration Lutheran Church in Harlem; Dr. Conrad Graves, founder and president of Central Harlem Inter-Agency Programs; her son Charles (Mal) Woolfolk; Hanif Shabazz, executive producer of Light Action Production; and Nicola Barlow Licorish.

"It is hard to believe that Dr. Petioni celebrated her 93rd birthday this past January. She has managed to do so much and touch so many in such a short time," Mayor Dinkins said. "If asked, she will tell you that her secret lies in her ability to (as she says) 'go with the flow and ride with the tide.'"

In addition to honoring Dr. Petioni, Barnard College celebrated the achievements of distinguished actor and playwright Anna Deavere Smith; acclaimed writer Joan Didion; Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Nicholas Kristof; and vice president of The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and former president of Bryn Mawr College Mary Patterson McPherson. All five honorees were awarded the Barnard Medal of Distinction, and Smith delivered a rousing keynote address on the importance of art and activities.

This year couldn't be more appropriate for Barnard, the historic liberal arts college for women, to honor Dr. Petioni. 2007 marks the 70th anniversary of her graduation from Howard University Medical School, where she was the only woman in the College of Medicine's Class of 1937. This trailblazing accomplishment became only the first of many in an illustrious career dedicated to community health care and the advancement of women in medicine that has spanned eight decades.

"Dr. Petioni's career is simply remarkable—not solely for her extraordinary accomplishments and the many barriers she's broken through, but for all that she has given back, to Harlem, to medicine, and to generations of women who've followed her," said Judith R. Shapiro, president of Barnard College. "We at Barnard are honored and humbled to present Dr. Petioni with the Medal of Distinction."

The Barnard Medal is just one of many honors that have recognized Dr. Petioni's achievements.

The Dr. Muriel Petioni Hospital in Yele, Sierra Leone, West Africa was established and named after her in May 2006, and in April 2007, plans were announced for the creation of the Dr. Muriel Petioni Charter School for health, scholarship and community leadership in New York City, for students from first grade to high school.

Born in Trinidad and raised in Harlem, Dr. Petioni knew from an early age that she

wanted to follow in the footsteps of her physician father. After graduating from medical school, interning at Harlem Hospital Center (one of the first white hospitals to integrate), and serving as a college physician at several universities around the country, Petioni returned to Harlem and set up a private practice in the same office her father had used on West 131st Street. She treated patients in the community for the next 40 years, sometimes making house calls, primarily to the poor, the underserved, mothers with small children, and the elderly.

In addition to her private practice, Dr. Petioni worked tirelessly to serve her community in other ways—serving for thirty years as school physician in Central Harlem for the New York City Department of Health, founding the Friends of Harlem Hospital Center in 1987 to raise funds and provide support for the 120-year-old hospital, and sitting on the boards of numerous worthy organizations, including the Harlem Upper Manhattan Empowerment Zone, the Columbia School of Social Work, the American Cancer Society, the Harlem Council of Elders, and the Handmaids of Mary.

Perhaps Dr. Petioni's greatest influence though has been felt by the generations of young female physicians she has mentored and encouraged. Dr. Petioni not only personally mentored countless individuals, but also built organizations dedicated to the advancement of women in medicine. In 1974, she founded the Susan Smith McKinney Steward Medical Society for Women, a professional association dedicated to the empowerment of black women physicians. In 1976, she established the Medical Women of the National Medical Association, now known as the Council for the Consensus of Women, and served as its first president. Dr. Petioni has also worked diligently with the Coalition of 100 Black Women for over 25 years, developing a mentorship program to guide young black women into careers in medicine.

The idea was bold for its time. Founded in 1889, Barnard was the only college in New York City, and one of the few in the nation, where women could receive the same rigorous and challenging education available to men. Today, Barnard is among the strongest liberal arts colleges in the country, and the most sought-after women's college.

INCREASING DIVERSITY IN HIGHER ED FACULTY REMAINS A CHALLENGE

(By Ami Burger)

Despite 30 years of affirmative action and hard work, the ranks of faculty of color in higher education remain frustratingly small.

In 2003 (the most recent year for which data are available), the Chronicle of Higher Education reported that less than 12 percent of full professors in America were people of color: six percent Asian, three percent African American, two percent Hispanic, and 0.3 percent Native American. For female faculty of color, the numbers are even more dismal: In 2003, only 1.2 percent of full professors were African American women, one percent were Asian women, 0.5 percent were Asian women, 0.5 percent were Hispanic women, and 0.1 percent were Native American.

Closer to home, the outlook isn't much brighter. The University of Minnesota reported that four percent of its full-time tenured faculty were people of color that year, the same percentage as the University of Iowa, Purdue University, and the University of Chicago.

According to Nancy "Rusty" Barceló, the University of Minnesota's vice president and vice provost for equity and diversity, those low numbers reflect the academy's need for entirely new models in the faculty recruitment process. "Our advertising, our position postings, our mission statements, our com-

pacts—all of our institutional documents and actions need to reflect that diversity is a core value in everything we do," Barceló says.

Faculty diversity at the University of Minnesota is at the heart of the U's "Keeping Our Faculties: Recruiting, Retaining, and Advancing Faculty of Color" symposium. Held at the University four times since 1998, Keeping Our Faculties is the Nation's only conference focused entirely on increasing faculty of color in colleges and universities. The 2007 conference, held April 12-14, attracted over 300 participants and presenters from 115 different institutions.

"The idea of merit is so ingrained into the culture of higher education, but who's deciding what is 'meritorious?'" asks Caroline Turner, who originated the idea of the faculty-of-color discussion while an assistant professor at the U of M and is now a professor at Arizona State University. "If we're going to increase the numbers of faculty of color, we need to redefine merit to include more than just these academic journals or only those graduate schools," she says. "The lens has to be widened."

One notable success story in the effort to diversify the faculty is the McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program, nine-week summer research-apprenticeships for undergraduates who are first-generation, low-income, or part of groups who are underrepresented in graduate programs. These research apprenticeships, which are directed by a faculty mentor, are designed to increase the rate of doctoral program completion by these students.

Hundreds of colleges and universities, including the University of Minnesota, participate in the program, which has shown significant success in building a "pipeline" of students of color into graduate school. In 2003-04, more than 2,100 students participated in the program, and of those students, more than 56 percent enrolled in graduate school in the fall of 2004.

The importance of mentoring graduate students and junior faculty of color was a common concern of symposium attendees. "If there was one theme I heard repeated throughout the conference, it was the need to provide mentoring for faculty of color," notes Barceló. A number of breakout sessions focused on mentoring programs at institutions including the University of Georgia, Creighton University, and Indiana University, which have found some measure of success in retaining faculty of color.

"I remember seeing a magazine ad years ago that said 'Great minds don't think alike,'" adds Turner, "and I thought to myself, 'Wow, they've got it right!' Academia will not be able to keep up with the global economy and the educational needs of our students if we don't have all our minds—the minds of women, of racial and ethnic minorities, of all underrepresented groups—at the table and in the classroom."

NATIONAL LIBRARY DAY

HON. JOHN P. SARBANES

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 27, 2007

Mr. SARBANES. Madam Speaker, I rise to support National Library Day on the Hill and congratulate the Enoch Pratt Free Library on the grand opening of the new Southeast Anchor Library in the Highlandtown neighborhood of Baltimore, the first library to be built and open in the city in 35 years. I'm very proud to have attended the ribbon cutting ceremony re-

cently and am thoroughly impressed by the depth of services that this new branch will offer our community. This 27,000-square-foot facility is state-of-the-art with an 80,000-volume collection. It will also have nearly 60 computers for public use, a self check-out counter, a drive-up window, a cafe, multi-purpose meeting rooms and a computer lab. To the community, the Southeast Anchor offers more than just a quiet place to read and learn. It offers a gathering place and an intellectual hub for the City of Baltimore.

In its annual State of American Libraries report last year, the American Library Association found that 92 percent of the population believed libraries were still needed despite technological advancements. It also found that 63 percent of all Americans have library cards and that public libraries are the primary point of online access for people without Internet connections at home, school or work. The Pratt system, now with a southeast presence, is indeed a reflection of Baltimore's thirst for learning. Through the Pratt, every Baltimorean has the opportunity to learn and gain knowledge otherwise not accessible.

The combined dedication of the staff and volunteer corps at the Enoch Pratt Free Library has made it possible for Baltimore's youth to truly believe that "Your Journey Starts Here". Madam Speaker, I know that the House of Representatives will join me in congratulating the library community on its tremendous accomplishment. It truly is the "Year of the Pratt".

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 26, 2007

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2643) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes:

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Chairman, while I am pleased that the Interior and Environment Appropriations bill contains funding for many programs important to Colorado, I am concerned, about the provision in the bill to create a Commission of Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation.

As has been stated by Science and Technology Chairman BART GORDON and Ranking Member RALPH HALL during the floor debate, this commission replicates a bill that I introduced with my colleague, Mr. INGLIS, earlier this year—H.R. 906, the Global Change Research and Data Management Act of 2007. The bill updates and reorients the current U.S. Global Change Research Program, USGCRP, which coordinates all Federal climate change research and was established by law in 1990.

My bill would strengthen and streamline Federal global change research and make it more user-friendly for State and local governments, planners and researchers. My bill affirms the need for the continued strong Federal support for global change research, and it

does map out a new emphasis on production of information needed to inform these important policy debates.

Members of the Science and Technology Committee have been working on improving this legislation since I introduced it earlier this year. The committee received comments from experts on climate change research throughout the country and held a hearing on this issue on May 3, 2007. The bill was marked up in the Energy and Environment Subcommittee on June 6. It is scheduled to be marked up before the full Science and Technology Committee tomorrow.

We all agree that a interagency climate change working group is needed and that the current U.S. Global Change Research Program needs to be updated. My bill, H.R. 906, is the best way to address this issue. I was pleased to hear assurances from Interior and the Environment Appropriations Subcommittee Chairman DICKS to Chairman GORDON that we will address this issue in conference and that the final appropriations bill language will reflect both current law and H.R. 906. I look forward to working with Chairmen OBEY, DICKS and GORDON on the final legislation.

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION OF
LEE COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 27, 2007

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the centennial celebration of Lee County, North Carolina, in my congressional district. Lee County was created from portions of Moore and Chatham Counties on March 6, 1907 and became an official county July 2, 1907.

Lee County was named for General Robert E. Lee commanding general of the Confederate forces during the American Civil War and it is North Carolina's 98th county. The city of Sanford, named in honor of railroad engineer Col. Charles Ogburn Sanford, is the county seat. The county's early economy centered on agriculture, naval stores, and an iron works. Just prior to the Civil War in about 1853, the first commercial exploration of the area's coal veins was begun in the community of Egypt, now Cumnock. During the war, the coal was transported to Fayetteville on the Western Railroad, which had been built by slaves and immigrant Irish laborers. Once in Fayetteville, the coal was taken by boat on the Cape Fear River to the port of Wilmington. The Western Railroad extended to the town of Jonesboro, named after Col. Leonidas Campbell Jones.

After the war, the Raleigh and Augusta Air Line Railroad built southward and crossed the Western Railroad tracks. At this junction and passenger point, the rail-born village of Sanford grew. The city was incorporated in Moore County in 1874, and its population in 1880 was 236 persons. The County of Lee was formed through a bill passed by the General Assembly in 1907. Wagon and buggy travel through the sands from Sanford to Carthage, the county seat of Moore, was too laborious and time consuming for the busy people of the railway junction. A new county with a convenient governmental seat needed to be formed.

This was given overwhelming approval by a vote of area residents. Sanford's population in 1910 totaled 2,262 persons.

After 1907, with railroad and a new county government, Lee County began a period of rapid growth. The economy flourished with new industries including tobacco harvesting, brownstone quarrying, furniture making, brick works, and later textiles. By 1930 the county population numbered 13,400 people. After World War II, in 1947, the cities of Sanford and Jonesboro merged. The 1950 census of the city counted 10,013 residents while the population of Lee County was 23,522 persons. Like much of my Congressional District, Lee County has experienced rapid growth in recent years, and today some 56,908 North Carolinians live there.

Madam Speaker, Lee County has always been dear to my family since it is the birthplace of my lovely wife Faye Etheridge. It is fitting that we take a moment today to honor the centennial celebration of Lee County.

HONORING AMERICAN VETERANS

HON. BOBBY JINDAL

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 27, 2007

Mr. JINDAL. Madam Speaker, our sovereignty is dependent upon the brave individuals who fight to preserve American values. In World War II, Cpl John Reilly fought courageously alongside his fellow countrymen in order to safeguard the integrity of our great Nation. In the midst of battle, he risked his life to save the life of another. Cpl John Reilly's selfless actions reflect the wealth of his character; he exemplified bravery and deserves to be honored and recognized as a hero. The men that served alongside John Reilly speak of his heroics on the battlefield. Marine Cpl Roland Chiasson praises Corporal Reilly for carrying him to safety during a firefight on Iwo Jima, ultimately saving Marine Cpl Chiasson's life.

I am grateful for the sacrifices women and men like Cpl John Reilly have given in order to protect our country and the freedom it provides. As we celebrate our Nation's birth, I am honored to recognize and give thanks to Cpl John Reilly and the other men and women who have so selflessly served our country in the Armed Forces.

Madam Speaker and my colleagues in the House, please join me in honoring Cpl John Reilly for his dedication to our Nation.

TRIBUTE TO BRITISH PRIME
MINISTER TONY BLAIR

HON. LYNN A. WESTMORELAND

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 27, 2007

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Madam Speaker, people throughout Western Civilization owe a debt of gratitude to British Prime Minister Tony Blair, a courageous statesman and world leader, who resigned his office today.

Oftentimes, leaders of courage fare much more favorably in the eyes of history than they do in the opinion polls of their day. Like Presi-

dent Harry Truman and Prime Minister Winston Churchill, Prime Minister Blair will be remembered for his wisdom, his forbearance and his foresight.

The United States and free peoples throughout the world have had no truer friend than Tony Blair. Since he won the keys to No. 10 Downing Street in May 1997, he has steadfastly fought to promote human rights and to battle the scourge of terrorism. He has strived for peace in the Middle East, promoted Western aid to battle the AIDS epidemic and poverty throughout Africa and successfully argued for intervention against mass killings in the Balkans in the late 1990s.

After the horrors of Sept. 11, Blair recognized more quickly than most world leaders that the global fight against terrorism was not a battle for the United States to wage alone. Blair knew that all civilized nations had to stand together as one to battle the medievalism, violence and hate preached by al-Qaida and other Islamist groups.

Blair stood with the forces of freedom not just in word, but in deed. He committed British forces to serve with the U.S. military and other coalition forces in Afghanistan and in Iraq, and he bravely stood his ground against a rising tide of opposition among the British people.

I am proud to be a part of this body which several years ago bestowed Blair with the Congressional Gold Medal. I can think of no one more deserving.

Prime Minister Blair's visionary leadership will be missed on the world stage, but I trust that his vast talents will be put to good use in the pursuit of peace, justice and human rights for many years to come.

Madam Speaker, I want to personally thank the Prime Minister and let him know how much I respect the tremendous work he has done over the past 10 years. He has had a positive impact on his nation and on the world. May God continue to bless him in all his endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO INDIVIDUALS WHO
WILL BECOME CITIZENS OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA ON
JULY 4, 2007

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 27, 2007

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure and sincerity that I take this time to congratulate the individuals who will take their oath of citizenship on July 4, 2007. In true patriotic fashion, on the day of our great Nation's celebration of independence, a naturalization ceremony will take place, welcoming new citizens of the United States of America. This memorable occasion, coordinated by the Hammond Public Library and presided over by Magistrate Judge Andrew Rodovich, will be held at Harrison Park in Hammond, Indiana.

America is a country founded by immigrants. From its beginning, settlers have come from countries around the globe to the United States in search of better lives for themselves and their families. The upcoming oath ceremony will be a shining example of what is so great about the United States of America—that people from all over the world can come

together and unite as members of a free, democratic Nation. These individuals realize the great things America has to offer. They realize that there is nowhere else in the world that offers a better opportunity for success and a good life than here in America.

On July 4, 2007, the following individuals, representing many countries throughout the world, will take their oath of citizenship in Hammond, Indiana: Daniela Gomez Alba, Vanhvilay Thongsawath, Fayez Ghaly Samaan, Sean David Sternfeldt, Maria Del Carmen Garcia, Khaled Abdullah Mohamed Alkadhi, Jovica Georgiev, Evica Jankovic, Khadija Nasreen, Muhammad Munawar Uddin, Ljubica Andonova, Yasser Yousof Hussein Alsalahi, Reina Ahmad Elabed, Heidemarie Nealon, Nidal Khaleel Bader, Rosa Navarro, Irma Guadalupe Gallegos, Victor Manuel Salas, Hildeberta Ignacio, Ivan Ignacio Esquivel, Edgar Ignacio, Maria Gonzalez, Vassilka Ivanova Sokolova, Jose Ernesto Munoz Munoz, Margarita Lomeli, Rosalia Aguilar De Hernandez, Ramona Garcia, Hector Miguel Rivera Gallegos, Rafael Negrete Gentil, Stan Krzysztofiak, Juan Carlos Bustos, Angelina Rico De Becerra, Maria Teresa Paredes De Sanchez, Thomas William Fridel, Mirko Koceski, Zivka Koceski, Phuoc Hong Tran, Ramachandra Mukkamala, Cristina Chavez Melesio, Maureen Allyson Fridel, Omar Mehidi, Priya Venkata Vishnu Mukkamala, Kameswari Kalluri, Carlos Alberto Garcia Morales, Sonja Sabo-Djuric, Maria De Jesus Galvan Briseno, Paul Derek MacGregor, Layda Eunice Salazar, Mary Ortiz, and Nancy Takla.

Though each individual has sought to become a citizen of the United States for his or her own reasons, be it for education, occupation, or to offer their loved ones better lives, each is inspired by the fact that the United States of America is, as Abraham Lincoln described it, a country "... of the people, by the people, and for the people." They realize that the United States is truly a free Nation. By seeking American citizenship, they have made the decision that they want to live in a place where, as guaranteed by the First Amendment of the Bill of Rights, they can practice religion as they choose, speak their minds without fear of punishment, and assemble in peaceful protest should they choose to do so.

Madam Speaker, I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in congratulating these individuals, who will become citizens of the United States of America on July 4, 2007, the day of our Nation's independence. They, too, will be American citizens, and they, too, will be guaranteed the inalienable rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. We, as a free and democratic society, congratulate them and welcome them.

NATIONAL HIV TESTING DAY

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 27, 2007

Mr. RUSH. Madam Speaker, today I rise in support of H. Con Res. 169, and in recognition of National HIV Testing Day. As I speak, it is estimated that 180,000 to 280,000 individuals nationwide are HIV-positive but unaware of their status.

Today we commemorate this day because the HIV/AIDS pandemic continues to plague our Nation. In Chicago, 22,000 people are living with HIV/AIDS, and more than 1,000 are infected annually.

And this disease is disproportionately impacting minorities. People of color account for 69 percent of the city's total population but represent 81 percent of recently diagnosed adult AIDS cases and 77 percent of recently diagnosed HIV cases.

Madam Speaker, these numbers continue to rise and we must do everything in our power to educate, prevent, treat and stop the spread of this deadly virus.

Madam Speaker, National HIV/AIDS Testing Day promotes awareness and empowers individuals to know their status, learn the facts about HIV and AIDS and take the proper steps to protect themselves and their communities.

In closing, I commend all of the organizations and individuals who participate in National HIV/AIDS Awareness day.

I encourage my constituents to get tested and I thank Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church, the AIDS Foundation of Chicago, Englewood Neighborhood Health Center, the South State Family Health Center, the Taylor Family Health Center and others for hosting confidential testing services today in Chicago.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF HURRICANE AUDREY

HON. CHARLES W. BOUSTANY, JR.

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 27, 2007

Mr. BOUSTANY. Madam Speaker, I rise today as a native of Southwest Louisiana to remember the lives that were lost 50 years ago today when Hurricane Audrey swept across the bayou. In the early morning hours of June 27, 1957, the Category 4 storm barreled ashore, claiming at least 500 lives in Cameron and Vermillion parishes. Two hundred of the storm's victims were children.

Hurricane Audrey is the seventh deadliest storm in the history of the United States. To date, Audrey remains the only storm of its size to make landfall in June. Too many of Southwest Louisiana's lifelong residents who had been seasoned by years of hurricanes did not heed the warnings to evacuate. Additionally, the storm struck the coast hours before its anticipated arrival, cutting off evacuation routes and trapping residents in the hurricane's path.

Unfortunately, we know that the kind of devastation and misery that Audrey brought to Louisiana are not isolated to that fateful day in 1957. Two years ago, when Hurricanes Rita and Katrina hit Louisiana, a new generation of Americans experienced first hand the destruction these storms can bring.

Powerful hurricanes continue to assault the shores of Louisiana. As we enter into the 2007 hurricane season, I urge Americans living along the Gulf Coast to take steps to protect their families and their property. Scientists predict that 17 named storms will develop in the Atlantic and Caribbean this year. Nine of these storms are expected to reach hurricane status.

Advanced preparation is key to weathering these storms. Let us take lessons from our past so we can minimize the potential for harm in the future.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 27, 2007

Mr. CARTER. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 550, I was unavoidably detained and unable to be present to vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 27, 2007

Mr. SIMPSON. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 533 and 534, I was unavoidably detained and unable to vote. When submitting to the record how I would have voted, I inadvertently stated the rollcall numbers incorrectly as 553 and 554. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on rollcall No. 533 and "aye" on rollcall No. 534.

RECOGNIZING CHARLES PAUL BUTLER JR., ON HIS EIGHTIETH BIRTHDAY

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 27, 2007

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Mr. Charles Paul Butler Jr., on the occasion of his eightieth birthday. Charley Butler, a long time resident of Brundidge, Alabama, in Pike County, has been widely recognized for his community service, and I am honored to add my recognition on the floor of the House of Representatives today.

Charley Butler and his family relocated to Brundidge, Alabama, in 1961. There began what would become a lifetime commitment to the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 34. That troop had been languishing for a number of years, but Mr. Butler spearheaded an effort to restore its vitality. He recruited a superb bullpen of adult leaders and lined up important sponsors such as the local Army National Guard Armory. The troop became the pride of the Alabama-Florida Council as one of the best equipped, most active troops in the region. Troop 34 consistently spent more days encamped than any surrounding troop and was the envy of all when it showed up at Camp Ala-Flo in its custom-painted Troop 34 school bus. Of most significance, Scoutmaster Butler was constantly teaching and imparting the values that are so important to the development of young men. During Mr. Butler's tenure as scoutmaster of Troop 34, seventeen members of the community earned the rare rank of Eagle, a remarkable achievement for a small troop from a small town.

Mr. Butler's contributions to the Boy Scouts have been widely recognized. The Boy Scouts of America awarded him the prestigious "Silver Beaver Award," top recognition for an adult volunteer leader. And in 1988, at "Scout Day" at the Brundidge United Methodist

Church, he received a particularly fitting tribute. On that day, a group of his former Eagle Scouts gathered to present Mr. Butler with a statue of a scoutmaster as a simple expression of thanks for the important role he had played in each of their lives. Among the Eagle Scouts gathered that day were his own two sons, as well as several fatherless boys who considered him very much like a father.

Charley Butler has also been widely recognized by the broader community. He received the "Civic Achievement Award" for 2007 from the alumni association of Kettering University (formerly GMI Engineering and Management Institute) of Flint, Michigan. In 2003, he received the Brundidge Business Association "Humanitarian Award." Active for many years in the Brundidge Rotary Club, he has been recognized frequently by that organization. He is a three time recipient of the group's "Service above Self Award," a 2001 recipient of the "Rotary Special Service Award," and in 1986, the recipient of Rotary's highest recognition, the "Paul Harris Fellow Award." More recently, the Brundidge Rotary Club presented Mr. Butler a "Lifetime of Service Award" for his outstanding service from 1975 to 2007.

Madam Speaker, Charley Butler truly personifies the motto "service above self." His sacrifices of time, effort and energy have truly made his community a better place. His legacy is well-established and will be long-lasting. I am proud to add my name to the list of those recognizing him, and I offer him best wishes on his eightieth birthday.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 27, 2007

Mr. CARTER. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 549, I was unavoidably detained and unable to be present to vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 27, 2007

Mr. SIMPSON. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 284, passage of H.R. 1429, Head Start for School Readiness Act, I was unavoidably detained and unable to vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

CONGRATULATING BARBARA
WHITNEY CARR ON HER RETIRE-
MENT

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 27, 2007

Mr. KIRK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Barbara Whitney Carr, the president and CEO of the Chicago Botanic Garden for over a decade.

Barbara Carr presides over one of America's preeminent public gardens located in

Glencoe, Illinois. For over a century, the Chicago Botanic Garden has been a sanctuary for over 2.2 million plants, including over 8,000 unique species. The 23 unique gardens spread over 385 acres include horticultural displays, natural habitats, and lakes that attract more than 750,000 visitors annually. By embracing its mission to promote the enjoyment, understanding, and conservation of plants and the natural world, the Garden has become one of the finest botanic displays in the country and one of the 10th District's most stunning features.

Barbara led a 10-year master plan for the garden and launched a capital campaign that saw 15,000 donors contribute a total of \$148 million. This drive led to construction and renovation of eight new gardens and the restoration of nearly 6 miles of shoreline. She also oversaw completion of the Botanic Garden Center, Children's Learning Center and the renovation of the 100,000-square foot Regenstein Center.

Thanks to Barbara's leadership, the garden is now partnered with some of the leading academic institutions in Illinois. She created an academic affairs program that now offers a master of science in plant biology and conservation, a master of landscape architecture and a bachelor's degree in horticulture. Barbara spearheaded the effort to develop a partnership with the Royal Botanic Gardens in Kew, England, to preserve endangered prairie plant species and has launched a major science initiative including collaboration with leading organizations.

Madam Speaker, Barbara Whitney Carr is a remarkable woman whose dedication helped to make the Chicago Botanic Garden one of the finest institutions in the country and an essential place of tourism, education, and beauty within the 10th District. I wish her all the best in her retirement and thank her for her years of service.

RECOGNIZING THE OFFICIAL DEDICATION OF THE BETTY J. PULLUM FAMILY YMCA IN NAVARRE

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 27, 2007

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it is an honor for me to rise today to recognize the dedication of the Betty J. Pullum Family YMCA in Navarre, Florida.

This celebrated facility is named in remembrance of a tireless leader who devoted herself to improving her community and who saw the good in everyone. Ms. Betty J. Pullum was known to her family as "Big Deal." It was her vision and desire to give back to the Navarre community that has made it the close-knit community that it is today. Because of her generosity, it is only fitting that the Navarre YMCA is named in honor of her.

On August 19, 2006, the newly constructed Betty J. Pullum Family YMCA building opened to serve the community of Navarre, Florida. The state-of-the art facility was conceived by Bart Pullum, President of the Navarre Beach Area Chamber of Commerce. As a Navarre native he believed that the youth of Navarre

needed a YMCA of their own where they could come together to have fun in a safe environment.

He brought the idea to his friend Henry Loper and they presented it to the directors of the Pensacola YMCA. It was there that the project grew. Bill and Jeannie Pullum donated the land for the project and the Bill and Martha Pullum Family Foundation donated a lead gift of half a million dollars. The rest of the fundraising was organized by groups and individuals in the community who loved the idea of having a family-oriented facility that promotes active and healthy lifestyles.

The Betty J. Pullum Family YMCA is the perfect place for a family to balance a healthy lifestyle with fun and games. All the exercise equipment is new and free fitness assessments and personalized exercise programs are offered. There are also gymnasiums for shooting hoops and a children's playroom that allows parents to exercise while children are supervised by the attentive staff. The YMCA also offers classes such as aerobic kickboxing and kids' cardio for children ages 3-6 to make a healthy and active lifestyle a lifelong habit. The biggest draw for children is the outdoor pool which features lanes for lap swimming, water slides and a wading section for small children featuring baby slides and fountains.

The Navarre YMCA has about 700 membership units, which represents about 1,600 individuals. Now that we are into the heat of summer, the Navarre YMCA is expecting its membership to grow. This facility will allow families to build healthy lifestyles together and have fun at the same time. It is a safe place for children to play and is an enormous benefit to the community of Navarre, Florida.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am proud to recognize the dedication of the Betty J. Pullum Family YMCA in Navarre, Florida.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED
AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS
ACT, 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 26, 2007

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2643) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes:

Mr. REYES. Madam Chairman, I rise today in strong support of an amendment by my friend and colleague, Chairman DICKS, to increase funding for the Border Environment Infrastructure Fund, or BEIF, under the U.S.-Mexico Border Program by \$15 million.

I also want to thank Chairman DICKS for producing a good piece of legislation and for being so responsive to me and other concerned Members from border districts. His willingness to listen to and take into account new information regarding the program are true marking of a fine chairman. As my friend the chairman noted, BEIF has recently instituted measures to ensure that program funds are

disbursed more quickly. I am happy that his concerns regarding the balance of obligated but unspent funds have been resolved. It is an efficient program with strong fiduciary controls. I was pleased to work with Mr. DICKS on this amendment.

BEIF, which was created under the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), makes environmental infrastructure projects affordable for communities throughout the U.S.-Mexico border region by combining grant funds with loans or other forms of financing. It was created with the understanding that a healthy and economically strong border region is critical to a secure border and to the flow of commerce. Economic development rests on a foundation of strong infrastructure. In many poorer border communities, however, the capital does not often exist to build water and wastewater infrastructure. BEIF funds go toward increasing water and wastewater capacity—bringing services to people who have not previously had them, improving public health, supporting economic development in poor border communities, and ultimately strengthening our southern border.

Every million dollars in BEIF water and wastewater investment results in the following over 10 years: \$11.1 million in private sector investment, 221 new jobs, \$1.7 million in tax revenue, and \$52.2 million in goods produced by the private sector. Generally, BEIF and accompanying efforts have aided 185 projects that have benefitted over 7.5 million residents.

In my own district of El Paso, Texas, water and wastewater projects have received about \$65 million in funding under the U.S.-Mexico Border Program. That funding has gone toward innovative water planning for a growing city in the middle of the desert, toward technical assistance for smaller waterworks, and toward bringing water and wastewater infrastructure to unincorporated settlements, or colonias. This irreplaceable funding source for border communities must be maintained.

Let's bring water and wastewater to those who don't have it. Let's bring economic development to poor communities in the U.S.-Mexico border region. Let's invest in a strong and secure border. I urge my colleagues to join our chairman, Mr. DICKS, and me in supporting this critical amendment.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JOSEPH TORCASO

HON. PAUL RYAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 27, 2007

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Madam Speaker, last week, Kenosha, Wisconsin, lost a long-time community leader—Joseph Torcaso, who has run Torcaso Shoe Repair shop on 52nd Street for over 60 years. A lifelong resident of Kenosha, he started learning the shoe repair business from his father in 1937, at the age of 9, and his shop is one of the touchstones of the Kenosha community. Joe passed away on Friday.

Everyone knew and liked Joe, and his lively wit and sense of humor brightened countless people's lives. He was known as the "Mayor of 52nd Street" or, by some, as the "Oracle of 52nd Street" for his knack at forecasting political victors.

More than just an exceptionally skilled craftsman and a small business owner, Joe was a man of great character. He helped give Kenosha its strong sense of community, and the city will sorely miss this devoted family man and friend who lifted so many customers' spirits. Joe was also a great friend of mine, and I will miss him deeply.

My thoughts and prayers are with his wife, children, and grandchildren during this difficult time.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO ALAN P. MINTZ, M.D.

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 27, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Alan P. Mintz, M.D. who passed away on June 3, 2007.

Born in Chicago, Alan P. Mintz graduated from the University of Chicago and earned a doctor of medicine degree from the University of Illinois—School of Medicine. Prior to his postgraduate training in radiology, in which he later specialized, Dr. Mintz served as a physician in the U.S. Navy. Dr. Mintz was a highly respected professional in the field of radiology and served as a Diplomate of the American Board of Radiology, was board certified in radiology, nuclear medicine and radiation therapy, and was also appointed chairman of the Department of Radiology for several Chicago-area hospitals.

Motivated by his passion for health and wellness, Dr. Mintz pioneered a new medical specialty with his work in age management medicine. He has become famous within the field for his controversial promotion in the use of steroids and human growth hormone as an anti-aging therapy for patients. Dr. Mintz co-founded and served as CEO and President of Medicon, Inc., the world's largest radiology management company. His inventive thinking stimulated the creation of Cenegenics Medical Institute, the largest age management medicine organization in the world. Although headquartered in Las Vegas, Cenegenics Medical Institute has offices in South Carolina, Florida, Hong Kong, and South Korea with service reaching more than 12,000 patients.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor the life and memory of Alan P. Mintz, M.D. Dr. Mintz lived his life according to his favorite maxim by Henry David Thoreau, "Go confidently in the direction of your dreams . . . Live the life you have imagined." Dr. Mintz clearly fulfilled this statement and will be missed by the many lives he touched.

CONGRATULATIONS TO STEPHEN PAUL POLLINGER, PHD

HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 27, 2007

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Speaker, teaching is among the most noble and demanding of professions; and excellence in the delivery of education helps not only individuals, but the entire community, become

more tolerant, knowledgeable, and strong. The effectiveness and efficiency of learning depends, in large measure, on those individuals who have dedicated their life to quality education, public service, and excellence. Recognizing one educator in particular, I would like to congratulate Dr. Stephen Paul Pollinger for his recent Law Teacher of the Year for Middle School Award, given to him by the American Bar Association. After receiving his doctorate in education from Fordham University in New York, he taught at several universities, most recently at Florida Atlantic University, while serving as the Middle School Administrator at Donna Klein Jewish Academy in Boca Raton, FL. Dr. Pollinger has also served as a staff developer for the Broward County School Board, curriculum designer in social science, principal at the elementary and middle school levels, and participated in creating Holocaust education that is now a part of the Florida curriculum.

After taking on the law program at Seminole Middle School in Plantation, FL, he involved the school in the Broward County Mock Trial program under the direction of Judge Robert Diaz. Seminole Middle School not only participated in the program, but they won the competition! It was the success of this program that led to Dr. Pollinger involving the students in the American Bar Association's mock trials competition. His participation and leadership in education led Dr. Pollinger to win the American Bar Association's Law Teacher of the Year for Middle Schools. He will travel to San Francisco in August to receive the award, while simultaneously representing Seminole Middle School, Broward County, the State of Florida, and of course my home district, Florida 20. With that said Madam Speaker, I am honored to recognize Dr. Stephen Paul Pollinger for his positive impact on the lives of others.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED
AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS
ACT, 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 26, 2007

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2643) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes:

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Chairman, I rise in strong opposition to the Lamborn Amendment, which would cut all funding in the underlying bill for the National Endowment for the Arts.

The NEA has been shortchanged for far too long, and it's time to ensure that it has the resources necessary to carry out its mission of supporting excellence in the arts, bringing the arts to all Americans, and providing leadership in arts education.

Since 1996, Congress has forced the NEA to meet the ever growing demands of our communities on a shoestring budget. Despite gross underfunding, the NEA has continued to promote arts and culture across the country.

With the able leadership of my good friends Rep. SLAUGHTER and Rep. SHAYS, co-chairs of the Congressional Arts Caucus, we've been making steady progress every year in getting back to the appropriate level of funding for the NEA. This amendment represents an enormous and simply unthinkable step backwards for the Arts in our country.

Madam Chairman, I strongly oppose the Lamborn Amendment and urge my colleagues to do the same.

REMEMBERING DR. HANS
SENNHOLZ

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 27, 2007

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the life and achievements of Hans F. Sennholz. Dr. Sennholz was one of the foremost free-market economists of his generation and an inspiration to tens of thousands of people around the world.

Dr. Sennholz was born on February 3, 1922 in Germany in the midst of the German hyperinflation crisis and experienced firsthand the Great Depression and the horrors of Hitler's dictatorship. After receiving his master's degree from the University of Marburg and a doctorate in political science from the University of Cologne, Dr. Sennholz received a Ph.D. in economics at New York University, where he studied under the Austrian economist Ludwig von Mises.

In his 37 years as a professor of economics at Grove City College, Dr. Sennholz was a formative influence for over 10,000 students. During an era in which Keynesianism was the dominant economic ideology, Dr. Sennholz's efforts played a major role in keeping alive the flame of classical liberalism and market-based economics. Dr. Sennholz and his free market ideas were a perfect fit for Grove City, which is one of only two colleges in the United States which eschews federal education funding.

Dr. Sennholz later became President of the Foundation for Economic Education, reviving the institution and renewing its mission to advancing the ideals of private property, individual liberty, the rule of law, and the free market. He also served as an adjunct scholar at the Ludwig von Mises Institute, from which he received the Gary G. Schlarbaum Prize in 2004 for his lifelong dedication to the cause of liberty.

I first met Dr. Sennholz in the early 1970s during the campaign to legalize the private ownership of gold. He was a tremendous influence on me and introduced me to other eminent economists of the Austrian School. Dr. Sennholz consistently taught the beneficial effects of the gold standard and was a tireless opponent of inflation. He never ceased to persist in pointing out the problems of fiat currency, the evils of inflation, and the perils of the Federal Reserve's loose monetary policy.

Dr. Sennholz passed away on Saturday, June 23, 2007 at the age of 85, having lived a full and rewarding life. Generations of free-market economists are indebted to him, his spirited teaching, and his lucid writing for keeping free-market economic teaching alive during trying times. Congress would do well to

heed his advice on the importance of free markets and the folly of fiat currency.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 27, 2007

Mr. COSTELLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to clarify my position on two votes taken during consideration of the State and Foreign Operations Appropriations bill for fiscal year 2008 and to reiterate my strong support of pro-life issues.

During consideration of the bill, I inadvertently opposed the Pitts amendment, which would have restored equal funding and a balanced approach in the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), and voted yes on final passage. While voting via electronic device during two minute votes, I thought I had voted correctly but was recorded otherwise. By the time I had realized what had happened, the votes had been closed.

Madam Speaker, since coming to Congress, I have been a strong supporter of pro-life policies. For these reasons, I want to reiterate my support for the Pitts amendment and my opposition to final passage of the bill.

2008 MILITARY CONSTRUCTION,
VETERANS AFFAIRS, AND RE-
LATED AGENCIES APPROPRI-
ATIONS BILL

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 27, 2007

Mr. HOLT. Madam Speaker, I'm pleased the House has acted on this important legislation.

I want to compliment my colleague, the chairman of this subcommittee, Mr. EDWARDS of Texas, for the work he and his colleagues put into this bill. The priorities in this bill send a strong message to our military servicemembers and our veterans that we are serious about honoring our obligations to them.

To help deal with the constant problem of medical inflation and the rising costs of health care, this bill provides \$37,122,000,000 for the Veterans' Health Administration—an increase of \$4,442,265,000 or 13.6 percent over the FY 2007 level and \$2,509,329,000 more than the President requested. This increase is long overdue and vitally needed.

Since the attacks on 9/11, more than 1.5 million American military personnel have been deployed in support of Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. When those men and women eventually separate from the service, a large number of them will require ongoing medical care for the wounds and injuries they've suffered in service to our country, particularly for mental health needs and traumatic brain injuries, TBI. This bill provides \$604,325,858 to increase funding for treatment in these areas.

We all know that TBI has, tragically, become the signature injury of the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan. In addition to providing an overall higher level of funding for medical

care for all veterans, this bill directs that all future budget requests include TBI as a Select Program—in other words, as a dedicated line item. That designation will help ensure that TBI treatment and rehabilitation programs receive the funding and focus required to meet the needs of veterans who are living with this life-altering injury.

This bill also recognizes that substance abuse and post-traumatic stress disorder, PTSD, are plaguing record numbers of veterans. The National Center for PTSD has reported that 58 percent of veterans who have substance abuse problems also have lifetime PTSD and are three times more likely to have PTSD than veterans who do not suffer from substance abuse disorders. To deal with this challenge, the bill provides \$428,873,754 for the Substance Abuse Program, an increase of \$70,880,754 over the President's request.

Finally, this bill contains an important accountability provision that the Bush administration opposed.

Specifically, the committee mandates in this bill that the Department of Veterans Affairs provide quarterly reports on the financial status and service level status of the VHA and each of its Veterans Integrated Service Networks, VISNs. The reports must contain the time required for new patients to get their first appointment, the time required for established patients to get their next appointment, the number of patients on wait lists for inpatient services or any mental health or substance abuse program, the number of staff shortages for mental health services, the planned and actual expenditure rates for contracted mental health care, and the number of unique veterans and patients being served. Specific reports on the blind rehabilitation service, OIF/OEF veterans, prosthetics, and substance abuse programs are also mandated in this bill.

I am pleased that Chairman EDWARDS and his colleagues are taking this approach to auditing the VA's programs. We all know that veterans are waiting longer to get their first or follow up appointments with their primary care providers. These provisions will help us establish just how serious the problem is and whether inadequate resources, poor management, or both are contributing to these delays in the delivery of vital health care services to our veterans. For these and the other reasons I've cited, I look forward to this bill's final passage by the Congress.

IN TRIBUTE TO COLONEL WARREN
L. HENDERSON'S RETIREMENT
FROM THE UNITED STATES AIR
FORCE

HON. MICHAEL R. TURNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 27, 2007

Mr. TURNER. Madam Speaker, on the occasion of his retirement from the United States Air Force, I want to recognize Colonel Warren Henderson for his 26 years of dedicated service to our country. In his most recent assignment, he serves as the Chief, Weapon Systems Division, Office of the Secretary of the Air Force, Legislative Liaison. Colonel Warren Henderson is responsible for Congressional liaison and annual authorization of over \$50B for all Air Force weapon systems, munitions,

Science/Technology, Research and Development, and Special Access Programs. His Division is responsible for developing and executing strategies to best advocate for Air Force programs, and prepares AF senior leadership for testimony before House and Senate Armed Services Committees and Select Committees on Intelligence.

The colonel entered the Air Force in 1981 after receiving his commission from the U.S. Air Force Academy. He commanded the 23d Fighter Group "Flying Tigers" and the 494th Fighter Squadron, which, under his leadership, received the U.S. Air Forces in Europe Commander's Trophy as the top fighter squadron in the command. He is a command fighter pilot with approximately 4,000 flying hours and has flown combat missions over Iraq, Serbia, and Afghanistan.

I join my colleagues in expressing our sincere appreciation to Colonel Warren Henderson for his outstanding service to both the United States Air Force and our Legislative Branch. We wish him the best as he transitions into a new career. Colonel Henderson is a true professional and a credit to himself and the United States Air Force.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED
AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS
ACT, 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 26, 2007

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2643) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes:

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong opposition to the Brown-Waite Amendment, which would cut funding for the National Endowment for the Arts by \$32 million dollars, eliminating the much-needed funding increase for the NEA.

Since 1996, Congress has forced the NEA to meet the ever growing demands of our communities on a shoestring budget. Despite gross underfunding, the NEA has continued to promote arts and culture across the country.

With much-needed incremental increases since 2001, the NEA has developed widely-popular programs, including the Big Read and Shakespeare in American Communities, to encourage Americans to participate in cultural experiences.

In 2006, the NEA awarded 1,744 grants in 435 congressional districts—that's every single Congressional district in the nation.

In addition, because of the NEA's partnership with state and local art agencies, NEA grants are typically leveraged 7 to 1 for every dollar of federal investment.

Mr. Chairman, the cost of cutting funding to the NEA is so much more than the savings. I encourage my colleagues to support the NEA and oppose the Brown-Waite amendment.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 27, 2007

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Speaker, I am listed as voting "nay" during rollcall vote number 529 on H.R. 2764, the "Department of State, Foreign Operations and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2008" when it was before the House of Representatives on Thursday, June 21, 2007. This is an error. I support the Shays of Connecticut Amendment on the Iraq Study Group and want it noted that had my intention been properly expressed I would be recorded as having voted "aye."

INTRODUCING H.R. 2881, THE FAA
REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2007

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 27, 2007

Mr. OBERSTAR. Madam Speaker, I rise to introduce H.R. 2881, the "FAA Reauthorization Act of 2007", a bill that provides historic funding levels for the Federal Aviation Administration's ("FAA") capital Programs. Between fiscal year 2008 and fiscal year 2011, the bill provides \$15.8 billion for the Airport Improvement Program ("AIP"), and nearly \$13 billion for FAA Facilities & Equipment ("F&E"). These robust funding levels will enable the FAA to modernize our air traffic control ("ATC") system and make capacity enhancing improvements at our nation's airports. In addition, the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2007 also provides \$37.2 billion—one-half billion more than the FAA's recommendation—for FAA Operations over the next four years.

ATC MODERNIZATION

Modernizing our air transportation system is a national priority. The FAA forecasts that airlines are expected to carry more than one billion passengers by 2015, increasing from approximately 740 million in 2006. The Department of Transportation ("DOT") predicts up to a tripling of passengers, operations and cargo by 2025. The FAA Reauthorization Act of 2007 applies a four-part approach to ATC modernization and the Next Generation Air Transportation System (NextGen), including more funding, authority, accountability, and oversight.

The historic funding levels authorized for the FAA's F&E account will: accelerate the implementation of NextGen; enable FAA to replace and repair existing facilities and equipment; and provide for the development and implementation of high-priority safety-related systems.

To increase the authority and visibility of the Joint Planning and Development Office ("JPDO"), which provides the plan for NextGen, the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2007 elevates the Director of the JPDO to the status of Associate Administrator for NextGen within the FAA. It also mandates that the JPDO develop a work plan that details, on a year-by-year basis, specific NextGen-related deliverables for the FAA and its partner agencies, and requires the Secretary of Transpor-

tation to report on the plan's progress each year. The FAA Reauthorization Act of 2007 contains provisions to hold the FAA's vendors accountable for providing safe, quality services to consumers and to protect the Government's interest in major NextGen-related acquisitions.

The FAA's ATC modernization program has historically experienced massive cost overruns and delays. The FAA Reauthorization Act of 2007 authorizes Government Accountability Office ("GAO"), Department of Transportation Inspector General ("DOT IG") and National Research Council audits and reports related to NextGen that will help Congress exercise its oversight responsibilities.

FINANCING

Due to the projected growth of Airport and Airway Trust Fund ("Trust Fund") revenue, I do not believe radical financing reform is necessary. I am recommending to the Committee on Ways and Means that the general aviation jet fuel tax rate be adjusted for inflation from 21.8 cents per gallon to 30.7 cents per gallon, and that the aviation gasoline tax rate be increased from 19.3 cents per gallon to 24.1 cents per gallon. I believe that the forecasted growth of Trust Fund revenues, coupled with additional revenue from the recommended general aviation fuel tax rate increases, will be sufficient to provide for the robust capital funding required to modernize the ATC system, as well as to stabilize and strengthen the Trust Fund.

AIRPORT FUNDING

Madam Speaker, in June, DOT reported that only 72.5 percent of domestic flights by the United States' 20 largest airlines arrived on-time in January, February, March, and April—the worst showing for those four months since DOT began reporting on-time performance in 1995. This is unacceptable. Robust investment in airport infrastructure is necessary to enhance capacity and combat delays.

According to the FAA, the majority of air traffic delays at the top 35 airports, which account for 73 percent of passenger enplanements, can be traced to inadequate throughput. To quote the FAA: "The construction of new runways and runway extensions are the most effective method of increasing throughput."

The FAA's 2007–2011 National Plan of Integrated Airport Systems ("NPIAS") states that during the next five years, there will be \$41.2 billion of AIP-eligible infrastructure development, an annual average of \$8.2 billion. This \$41.2 billion includes approximately \$18 billion in runway-related needs, including new runway, taxiway and apron construction. However, in March 2007, the FAA testified that the current NPIAS report may understate the true cost of needed capital investment, as sharp increases in construction costs occurring in the last half of 2006 were not fully reflected. The 2007–2011 Airports Council International—North America Capital Needs Survey estimates total airport capital needs—including the cost of non-AIP-eligible projects—to be about \$87.4 billion or \$17.5 billion per year from 2007 through 2011.

In March 2007, the American Association of Airport Executives testified that according to the January 1, 2007 Means Construction Cost Indexes, the average construction costs for 30 major U.S. cities have risen more than 24 percent in the past three years—at an average annual rate of more than 7.5 percent.

To combat inflation and to help airports meet increased capital needs, the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2007 would increase the Passenger Facility Charge ("PFC") cap from \$4.50 to \$7.00. According to FAA, if every airport currently collecting a \$4.00 or \$4.50 PFC raised its PFC to \$7.00, it would generate approximately \$1.1 billion in additional revenue for airport development each year. H.R. 2881 also provides significant increases in AIP funding for smaller airports, which are particularly reliant on AIP for capital financing.

SMALL COMMUNITIES

The FAA Reauthorization Act of 2007 rejects the Administration's proposal to cut funding for the Essential Air Service ("EAS") program by more than one-half, to \$50 million, and instead increases the total amount authorized for EAS each year from \$127 million to \$133 million (including \$50 million derived from overflight fees).

To improve the quality of air service received by EAS communities, the bill authorizes the Secretary to incorporate financial incentives into EAS contracts based on specified performance goals. In addition, to encourage increased air carrier participation in the EAS program, the bill authorizes the Secretary of Transportation to enter into long-term EAS contracts that would provide more stability for participating air carriers.

In contrast to the Administration's proposal to sunset the Small Community Air Service Development program on September 30, 2008, the bill extends the Small Community program through FY 2011, at the current authorized funding level of \$35 million per year.

ENVIRONMENT

Being ever mindful of the obstacles that the United States still faces in trying to expand our airport capacity through infrastructure improvements, and balancing the needs of airport neighborhoods, the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2007 contains several environmental-related provisions, including a phase out of noisy stage 2 aircraft over the next five years; a pilot program for the development, maturing and certification of continuous lower energy, emissions and noise engine and airframe technology; as well as a program to fund six projects at public-use airports to take promising environmental research concepts into the actual airport environment to demonstrate the reduction or mitigation of aviation impacts on noise, air quality or water quality in the airport environment. In addition, the FAA is directed in this bill to establish a pilot program at five public-use airports to design, develop, and test new air traffic flow management technologies to better manage the flow of aircraft on the ground and reduce ground holds and idling times for aircraft with the goal of reducing emissions and increase fuel savings.

SAFETY

As to safety, the bill authorizes \$570 million over four years to increase the number of aviation safety inspectors by more than one-third. The bill also provides robust funding to address runway safety issues, including \$42 million over four years for runway incursion reduction programs; \$74 million over four years for runway status light acquisition and installation, as well as requires FAA to report to Congress on a plan for the installation and deployment of systems to alert controllers or flight crews to potential runway incursions. In addition, the bill would require twice a year inspec-

tions of foreign repair stations. The very serious issue of flight crew fatigue is addressed in the bill by requiring the FAA to contract with the National Academy of Sciences to conduct a study on pilot fatigue, and then to consider the findings of the academy and update, where appropriate, its regulations with regard to flight time limitations and rest requirements for pilots. Importantly, H.R. 2881 also directs the FAA to initiate long-overdue action to ensure crewmember safety by applying occupational health standards onboard aircraft.

Finally, two very important issues will be considered during the Committee markup as amendments to the bill: the first will address the ongoing dispute between the National Air Traffic Controllers Association ("NATCA") and the FAA over failed contract negotiations by establishing a new dispute resolution procedure and requiring the parties to go back to the negotiating table; the second will address the disparate treatment of employees of express delivery companies under our nation's labor laws. Adoption of these amendments will go a long way toward restoring collective bargaining rights to this critical workforce.

Madam Speaker, this is a bill that will keep our skies safe and our passengers moving well into the future.

THE U.S.-KOREA FREE TRADE AGREEMENT

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2007

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, on Saturday, June 30, the United States and the Republic of Korea are expected to sign a Free Trade Agreement, the result of months of negotiations between our two countries. After the agreement is signed, Congress will have an opportunity to comprehensively review it, an opportunity that I wholeheartedly welcome.

The U.S.-Korea Free Trade Agreement holds both substantive and symbolic importance. For nearly a million Korean Americans, a large number of whom are my constituents, New York is home to many businesses, large and small, which focus on trade between the United States and the Republic of Korea.

The governments of our two countries did not pursue this agreement without the encouragement and input of several important organizations. Among these were the U.S.-Korea FTA Business Coalition, the U.S.-Korea and Korea-U.S. Business Councils, the American Chamber of Commerce in Korea and the Federation of Korean Industries. I would also like to recognize the efforts of my good friends at the Korea International Trade Association with whom I had the pleasure of meeting its Chairman and representatives on several occasions.

Madam Speaker, barely a half century ago, the Republic of Korea was an impoverished casualty of imperialism and war; it has now grown to be the 11th-largest trading nation in the world. The Republic of Korea is also the seventh largest trading partner of the United States, with nearly \$80 billion in trade volume between our countries each year.

Credit for such remarkable development belongs in large part to the efforts of private businesses that saw potential in what cynics

initially saw as a war-torn "basket economy." These businesses today, and the many others that followed, create jobs, produce desirable goods and services, offer investment opportunities, and provide mutual benefits in both of our countries.

Let me emphasize that, for all the obvious benefits that a free trade agreement between the United States and the Republic of Korea will provide, however, the language of any agreement must be scrutinized carefully to assure that American and Korean labor standards are upheld, that our environment is safeguarded, and that consumers are fully protected. I am a strong proponent of these important considerations.

Madam Speaker, I look forward to examining the text of the proposed U.S.-Korea Free Trade Agreement and to a productive and informative discussion about it in the weeks and months to come. I welcome the anticipated signing of the U.S.-Korea Free Trade Agreement this Saturday and encourage my colleagues to offer their own expressions of welcome and support for this historic event.

FINANCIAL SERVICES AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 27, 2007

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2829) making appropriations for financial services and general government for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes:

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Chairman, I support the Miller-Sanchez amendment to H.R. 2829, the Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2008. The Miller-Sanchez amendment would prohibit OMB from using the funds appropriated in this bill to implement Executive Order 13422.

Executive Order 13422 was issued on January 18, 2007. The Administration's rationale for this Executive Order, which amends Executive Order 12866, is that it will improve the way the government does business. What this Executive Order really does is to create new opportunities for politicization and delay in the regulatory process and make it harder for agencies to take virtually any action.

This Executive Order makes a significant change in policy by giving OMB authority over agency guidance documents. Agencies issue guidance for a variety of reasons such as providing safety warnings or helping the public understand how to comply with a particular requirement. Agencies will now have to get OMB approval of any guidance document that is considered "significant." This means that OMB will have the opportunity to second-guess the decisions of agency experts and that agencies will be delayed in, or blocked from, getting important information out to the public.

Executive Order 13422 also requires agencies to designate a presidential appointee as a "Regulatory Policy Officer" who will have significant authority. Unless specifically authorized by the agency head, an agency cannot

"commence" a rulemaking without the approval of the Regulatory Policy Officer. This means that a political appointee will be in the powerful position of vetoing or indefinitely delaying a rule, even when the rule is needed to carry out Congress' directives. This will slow down agency action even further and invite the politicization of agency decisions.

Executive Order 13422 will make it harder for agencies to issue common sense safeguards to protect health, safety, and the environment. With the Miller-Sanchez amendment, Congress is sending the message that this is not a good way to govern. I urge my colleagues to support the Miller-Sanchez amendment.

INTRODUCTION OF THE
OSTEOPOROSIS EARLY DETECTION
AND PREVENTION ACT OF
2007

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2007

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, today I am reintroducing bipartisan legislation, the Osteoporosis Early Detection and Prevention Act of 2007, along with my friend and colleague from West Virginia.

This important bill will ensure that individuals at high risk for osteoporosis have access to screening tests for the disease. The Osteoporosis Early Detection and Prevention Act of 2007 will require private insurance plans to cover bone mass (bone density) measurement testing for those at risk for developing the disease.

Approximately 44 million Americans suffer from osteoporosis or are at risk of developing it, and 80 percent of those at risk are women. Every year, there are 1.5 million bone fractures caused by osteoporosis. Half of all women and one-fourth of all men, age 50 or older, will suffer a bone fracture due to osteoporosis.

Since there is no known cure for osteoporosis, the most effective way to reduce the prevalence and cost of the disease is through prevention and early diagnosis. As a result, bone mass measurement tests are crucial to early detection because ordinary x-rays do not detect osteoporosis until the disease is so advanced that 25 to 40 percent of bone mass has been lost.

Osteoporosis is a disease that has no symptoms and usually remains undiagnosed until a fracture occurs. I am pleased to introduce a bill that requires private health insurance plans to cover a bone mass measurement test for qualified men and women who are at risk for developing osteoporosis. Bone mass measurement is a non-invasive, painless and reliable way to diagnose osteoporosis before costly fractures occur. I believe this legislation will make a huge difference in defending men and women from osteoporosis.

HONORING MICHAEL J.
CZOPKIEWICZ, EAGLE SCOUT

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2007

Mr. LIPINSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor an outstanding constituent of my district, Michael J. Czopkiewicz, who will achieve the high rank of Eagle Scout on July 7th. Michael, a senior at Brother Rice High School, has demonstrated great dedication and commitment in the pursuit of this admirable goal.

Joining the Boy Scouts in first grade, Michael has met every test and challenge to pass through the six ranks of the Boy Scouts. Those aspiring to be Eagle Scouts must fulfill requirements in the areas of leadership, service, and outdoor skills. To demonstrate proficiency in certain Scoutcraft skills, each Boy Scout must achieve merit badges in the areas of First Aid, Citizenship in the Community, Environmental Science, Personal Fitness, Family Life, and many more.

As Michael passed through the ranks, he learned the important life skill of self-evaluation through his participation in Scoutmaster conferences. At these conferences, Michael took time to evaluate his past performances and look to the future to create new goals. He also demonstrated the worthy qualities of responsibility and maturity by holding leadership positions within his troop and participating in service projects.

Michael's hardworking nature also extends outside the Boy Scouts. By working three jobs during the summer and one job during school, Michael has demonstrated his ability to successfully take on a variety of responsibilities. As a hardworking intern in my district office, Michael shows great interest in civic affairs and the betterment of his community.

It is my honor to commend Michael J. Czopkiewicz for his achievement of the high rank of Eagle Scout. As a new Eagle Scout, Michael will join the ranks of fellow Eagle Scouts like former President Gerald R. Ford. Michael's devotion to the Boy Scouts for over a decade is laudable, and I congratulate him on his achievement. I thank him for his dedication to the community, and I know we can expect great things from him in the future.

RECOGNIZING THE 57TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE KOREAN WAR

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 57th anniversary of the Korean War, also known as the "Forgotten War", which began on June 25, 1950. In honor of this event the Embassy of Korea held a wreath-laying ceremony at the Korean War Veterans Memorial in Washington, DC, on June 25, 2007.

As a decorated Korean War veteran I am proud that this ceremony has taken place to honor the brave soldiers that served and gave their lives while fighting this war. A conflict that started as a civil war became a war between 21 nations that served under the United Na-

tions against communist North Korea. As a result of this 3-year war the United States lost about 33,741 casualties. But, this anniversary is not only about recognizing the American soldiers that were lost in this war, it is also a time to recognize the British, Australians, South Africans and the brave soldiers from other nations that served in this war, as well as, the families of these soldiers whose loved ones made the ultimate sacrifice.

I commend the organizers of this event for their efforts to coordinate this special ceremony. Although this war is known as the "Forgotten War" lets make sure that it is not forgotten. This wreath-laying ceremony and other events commemorating the anniversary of this war helps to ensure that our children and their children will not forget those that fought to protect our freedom and peace.

I ask my colleagues to join me in paying respect to the men and women who honorably served our nation in Korea and I urge you to also take a moment to honor the fallen heroes of the Iraq War as we celebrate our Independence Day next week.

EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE
HOUSE REGARDING THE PUBLIC
SERVICE OF PRIME MINISTER
TONY BLAIR

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVID DREIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 25, 2007

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my friend and colleague Mr. PETER KING for introducing this important resolution, which I was proud to cosponsor. I can think of no one more deserving of being honored by this body than Prime Minister Blair. For over a decade, he has proven to be a tremendous friend and ally of the United States, and we simply cannot say anything today that would adequately honor the contribution he has made to his country, to our country and to the cause of freedom throughout the globe.

And we know he has not made this great contribution without significant sacrifice. We have watched him at times endure an enormous amount of criticism and personal attack for the principled positions he has taken. But Tony Blair has steadfastly demonstrated what true leadership is. It does not always entail easy or popular choices. It does not always elicit cheers of support. Leadership in the 21st century, as we have come to realize, will often mean taking a very difficult stand against the enemies of freedom.

I believe that history will regard this principled leadership very highly. And as Mr. KING's resolution highlights, this leadership has been exemplified throughout Tony Blair's entire tenure as Prime Minister. By brokering the Good Friday Agreement, he has ushered in a new, peaceful era in Northern Ireland, bringing together all parties and giving them a critical role in their own government. He has been our close ally in every major conflict that we have faced together—Bosnia, Kosovo, Afghanistan and Iraq.

He was the first foreign leader to visit Ground Zero after September 11, 2001, and attended President Bush's address to the joint session of Congress 9 days after those tragic

attacks. And no other ally has contributed more forces to the global war on terror. The United States owes a great debt of gratitude to Prime Minister Blair and to the great people of his nation. We honor their sacrifices and their deep friendship.

NEW THREAT TO FREEDOM OF SPEECH AND PRESS IN INDIA AS WARRANT IS ISSUED FOR SIKH EDITOR

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2007

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, recently an arrest warrant was issued by the government of Punjab for Dr. Sukhpreet Singh Udhoke, a practicing physician, International Secretary General of Dal Khalsa USA, and Editor-in-Chief of the Sikh publication *Shamshir-e-Qaum*. Warrants were also issued for two of his associates. This is a blatant violation of the basic rights of freedom of speech and freedom of the press. Freedom of speech and freedom of the press are two of the rights that are basic to democracy, yet they can be suppressed at will in "the world's largest democracy."

Dr. Udhoke's crime was to publish articles in his magazine that criticized the Chief Minister of Punjab, Parkash Singh Badal, and advocated freedom for the Sikhs. For this, he is under the cloud of an arrest warrant. He has had to go underground to avoid arrest.

Madam Speaker, this is frighteningly familiar. It is reminiscent of the tactics of the Soviet Union, Nazi Germany, or any of the other totalitarian police states around the world which America has always opposed. How can any Member of Congress support such a blatantly authoritarian country?

I would strongly advise the Indian government to withdraw the arrest warrant against Dr. Udhoke. If it does not, it will confirm that it is the tyrannical, authoritarian, repressive regime that the minorities charge that it is, rather than the democracy it proclaims itself to be.

This is unfortunately just the latest chapter in a long line of repression against minorities. We have detailed for many years the tens of thousands of Christians, Sikhs, Muslims, Dalits, and other minorities who have been murdered at the hands of the Indian government, as well as the tens of thousands of political prisoners who are held in India, according to Amnesty International. Laws have been passed that prohibit anyone from converting from Hinduism to any other religion. Booklets have been published on how to implicate Christians and other minorities in false criminal cases. Sikhs have been arrested for marches and speeches. A Christian priest was forced to drink his own urine. And the arrest warrant for Dr. Udhoke shows that the repression goes on.

Madam Speaker, India's Constitution, like ours, guarantees freedom of speech and the Indian courts have ruled that peacefully advocating independence for Khalistan (or any other minority nation) is not a crime. So what was the basis for Dr. Udhoke's arrest?

I thank Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan, for bringing the Udhoke case to my attention. The Council of

Khalistan has issued a press release condemning the arrest warrant against Udhoke. I recommend it strongly to my colleagues. It shows the truth about how democracy is really practiced in India. The need for the Sikhs of Khalistan, the Christians of Nagaland, the Muslims of Kashmir, and the other minorities within India's artificial borders to claim their God-given right to be free could not be clearer. If they can be arrested for articles they publish, how can they count on the government to protect any of their rights?

It is time for us to speak up and take action. We can help by stopping aid and trade with India until the basic human rights and civil rights of all people are observed. India can start by withdrawing the arrest warrant for Dr. Udhoke and his associates. We should also put the United States Congress on record publicly in support of self-determination for the Sikhs of Punjab, Khalistan, the Muslims of Kashmir, the Christians of Nagaland, and all the people seeking freedom in South Asia in the form of a free and fair vote on their status. Isn't that the democratic way?

ARREST WARRANT FOR UDHOKE MUST BE WITHDRAWN

WASHINGTON, DC, JUNE 28, 2007.—The Council of Khalistan today demanded that the arrest warrant for Dr. Sukhpreet Singh Udhoke, International Secretary General of Dal Khalsa USA and Editor-in-Chief of the periodical *Shamshir-e-Qaum*, and two of his associates be withdrawn. The arrest warrant was issued by the government of Punjab after Dr. Udhoke printed articles about the persecution of the Sikh Nation and how the Sikh religion is being attacked by the RSS and its political arm, the BJP. He criticized Chief Minister Parkash Singh Badal in his articles. The Akali Dal government of Badal is in a political alliance with the BJP. Dr. Udhoke and his associates' persecution has been condemned recently by the World Peace Forum.

Dr. Udhoke is a medical doctor who takes care of the sick as well as being an activist for the interests of the Sikh religion and the Sikh Nation. Dr. Udhoke, a resident of the Amritsar district, has been forced underground. He is charged with treason and antinational activities. His magazine, which was on the stands for sale, was removed by the Badal government. This action is a threat to freedom of speech, of the press, and of religion, which are basic democratic and civil rights.

Badal is the Chief Minister. As such, he is responsible for law and order. Yet he was quick to put out an arrest warrant for Dr. Udhoke for exercising his freedom of speech, but he had to be pressured into prosecuting Ram Rahim, the fraudulent baba who was impersonating Guru Gobind Singh, and he has not yet arrested him. This shows what the Badal government's priorities and allegiances are. He is more concerned with arresting those who defend the interests of the Sikh Nation and the Sikh religion than those who violate it. Ironically, despite Badal's begging and pleading, Ram Rahim supported the Congress Party in the recent elections in Punjab.

"The arrest warrant against Dr. Udhoke shows that there is no freedom of speech in Punjab or in India," said Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan. "As the late General Narinder Singh said, 'Punjab is a police state.' Only a free Khalistan will allow Dr. Udhoke and all Sikhs to enjoy freedom of speech, freedom of the press, freedom of religion, and all the rights of free people, rights that are the birthright of all people," he said.

"Badal's conduct is shameful for a Sikh leader," said Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan. "He is the leader of a government of the Akali Dal, which was organized to protect the interests of the Sikh Nation, yet he is in bed with the Indian government that is oppressing the Sikhs. Badal is under the complete control of the Indian government, rather than working for the Sikhs. We must free ourselves of corrupt, anti-Sikh leaders like Badal and his friends by liberating Khalistan," he said. "As former Akal Takht Jathedar Professor Darshan Singh said: 'If a Sikh is not a Khalistani, he is not a Sikh.'"

A report issued by the Movement Against State Repression (MASR) shows that India admitted that it held 52,268 political prisoners under the repressive "Terrorist and Disruptive Activities Act" (TADA) even though it expired in 1995. Many have been in illegal custody since 1984. There has been no list published of those who were acquitted under TADA and those who are still rotting in Indian jails. Additionally, according to Amnesty International, there are tens of thousands of other minorities being held as political prisoners in India.

The MASR report quotes the Punjab Civil Magistrate as writing "if we add up the figures of the last few years the number of innocent persons killed would run into lakhs [hundreds of thousands.]" The Indian government has murdered over 250,000 Sikhs since 1984, more than 300,000 Christians in Nagaland, over 90,000 Muslims in Kashmir, tens of thousands of Christians and Muslims throughout the country, and tens of thousands of Tamils, Assamese, Manipuris, Dalits, Bodos, and others. The Indian Supreme Court called the Indian government's murders of Sikhs "worse than a genocide."

"The Sikh masses and the Akali Dal must rise to the occasion and establish new leadership that works for the interest of the Khalsa Panth and abides by Sikh tradition," said Dr. Aulakh. "Badal and his government have betrayed the Sikh Rehat Maryada, Sikh principles, and Sikh tradition. Their leadership must be rejected for the interests of the Khalsa Panth," he said. "Remember Guru Gobind Singh's words: 'In grieb Sikhin ko deon patshahi.' It is time to realize Guru Sahib's blessing. Only a free Khalistan will put a stop to occurrences like the arrest of Dr. Udhoke," he said. "Without political power, religions cannot flourish and nations perish. The time is now to launch a Shantmai Morcha to free Khalistan."

FINANCIAL SERVICES AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 27, 2007

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2829) making appropriations for financial services and general government for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes:

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Chairman, I oppose the amendment by the gentleman from Virginia.

The Office of Special Counsel is a little-known agency with an important mission: it protects Federal whistleblowers from retaliation and enforces the Hatch Act, the law that prevents Federal officials from using Federal resources to engage in partisan politics.

Last month, the Special Counsel issued a report highly critical of Lurita Doan, the GSA Administrator. The Special Counsel found that during a briefing for certain GSA employees by the White House Deputy Director of Political Affairs, the Administrator encouraged her subordinates to engage in partisan political activity.

Here's what the Republican-appointed Special Counsel had to say about this incident: The GSA Administrator displayed no reservations in her willingness to commit GSA resources, including its human capital, to the Republican Party. Her actions, to be certain, constitute an obvious misuse of her official authority and were made for the purpose of affecting the result of an election. One can imagine no greater violation of the Hatch Act than to invoke the machinery of an agency, with all its contracts and buildings, in the service of a partisan campaign to retake Congress and the Governors' mansions.

Currently, the Special Counsel is investigating whether Karl Rove and other White House officials violated the Hatch Act by holding numerous other political presentations at over 20 Federal agencies across government.

Now, this amendment would take \$1,000,000 from the Office of the Special Counsel. I have had serious disagreements with the Special Counsel in the past, but I have never proposed cutting the budget of this small agency. The Office only has a budget of about \$16 million, so a cut of this magnitude could have a devastating effect.

We need more enforcement of the Hatch Act and more protection of Federal whistleblowers—not less.

I urge my colleagues to oppose the Davis amendment.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2007

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, on June 25, 2007, I missed rollcall votes numbered 549, a Resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that a "Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day" should be established and 550, a Resolution to designate the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Asheville, North Carolina, as the "Charles George Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center."

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes numbered 549 and 550.

HONORING ST. SYMPHOROSA PARISH ON ITS 80TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2007

Mr. LIPINSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor St. Symphorosa Parish in Chicago, IL. Two weeks ago, I had the privilege of participating in the 80th anniversary celebration mass at this distinguished parish, which has been a pillar of faith and service in Chicago since 1927. I am especially proud to thank St.

Symphorosa for providing me with a strong moral and academic education in church and at the parish grammar school.

The Archbishop of Chicago established St. Symphorosa to provide a multi-ethnic, American parish for the Clearing neighborhood on Chicago's southwest side. Under the leadership and guidance of Father J. Leo Sharp, the new parish celebrated its first Sunday Mass on June 19, 1927.

Without a church of its own, the parish initially met in the Clearing Town Hall until construction of a new church could be completed in September 1928. Once the building complex was completed, St. Symphorosa School opened under the guidance of four Benedictine sisters. The parish and school have since changed locations, but the school remains open, educating and serving the community's youth.

The parish rendered noble service during the Great Depression. Although forced to sell some of the parish's land to keep the church open, Father Sharp and the Benedictine sisters ministered to needy families by collecting and distributing clothing. In 1943, the parish received a new pastor, Father Anthony Harte, who presided over the parish's expansion in the wake of World War II. By the time Father Harte retired in 1967, St. Symphorosa had added five buildings to the parish property, the parish population had tripled, and the school had over 1,600 students.

Father Francis Maniola became the parish's third pastor, and brought the changes of the Second Vatican Council to St. Symphorosa. To strengthen the parish's ability to serve its members and the community, Father Maniola added new programs to the parish that included the Super Club, the Altar & Rosary Sodality, and Widows and Widowers. His successors, Father John McNamara and Father Marc Pasciak, encouraged lay participation in the parish and established a parish council and staff.

Today, St. Symphorosa Parish is as vibrant as ever, and the parish continues to serve the worship needs of over 2,400 families in Clearing and surrounding communities. The St. Symphorosa Family Fest, its major celebratory event, has grown into one of the largest parish festivals in the Chicago Archdiocese.

It is my honor to recognize St. Symphorosa on the occasion of its 80th anniversary. The parish has fulfilled Father Sharp's vision of a proud community that works together, learns together, and worships together. With its legacy of remarkable pastors and committed parishioners, the parish has truly become a "Family Celebrating Faith."

TIME TO FOSTER GREATER COLLABORATION FOR OUR REGIONAL SECURITY

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to introduce the Joint Statement issued by the Bush Administration and the Caribbean Heads of State at the conclusion of the CARICOM summit. I cannot underscore enough the importance of a consistent and progressive relationship between the United

States and the Caribbean. I am pleased with the success of the Conference on the Caribbean held in Washington DC, last week with the members of the Caribbean Community, CARICOM. To hold such a historic meeting during Caribbean-American Heritage Month speaks to the understanding of the administration to the importance of maintaining a fruitful partnership with our neighbors in the Caribbean.

During their visit to the United States the heads of states of CARICOM requested to meet with Members of the U.S. House of Representatives with whom they have worked on issues affecting the Caribbean and Members who sit on committees with jurisdiction over issues affecting the region. Fourteen members of the delegation, including the President of Guyana, Vice President of Suriname, Prime Ministers and Foreign Ministers of Antigua & Barbuda, the Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Jamaica, St. Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Trinidad and Tobago met with members of the House Ways and Means Committee for an Executive Session that I organized. Among the topics we discussed during this executive session were the Caribbean trade preferences expiring next year and their possible extension, as well as the provision of enhanced assistance of the U.S. Government to the CARICOM Secretariat for capacity building to implement its single market.

In order to expand economic opportunities at home and in the Caribbean, there is a need to update and expand the Caribbean Basin Initiative. President Bush stated his intentions to work with Congress to extend the reach of the Caribbean Basin Trade Promotion Act as well as the 1991 Trade and Investment Framework Agreement, TIFA.

Expanding the TIFA to include services benefits our Caribbean neighbors in light of services being the backbone of CARICOM economies. At the forefront of the services offered by many CARICOM countries are professional financial services. Our support for recognizing the regulatory and transparency compliance of CARICOM countries—10 of which are listed alongside 34 nations in current tax haven legislation—should be addressed. By investigating and recognizing the compliance of these nations, in line with the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development, OECD, definition of tax havens, legislators can remove their names from current bills that could prove detrimental to developing Caribbean economies if passed.

In addition to the House Committee on Ways and Means, the heads of states met with the House Foreign Affairs Committee and the Congressional Black Caucus. During the meeting with the Congressional Black Caucus, House Speaker NANCY PELOSI reiterated the commitment of the House leadership to address the challenges facing the nation of Haiti.

Having shared values and interests in regional security, the Caribbean Community and the United States can best achieve democratic aims by fostering regional understanding and accountability. Greater support for regional security goes beyond sharing resources and ideas to protect our borders, but it also encompasses the threat of HIV/AIDS. After Sub-Saharan Africa, the largest population of HIV/AIDS infected individuals resides in the Caribbean. In Congress, we continue to provide funding to assist nations in the region address

this challenge. Haiti and Guyana are two of the nations that will benefit from the funding provided to the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, PEPFAR; we are also pushing to include funding to expand this initiative to all Caribbean nations.

While the national security threats of our countries are different in terms of scale, we must work to ensure cooperation in the fight against drugs, small arms, and transnational crime, all which threaten the entire region. Rising crimes rates in the Caribbean can be attributed to a deportation process that does not widely consider the negative impact on receiving countries. Criminal deportees sent to the Caribbean often have established themselves in the United States, and being sent to the Caribbean without financial or social support can foster poverty in the region. The situation of poverty, if left unaddressed, increases the transnational pressure to adopt extremist ideology. We must therefore be committed to decreasing the incidence of crimes leading to deportation through the sharing of resources and information. There must be a regional effort to address threats of terrorism in the United States and the Caribbean.

Supporting Haiti's reconstruction process should also be a priority of the U.S. government. As the second free-state in the Western Hemisphere, how we treat Haiti as a recovering democracy is how we treat ourselves. As Haiti makes efforts under the leadership of President Préval to rebuild, the U.S. can serve as an important bilateral partner. The need to grant temporary protected status (TPS) to Haitian nationals in the U.S. is urgent to ensure the protection of Haitians as well as remission preservation during the country's time of recovery. These remissions are crucial to the welfare and survival of Haiti from recent environmental and political difficulties.

As the cornerstone of development, educational collaboration should be sought in the Western Hemisphere to promote higher living standards and stronger democratic institutions. We must support increased exchanges between U.S. and Caribbean students. The Shirley A. Chisholm United States-Caribbean Educational Exchange Act of 2007 introduced by Congresswoman BARBARA LEE presents an opportunity to fund educational development and exchange programs between the U.S. and the Caribbean. I encourage my colleagues to support greater relationships with our friends in the Caribbean. The prosperity and security of our region depends on the decisions we make today to foster collaboration and effective communication between the U.S. and our CARICOM neighbors.

Overall, I believe that the members of CARICOM had very productive meetings in Washington, DC, and laid the foundation for future discussions and a commitment to help the CARICOM nations meet their 20/20 Vision.

JOINT STATEMENT: CONFERENCE ON THE
CARIBBEAN

1. We, the Heads of State and Government of the United States of America and of the Caribbean Community Nations of Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, St. Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago, meeting in Washington DC, on June 20, 2007, reaffirm our unequivocal commitment to a secure and prosperous region and future for the benefit of all of our citizens.

2. Recalling our shared history of democracy, respect for human rights, social justice, and cultural and ethnic diversity, we highlight the value of our enduring friendship and recommit ourselves to enhancing our partnership to reinforce the development aspirations that guide our mutual priorities.

3. We pledge to continue promoting the consolidation of democratic norms, values, and institutions throughout the hemisphere and to enhance accountability and respect for individual rights.

4. We agree to take steps to expand economic opportunities for our people, to address the threats of terrorism and crime, and to provide the benefits of democracy to all members of our societies, recognizing that democracy will best flourish if our societies are stable and our economies are prosperous.

5. We recognize the establishment of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy as a critical element of the growth and development strategy of the Caribbean Community.

6. We are determined to strengthen our existing trade arrangements. We acknowledge President Bush's announcement to work with Congress to extend and update the Caribbean Basin Trade Promotion Act and the 1991 Trade and Investment Framework Agreement. We further commit to the harmonization of customs procedures consistent with global standards and the advancement of technical trade cooperation.

7. We reiterate our support for Caribbean efforts to expand the services sector, and encourage a focus on the international financial services sector to facilitate a competitive means of economic diversification while remaining committed to the maintenance of appropriate regulatory and supervisory practices, consistent with the highest international standards.

8. Cognizant of the spread of HIV and AIDS and the impact on the economic and social development of our people, we pledge to deepen our cooperation in health and welcome the initiative to continue PEPFAR in the Caribbean.

9. Cognizant that more than 95 percent of CARICOM's energy needs are derived from fossil fuels, we pledge to increase cooperation in this area to achieve sustainable, secure, and affordable access to energy for all our citizens.

10. We agree to increase cooperation efforts in the field of education and workplace training. We commit to strengthen teacher training by expanding the Caribbean Centers for Excellence. We also commit to strengthen human capacity in the Caribbean to meet the demands of a 21st century employment environment through partnering with academic institutions and non-governmental groups as well as through skills training for youth via the Entra-21 program.

11. We declare our intention to negotiate an agreement on cooperation in Science and Technology including Information Communication Technologies.

12. We recommit to our ongoing efforts of cooperation in the area of disaster preparedness, mitigation, and recovery.

13. We acknowledge the multidimensional nature of the security threats and challenges faced by our countries and pledge to continue to work together in the fight against terrorism, trafficking in persons, drugs and small arms, and transnational crime.

14. We also acknowledge the successful security partnership developed to secure the CARICOM Region during its hosting of the Cricket World Cup 2007. To this end, we agree to continue strengthening the Region's security infrastructure.

15. We recognize the need to work more closely on immigration security issues in a manner respectful of national laws and government services capacity and sensitive to

the effects of human displacement. We will jointly work toward the expansion of the pilot reintegration program for deportees in Haiti to include other CARICOM member states. We will develop new ways to facilitate, coordinate, and communicate between our immigration services.

16. We are heartened by the substantial progress in Haiti made by the Government of President Préval, with the support of international partners. We recognize that Haiti will continue to require substantial regional and international support in the implementation of a consistent and long-term strategy of institution and capacity building, and pledge to work together with the three branches of the Haitian Government.

17. On the occasion of Caribbean-American Heritage Month, we pay tribute to the generations of Caribbean-Americans who have helped shape the spirit and character of the United States of America and who continue to contribute to the growth and development of the Caribbean.

HONORING JACK VALENTI

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVID DREIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 25, 2007

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, it took a larger-than-life man like Jack Valenti to bridge 2 larger-than-life worlds like Hollywood and Washington. It is fitting that this legendary character, whose own life was often like an epic film, would end up in the movie business.

From a very early age, the passion and drive that would motivate him for his 85 years were clearly evident. Lacking the money to go to college, Jack worked to put himself through school and eventually get his MBA at Harvard. During that time, he also joined the Army, flew 51 missions and earned the Distinguished Flying Cross.

He got his first taste of politics in Houston, TX, when he met Senator Lyndon Baines Johnson, and he was hooked. He campaigned heavily for the Kennedy-Johnson ticket in 1960 and maintained the relationship with Lyndon Johnson through November 1963 when the Vice President asked for his help with a Presidential visit to Dallas. On that fateful day of November 22, Jack was just a few cars away from President Kennedy when the shots were fired.

Through that tumultuous time, Jack returned to DC with now President Johnson, and grew to be his close confidant and advisor. That solemn trip on Air Force One would be the trip to Washington from which Jack never really returned. As presidential advisor, and then President of the Motion Picture Association of America, Jack Valenti become one of those rare Washington denizens that shapes and defines a city that usually does the shaping and defining.

Through nearly 4 decades at MPAA, he shepherded the most powerful names in Hollywood around countless industry and political landmines. As the world grew flatter, technology grew smarter and politics remained as volatile as ever, Jack Valenti's vision helped the American movie business not only weather these challenges, but emerge bigger than ever.

He was an undeniable force felt on both coasts. And now his absence is also felt undeniably.

FORMER MEMBER OF
PARLIAMENT ARRESTED AGAIN

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2007

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, recently the government of Punjab erected a statue to honor Beant Singh, the late Chief Minister of Punjab, who presided over the murders of over 50,000 Sikhs and the secret cremations of Sikhs in Punjab at the behest of the Indian government. Longtime Sikh activist and former member of Parliament Simranjit Singh Mann showed up with some associates to protest the honor given to this brutal, barbaric ruler. During the protest, they tried to hang a picture of Dilawar Singh, who killed Beant Singh, on the statue. Dilawar Singh is considered by the Sikhs to be a martyr. For this act of protest, they were arrested.

Mr. Mann is also one of the people who was arrested in 2005 for the crime of making speeches in support of Khalistan, the independent Sikh homeland, and raising the flag of Khalistan. I fail to see what crime was committed in any of these acts.

Coupled with the recent arrest of Dr. Sukhpreet Singh Udhoke for publishing articles critical of the Chief Minister, Mann's arrest makes it clear that for minorities such as the Sikhs, free speech, free assembly, and a free press do not exist in India. For minorities such as Christians, Sikhs, Muslims, and others, India is far from the democracy it claims to be. For them, it's a police state just like the Soviet Union or Nazi Germany.

Mann's arrest and Udhoke's arrest violate India's constitution as well as all the principles of freedom and democracy. We cannot stand idly by and let these arrests go by without taking any action.

What can we do? We can and should cut off our aid and trade with India until all people there are allowed to enjoy basic human rights and civil rights. We can and should publicly demand self-determination for the Sikhs of Punjab, Khalistan, the Muslims of Kashmir, the Christians of Nagalim, and all the people seeking freedom in South Asia in the form of a free and fair vote on their status. Self-determination is the essence of democracy. Unfortunately, "the world's largest democracy" denies this essential right to its minority citizens. We have a strong voice. Let us raise it in support of these minorities.

The Council of Khalistan has issued a very informative press release on the arrest of Mr. Mann and his associates.

SIMRANJIT SINGH MANN MUST BE RELEASED

WASHINGTON, DC, June 28, 2007.—The Council of Khalistan today demanded the immediate release of former Member of Parliament Sardar Simranjit Singh Mann and his associates who tried to hang a picture of Beant Singh's assassin on the late—Chief Minister's statue in Jalandhar. Beant Singh, who received less than 7 percent of the vote, was installed as Chief Minister by the Indian government. He presided over the murders of more than 50,000 Sikhs. He was the person who instituted the policy of secret cremation, in which young Sikhs were arrested, murdered in police custody, then declared unidentified and secretly cremated and the families never received their bodies. This barbaric policy was exposed by human-rights

activist Sardar Jaswant Singh Khalra. As a result of his report, Khalra was arrested and murdered while in police custody. His body was also secretly cremated and was never given to his family.

Recently, the Punjab government under Parkash Singh Badal erected a statue of Beant Singh in Jalandhar. Sardar Mann and his associates were arrested when they tried to hang a picture of his assassin, Dilawar Singh, on it.

"The arrest of Simranjit Singh Mann and his associates is another blow to freedom of speech and freedom of assembly in India. basic rights of free people," said Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan. "If a group of people can't even hold a peaceful demonstration without being arrested, then what rights do they really have? Where is India's often and loudly proclaimed commitment to democracy? Mann and his associates must be released immediately."

Mann was previously arrested in 2005, along with other Sikh activists, for making speeches in support of Khalistan and raising the Khalistani flag. He came to prominence after the Indian government's military attack on the Golden Temple and 37 other Gurdwaras in June 1984, in which over 20,000 Sikhs were killed, including Sant Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale. Mann resigned from the police, saying that he could not serve a government that would attack the Golden Temple. In 1989, Mann wrote to the Chief Justice of India, "reiterating my allegiance to the Constitution and territorial integrity of India," according to Chakravayuh: Web of Indian Secularism by Professor Gurtej Singh IAS, which reprints the letter. He also served as a Member of parliament from Punjab around that time. In the mid-1990s, Mann was arrested for peaceful political activities by the Indian government and the Council of Khalistan secured his release. In 2000, Mann came to the United States with the blessing of the Indian government, escorted through the United States and Canada by Amarjit Singh of the Khalistan Affairs Center. He spoke to a group on Capitol Hill in Washington DC and while speaking in New York, he said that the office of the Council of Khalistan in Washington, DC should be closed. Since then, he has continued his political activism in Punjab, Khalistan. Neither Amarjit Singh nor the Khalistan Affairs Center has uttered a word of protest against Mann's arrest. Mann's grandfather gave a siropa to General Dyer, the British general who was in charge of the army that massacred over 1,300 Sikhs at Jalianwalla Bagh. A few years ago, Queen Elizabeth apologized to the Sikhs for the massacre during her visit to Punjab.

"The arrest of Simranjit Singh Mann and his associates shows that there is no freedom of speech in Punjab or in India," said Dr. Aulakh. "This underlines the need for a free, sovereign, independent Khalistan. In a free Khalistan, no one would be arrested for peaceful political activity," he said. "In a free Khalistan, no one would erect a statue to honor those who carry out genocide against the Sikh religion and the Sikh Nation. These arrests should make it clear to Sikhs that even if you cooperate with India, they will use you and throw you away," said Dr. Aulakh.

A report issued by the Movement Against State Repression (MASR) shows that India admitted that it held 52,268 political prisoners under the repressive "Terrorist and Disruptive Activities Act" (TADA), which expired in 1995. Many have been in illegal custody since 1984. According to Amnesty International, there are tens of thousands of other minorities being held as political prisoners in India. The Indian government has

murdered over 250,000 Sikhs since 1984, more than 300,000 Christians in Nagaland, over 90,000 Muslims in Kashmir, tens of thousands of Christians and Muslims throughout the country, and tens of thousands of Tamils, Assamese, Manipuris, Dalits, Bodos, and others. The Indian Supreme Court called the Indian government's murders of Sikhs "worse than a genocide."

"The arrests of Simranjit Singh Mann and Dr. Sukhpreet Singh Udhoke show that it is urgent to liberate Khalistan from Indian rule as soon as possible," said Dr. Aulakh. "The time is now to launch a Shantmai Morcha to free Khalistan."

FINANCIAL SERVICES AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 27, 2007

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2829) making appropriations for financial services and general government for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes:

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Chairman, I oppose the Sessions amendment to H.R. 2829, the Financial Services Appropriations bill. H.R. 2829 includes a provision to help restore equity to the contracting process by preventing private contractors from having an unfair advantage over Federal Employees when competing for Federal jobs. The Sessions amendment would eliminate that provision from the bill and would continue the administration's policy of playing politics with the civil service system.

The rapid increase in procurement spending in recent years has brought the size of the "shadow government" represented by Federal contractors to record levels. We must stop the misguided effort to send Federal jobs to private contractors at any cost. H.R. 2829 is an important step in that direction.

H.R. 2829, specifically section 738, ensures that Federal employees have the right to compete fairly for their jobs before they are privatized. The bill prevents contractors from gaining an unfair advantage by not providing comparable health and retirement benefits. H.R. 2829 also ensures that agencies, not OMB, have the discretion to decide whether a public-private competition is appropriate.

H.R. 2829 gives Federal employees the right to appeal privatization decisions—a right that contractors already enjoy. We saw this in the Army's reversal of its 2004 decision to allow the in-house Federal workforce at Walter Reed Army Medical Center to perform support services at Walter Reed. When the competing private contractor protested the Army's decision, the Army reversed its decision and resolved the A-76 process in favor of the contractor. If the Army had initially decided in favor of the contractor, the employees would have had no similar right to protest.

This is about fairness. The administration's policy under Circular A-76 puts private contractors on third base before Federal employees even get a turn at bat. Section 738 of this bill helps level the playing field. The Sessions amendment would strip this important language from the bill. I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on the Sessions amendment.

IN HONOR OF DONALD MADER

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2007

Mr. ISRAEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Donald Mader. He will be retiring from Underwriters Laboratories at the end of this month after a 42-year tenure. Mr. Mader is a veteran of the Vietnam war where he served as a commandant for the 73rd Signal Battalion of the Tropospheric Scatter Communications Equipment School, before working at the Pentagon with the Army Material Command, Advanced Ariel Fire Support System.

Upon completion of his service with the Army, Mr. Mader returned to my district in Melville, NY, to work as a Project Engineer. Over the next 42 years he went on to hold numerous officer positions including senior vice president of certifications operations, executive vice president of the Americas group and executive vice president of public safety and external affairs. Most recently he has served as executive vice president and chief technology officer. As the head of engineering at Underwriters Laboratories, Mr. Mader is responsible for technical excellence and driving technical innovation across the organization, including developing and implementing consistent, state-of-the-art testing, laboratory, calibration, and instrumentation policies, procedures and practices. His organization leads research efforts in key technological areas to UL and UL's constituencies and determines the appropriate standards strategy based on business relevancy and support of the UL public safety mission.

Mr. Mader is widely respected in his field and has been recognized by his peers. He is a Certified Product Safety Manager (CPSM) with the International Product Safety Management Certification Board and a senior member of the System Safety Society. He also holds memberships with the National Fire Protection Association, the International Association of Electrical Inspectors and the Instrument Society of America. I applaud Mr. Mader for his service to both the United States Army and Underwriters Laboratory.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY GOVERNOR
EDWARDS

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2007

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, Sunday marked the 80th birthday of James Burroughs Edwards of Mount Pleasant, SC, who was instrumental in the Reagan Revolution which transformed the political system of South Carolina.

I learned firsthand his competence and integrity when I served as his assistant to organize the Charleston County Republican Party in 1964, when he selected me for the State Development Board in 1975, when he appointed me Congressional District chair for Gov. Ronald Reagan for President in 1976, and when he asked me to serve as Deputy General Counsel of the U.S. Department of Energy in 1981.

I will always be grateful for the positive impact he has had for me, my family, and our region. This appreciation is evidenced by a birthday tribute by Ron Brinson published June 24 in the Post and Courier, of Charleston, SC.

[From the Post and Courier, June 24, 2007]

FORMER GOVERNOR SHOULD WRITE A BOOK
THAT DEFINES HIS LEGACY

(By Ron Brinson)

So I'm biased, but the facts speak for themselves. Jim Edwards was a darn good governor and is a genuine public leader with a knack for aligning principles and intellect to the congeniality of a very nice man.

Edwards celebrates his 80th birthday today, and, Governor, I have a suggestion, sort of a reverse birthday gift—write us a book. Your career and personal life include notable public achievements. It's a story that offers life-lesson insights about political patriotism and the values of civility. Your memoirs could provide inspiration and encouragement to others who might consider the path you took to public service. It would define your legacy and serve to control the rascals of revisionism in future generations. And if you write it in your usual communicative style, it will be an entertaining read about important stuff with many humorous anecdotes. Please don't leave out the stories about the rock barges and bootleggers.

Jim Edwards could write several interesting books that would link his Depression-era childhood, his World War II service as a merchant seaman, his high-achieving college and medical school days, a thriving oral surgery practice, and then a public service career that included some unusual stops and challenges. And, as he would quickly point out, along the way he "married well," and he and Ann Darlington Edwards built a home, restored another and nurtured a comfortable family life with their two children.

Edwards assumed personal risks and economic sacrifices when he answered the call of the political stage, and failure at any point would have squandered his sacrifice. In practice, his affability and humanism bracketed a huge intellect and driving determination to accomplish the right objectives the right ways. In political life, Jim Edwards didn't always win, but folks who disagreed with him often walked away wondering why.

In the late sixties, he carved time from his busy Charleston practice for leadership roles in the resurging South Carolina Republican Party. He was elected to the state Senate, then in a quirky stream of political drama in 1974, he became South Carolina's first Republican governor since Reconstruction. In 1981, he became U.S. Secretary of Energy and did some heavy lifting—and took some political body blows from The Washington Post—directing President Reagan's ill-fated idea to eliminate the Department of Energy. In 1982, he returned to Charleston and began a 17-year tenure as president of the Medical University of South Carolina.

An important chapter in the Edwards book would be his answer to the question, what motivates a highly successful surgeon approaching middle age and with a growing family toward the political arena? Political scientists would be interested and future generations would find his motivations relevant and inspirational.

Think about just a few of the possible chapter topics in the Edwards political career.

An oral surgeon and raw rookie state senator, he defeated Gen. William Westmoreland in 1974 for the Republican gubernatorial nomination. The drama was only beginning. State Democrats figured Edwards was simply the next token general election candidate. Only 35,000 South Carolinians had voted in

the 1974 GOP primary; 341,000 cast ballots in the Democratic primary runoff that nominated Charles "Pug" Ravenel.

After residency challenges eliminated Ravenel, Dr. Edwards polled 266,100 votes and defeated Rep. William Jennings Bryan Dorn by three percentage points. In a swirl of political theater, Dr. Edwards suddenly became Gov. Edwards. Would Jim Edwards have defeated Ravenel? It's hard to say, but Dr. Edwards polled 79,000 more votes in the general election than Ravenel did when he defeated Dorn in the Democratic runoff.

As governor, Edwards and the small handful of Republicans serving in the General Assembly got along well with the Democrats who controlled the legislative process. Maybe they had no choice, but there was a nurtured mutual respect and civility even when their many disagreements were aired. In contrast, these days, it seems, Republicans who control just about every part of state government often have trouble getting along with themselves.

In 1975, Gov. Edwards vetoed appropriations for 1,600 new state jobs. Many agencies through their heads and their boards lobbied strongly. The veto was overridden. The nice-man governor struck back and with the support of Democratic Sens. Marion Gressette and Rembert Dennis, and the Budget and Control Board, Edwards pushed legislation that would prohibit state employees to lobby the legislature.

Edwards' marketing performance as governor has been grossly under-appreciated. There were many successes, including attracting the Bosch and Michelin operations to South Carolina. Many believe these two industrial giants provided the threshold for the BMW plant in Greer.

In 1980, Edwards supported Texan John Connelly for president, then ended up in President Reagan's Cabinet. It seems like the citizen politician had turned master politician. How did that happen? And was Reagan serious about abolishing the Energy Department, and was Budget Director David Stockman really as officious and bull-headed as many working in Washington back then thought?

At MUSC from 1982–1999, Edwards presided over dramatic growth. The school's budget increased from \$148.3 million to \$845.6 million. Dr. Edwards emphasized the school's enterprise operations and the state subsidy dropped from 45 percent in 1982 to 15 percent in 1999. The school's image soared and grant support increased nine-fold. The MUSC Health Services Foundation assets grew from \$6.8 million to \$152 million. That's impressive management in the dynamic universe of health care.

These days Jim Edwards promotes Mitt Romney's presidential campaign and tends to a variety of civic activities. Occasionally, he works from a MUSC office area shared with former Sen. Fritz Hollings. Imagine the fly-on-the-wall entertainment when the governor and senator share their experiences.

All that and more would make an excellent book, Governor, and maybe even a good movie. Too bad John Wayne is not available as leading man. But you should be sure to include a mini-chapter about the night you and Mrs. Edwards dined with the Duke. Remember? He didn't eat his asparagus.

WE MUST RECOVER OUR STUDENTS—ACKNOWLEDGING THE NEED TO SUPPORT NEW YORK CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to enter into the RECORD a two-part series published in the New York Daily News by Erin Einhorn and Carrie Melago entitled: Room 206: Then and Now. This series chronicles the challenges faced by twenty students who began together in gifted kindergarten class at Harlem's Public School 36 but have taken diverse paths in terms of academic and personal development. Many of these students are succeeding against the odds to earn high school diplomas, while others have become casualties of societal forces arising from circumstances in their homes and community which conspire to tear them down. Citing family support and self-motivation as building blocks for their perseverance, the students graduating from high school this year who were once in Room 206 represent what minorities in New York City can accomplish despite institutional inefficiencies and personal difficulties.

More than half of the African-American and Hispanic-American students who enter New York City public high schools do not graduate in four years. Some of the challenges faced by the students cited in the New York Daily News series included the lack of useful teaching and sufficient guidance counseling due to the overcrowding of schools, family tragedy, and peer pressure to join gangs. However, 16 of the 20 students interviewed will graduate this year on schedule from high school: 3 from public schools outside of the city, 2 from private city schools, and 11 from New York City public schools.

The series also illustrates the diverse paths two young men can take with similar family backgrounds but dissimilar backing in terms of academic and professional development. One student had the support of counselors, teachers, and a mentor, while the other student had none of the above and efforts to gain the attention of the under-staffed guidance office by his mother were fruitless. The first young man will graduate this year from high school and pursue a bachelor's degree in law or medicine, while the latter was pulled out of high school to protect his life from rival gang members and will attempt to complete a GED program for the third time this year.

Both young men aspired to earn high school diplomas, but the disparity of sponsors within the New York City public school system can be attributed to their contrasting positions. We must work to ensure that our students achieve academic success and do not become victims of circumstances that can divert their path of learning. I encourage my colleagues to support the enhancement of middle and high school curricula and human resources that can provide the greatest opportunity for minority students disproportionately affected by school inefficiencies.

ROOM 206: THEN AND NOW

(Erin Einhorn and Carrie Melago)

The year is 1994, and the kids gazing out at the camera for their annual class photo have

just entered the New York City public schools. As the girls smile broadly and some of the boys try to look tough, they're captured at a time in their lives when the future seems so far away. But in the 13 years that followed, the 23 kids who had the good fortune to test into the gifted kindergarten at Harlem's Public School 36 would see their class splintered by adversity and fate. One of the girls would grieve the murders of both her parents. One of the boys would be arrested three times and spend a week on Rikers Island. One would get involved in a gang. Another would attend a city high school so violent she'd see four knife-fights in four years.

Their very personal stories illuminate a sprawling public school system where some children find ways to flourish but many become lost. Nearly 60% of black and Latino New York City public school students don't earn a diploma after four years of high school. But somehow, most of the youngsters who donned navy blue uniforms with little red ties to pose with teacher Rhonda Harris would beat the odds.

"It's a very big struggle, very big, trying to give them a good education, trying to have them stay out of trouble," said Denise Ortiz, a mother of six whose daughter Estrella was in that class. The Daily News spent two months tracking down the children of Room 206, finding 21 of the 23. Eleven report they're graduating this month from New York City public schools, two from city Catholic schools and three from public schools in other cities.

Two are still enrolled and working toward diplomas, and three have drifted away from the daily grind of education, unsure if they'll find their way back. Kelvin Jones, who dropped out last year, is one of the lost. "Once you leave, you're going to get too used to this outside life, sleeping all day, doing what you're doing," he said. "You ain't ready to go back to school."

The children of Room 206 could be from any public school. The News chose them by chance, starting with a top Harlem high school, Frederick Douglass Academy, and asking to meet with top seniors. That led us to Kamal Ibrahim, a standout who plans to major in physics at Carnegie Mellon University. He gave us the name of Mrs. Harris, his kindergarten teacher. She led us to her 1994 class.

We found Kamal's classmates by word of mouth, public records and the Internet. Most agreed to tell their stories. Three refused. They made different choices along the way, but all of them started in the same place: a well-regarded school carved into a rocky bluff at 123rd St. and Amsterdam Ave., across from the Grant public houses.

The year the students of Room 206 started kindergarten, budget cuts meant students were crowded together in aging classrooms. Schools in poor neighborhoods were staffed with high numbers of uncertified teachers, and a lawsuit filed the previous year alleged that the average guidance counselor had to work with 700 kids. These youngsters were off to a good start at PS 36, a K-2 school, but there were problems ahead. Some of their families left town in search of better schools and safer streets. Some scraped together pennies for Catholic school tuition. Others used fake addresses or pulled strings to navigate a public school system that's as much a tale of inequality as the city itself.

In third grade, Jermaine Jackson enrolled at Harlem's PS 144, which was so chaotic the Board of Ed shut it down in 2001. In a crowded class there in 1997, he became distracted—and lazy, he said. He fell behind and had to repeat the third grade. "It's not really their fault because I didn't try, either," he said.

Artavia Jarvis says she was hit by a teacher in the fourth grade at Harlem's PS 125.

Her parents promptly enrolled her in parochial school, saying they'd rather remain in public housing so they could afford her tuition. Artavia doesn't think she would have graduated from public school. "I would have continued being bad," she said. Other kids fell off track in middle school or high school, including Morgan Hill, whose mother moved her to New Jersey in ninth grade. "I miss New York and that's where I want to go back to, but I think this was the time that I should have gone away," she said.

But Room 206 also produced public school success stories like Unique Covington, whose grades and writing skills got her into a small, creative sixth through 12th grade school in lower Manhattan called the Institute for Collaborative Education.

Her middle school classes had 17 students, enabling her to build close relationships with teachers. In high school, instead of exams, she wrote up to 20-page research papers and presented them to panels of teachers and students. Bound for the University of Hartford in the fall, she credits her success to great schools, an involved mother and herself.

And then there's Letricia Linton, who was 3 when she witnessed her mother's murder and 10 when her father was shot in the head by a mugger. She was raised by a powerhouse of a grandmother who pushed her to succeed and to draw on her past for strength. Tragedy "made me want to do more with my life because I see how short life is," she said.

Graduating Thursday from Frederick Douglass, Letricia knew she'd be successful because she had the right ingredients. "You have to have family support," she said. "You have to have a good relationship with teachers. You have to have motivation within yourself. . . . And you have to have hope."

They were smart children who tested into a gifted kindergarten at Harlem's Public School 36 in 1994, but Lance Patterson and Ronnie Rodriguez would each fall in with the wrong crowd. Lance would be arrested. Ronnie would join a gang.

Their challenges were similar, but they've ended up in very different places. One has a mother who will watch him don a cap and gown this week. The other has a mom who blames herself. "I should have kept a closer eye on him," Sandra Lugo said of her son, Ronnie. "I should have been on him maybe a little harder, been a little stricter." What happened to the two boys on their travels through the city's public schools tells an important story about the fates that divide kids into the half who graduate on time and the half who fall off track.

Lance and Ronnie are two of the 23 kids from PS 36 whom the Daily News tracked down 13 years after they entered school to see how they fared. Both boys are the sons of single mothers who dropped out of high school, but vowed their sons would succeed. Ronnie's mother lied about her address three times to get him into good public schools. Lance's mother enrolled him in the Boy Scouts and other activities to engage his mind. But when Ronnie started getting into trouble, his mother was the only one to notice. "No teacher ever called me to say he was failing or nothing like that," she said.

Lance, in contrast, was surrounded by supportive teachers, an attentive guidance counselor and an inspiring mentor who helped keep him on track. "There was always someone in his corner," his mother, Lorraine Patterson, said. "A lot of kids don't have that, but he was lucky to bump into people who said, 'I care. I think you can make it.'"

Ronnie was a good student until middle school, when he began to socialize more. His grades slipped and his only option for high school was Louis D. Brandeis High, a massive upper West Side school then known for

its gangs and its large number of dropouts. "The classes were jokes," Ronnie said. "You'd go to class—it's everybody playing around, yelling, screaming, doing whatever they want, so if I'm not learning, I might as well just do what everybody else is doing." Everybody else was cutting, he said. A friend told him he'd be marked present if he attended just the first three periods of every day, so that's what he did. His mom arranged a meeting with a counselor to try to set Ronnie straight, but the meeting was chaotic, she said. "I understand they're short-staffed but. . . it wasn't a priority to have Ronnie motivated or to have him do better."

When he returned to school in September 2004, after being held back in ninth grade, Ronnie buckled down. "For that month, I was doing everything I needed to do," he said. But he had a poor academic foundation from middle school and began failing tests. "I'm thinking in my head: 'Why am I doing all this work if I'm not going to pass?'" That's when he gave up and joined a gang, he said, first a local school gang, then the Latin Kings.

His mother tried to get him a transfer to another school after he was chased one day by rival gang members with knives, but when that didn't work, she pulled him out of school. "I didn't want my son to end up getting stabbed or hurt or even killed," she said. Since then, he's tried two GED programs, but neither has been a good fit. He plans to try again next year so he can join the Army. "It's sad, because it's not what I want for him," his mom said. "I know college is not for everyone, but I thought he'd at least get a diploma." Brandeis Principal Eloise Messineo did not return calls seeking comment.

Lance, the class clown of his kindergarten, had strong elementary-school grades that got him into the well-regarded Frederick Douglass Academy in sixth grade. "He was a little pain in the neck," Principal Gregory Hodge said of Lance. "I think I met with his mother 10 to 15 times, on the low side." But Lance was bright, his teachers encouraged him and he looked forward to coming to school. He came every day, sometimes on Saturday, even after he got into trouble with police, he said. Juvenile records aren't public, but Lance says he was charged twice as a juvenile, once for stealing a woman's purse and once for picking a fight with a stranger on the street.

He was also arrested as an adult when he was 16. Those records have been sealed, but he said he was charged with a hate-crime assault that he wasn't involved in. The charges against him were dropped, but not until he'd spent a week locked up at Rikers Island, he said. It was one of the only weeks of school he's missed. "Actually, I think it was good for me," Lance said. "It clicked in my brain and made me want to do better, like, 'Oh, no, you can't do this. You've got to do better for yourself if you don't want to be in and out of jail. It's not fun.'"

The juvenile court assigned him to a program called Esperanza that paired him with a caring mentor three times a week for six months. The mentor, Laurence Fernandez, was the father figure Lance needed. Lance also had a guidance counselor who stepped in and teachers who cheered him on. But in the end, he did the hard work. He's bound for college in the fall and hopes to become a lawyer or a doctor. "I want to do better than to just sit at home, working a regular job," he said. "I want to do better for myself. I know I can do anything."

INTRODUCING A BILL TO REAUTHORIZE THE FAA

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2007

Mr. COSTELLO. Madam Speaker, today Chairman OBERSTAR, Mr. MICA, Mr. PETRI and I have introduced a bill to reauthorize the programs within the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)—The FAA Reauthorization Act of 2007.

This legislation keeps our aviation system moving forward so that we can increase capacity and safety, modernize our air traffic control system, and continue to reduce energy consumption and improve our environment.

I have said time and again that I believe our Next Generation system can be absorbed by the existing FAA financing structure with a General Fund contribution that is consistent with, or even smaller than, recent General Fund contributions. That is what we have done here.

We are recommending to the House Ways & Means Committee that the general aviation jet fuel tax rate be adjusted for inflation from 21.8 cents per gallon to 30.7 cents per gallon, and that the aviation gasoline tax rate be increased from 19.3 cents per gallon to 24.1 cents per gallon. The forecasted growth of Trust Fund revenues, coupled with additional revenue from the recommended general aviation fuel tax rate adjusted for inflation, will be sufficient to provide for the historic capital funding levels required to modernize the ATC system, as well as to stabilize and strengthen the Trust Fund.

In addition to providing generous funding levels, aviation safety is extremely important and as a result, we have numerous initiatives and policies to make our system the safest it can be.

In particular, I want to highlight two issues that were recently raised in our NTSB Most Wanted hearing and are being addressed in this legislation. First, we are requiring the FAA to issue a final rule regarding the reduction of fuel tank flammability in aircraft no later than December 31, 2007. Second, we authorize \$42 million for runway incursion reduction programs between FY08 and FY11. We also require the FAA to submit a report to Congress containing a plan for the installation and deployment of systems to alert controllers and flight crews to potential runway incursions and provide funding for runway status light acquisition and installation between FY08 and FY11.

Here at home and across the globe, more is being done to reduce energy consumption and emissions. Energy and its consumption are extremely important to our economy—we need it to drive a car; fly a plane; produce goods; and heat and light our homes and offices. We do, however, need to be responsible and aware of the environmental impacts of our energy use.

Within aviation, aircraft fuel efficiency has increased at roughly 1 percent per year, and research continues in engine efficiency, airframe aerodynamics, and the use of lighter materials, like composites currently used on the Boeing 787. Changes in a variety of other factors, such as operating procedures, aircraft routing, and load factors, can also have significant impacts on emissions.

Under this legislation, we establish new environmental provisions to help reduce emissions and energy consumption. I will highlight just a few provisions:

The CLEEN engine and airframe technology partnership which authorizes \$111 million for cooperative agreements between the FAA and institutions or consortiums to research the development, maturing and certification of lower energy, emissions and noise engine and airframe technology.

Establishment of a pilot program that allows FAA to fund six projects at public-use airports that take laboratory proven environmental research concepts and implement them at actual airports. Eligible projects could include research that would measurably reduce or mitigate aviation impacts on noise, air or water quality.

Establishment of high performance and sustainable air traffic control facilities by implementing environmentally-beneficial practices for new construction and major renovation of air traffic control facilities. This provision is modeled after what is currently being done at O'Hare International Airport.

Finally, over the last eight months, passengers on our airlines have encountered delays and cancelled flights, resulting in lengthy tarmac delays. Voluntary efforts by the industry to improve airline service have come under strong criticism and I believe closer oversight of the aviation industry is needed. While I question a one-size-fits-all legislative approach to regulating consumer issues, changes must be made. During our April 2007 hearing, we learned that airlines and airports do not have emergency contingency plans in place.

I said then it should be a priority and that is why in this legislation, we require air carriers and large and medium hub airports to file emergency contingency plans with the Secretary of Transportation for review and approval. These plans must detail how the air carrier will provide food, water, restroom facilities, cabin ventilation, and medical treatment for passengers onboard an aircraft that is on the ground for an extended period of time without access to the terminal. The plans must also detail how facilities and gates will be shared. Fines will be imposed by DOT for any violations. Finally, the air carriers must update their plans every 3 years. The airports must update their plans every 5 years.

Madam Speaker, this legislation is the culmination of numerous hearings, indepth analysis, and a continued dialogue with the FAA, our colleagues, and stakeholders. These issues are important and difficult because our answers will determine our ability to continue to maintain the world's safest aviation system.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2007

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I regret that I was unable to vote on Thursday and Friday, the 21st and 22nd of June. Had I been present, I would have voted:

"Aye" on rollcall vote No. 536, and amendment to H.R. 2764 which would prohibit the use of funds for programs at the Western

Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation located at Fort Benning, Georgia.

"Aye" on final passage of H.R. 2764, Making appropriations for the Department of State, foreign operations, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008 and "Aye" on final passage of H.R. 2771, Making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008.

IN RECOGNITION OF WILLIAM
STEARNS

HON. BRAD ELLSWORTH

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2007

Mr. ELLSWORTH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the great efforts of one of my constituents, Mr. William Stearns. Mr. Stearns has gone to great lengths to promote a stronger sense of community in Greene County, Indiana, and his hard work provides us all a valuable resource. Mr. Stearns created and maintains the website gogreenecounty.com, which provides wonderful local information on a variety of topics. The website's forum provides a convenient place for local Hoosiers to discuss a variety of issues, and the community links expand the resources that community members can access from this one, convenient website.

As great a service as this website is to the people of Greene County, Mr. Stearns' work is all the more remarkable because he performs this great service despite being legally blind. When one considers the visual difficulties Mr. Stearns overcomes every day, the fact that he produces a valuable website for our community is especially noteworthy. I commend William Stearns for his tremendous service to Greene County, Indiana.

HONORING MANUEL RODRIGUEZ
OF LAKE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2007

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Manuel Rodriguez of Lake County for his years of dedicated public service on behalf of the citizens of Lake County. He has ably worked in the Social Security Administration, assisting local residents in managing their benefits, and his work has been of great importance to many.

Mr. Rodriguez was born in Los Angeles, and served 5 years in the United States Air Force before receiving an associate of arts degree in history. He has worked for the Federal Government in the Social Security Administration for 28 years, during which time he has excelled in a variety of roles. His work for Social Security has been marked by an exacting attention to detail, and a commitment to ensuring that when interruptions do occur to a citizen's benefits, the problem is corrected as expeditiously as possible. His patience and work ethic have been of the utmost importance to many people who depend on his expertise to sustain their primary source of income.

Beyond his work in the office, Mr. Rodriguez has been an active member of his community, lending his efforts to a number of local organizations. He is a member of the Parish Council at the United Christian Parish in Lakeport, and has been a dedicated supporter of the many different programs this ministry offers. He has also been a longtime volunteer at the Lake County Passion Play.

In his retirement, Mr. Rodriguez looks forward to traveling with his wife Michele, and enjoying more time with his step-children, Grant and Terre Basham, who also live in Lakeport. He intends to return to school to obtain a minister's license.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, it is appropriate at this time that we recognize Mr. Manuel Rodriguez for his many years of service at the Social Security Administration. He has been a dedicated public servant of the highest caliber, and he has done exemplary work on behalf of the citizens of Lake County.

HONORING LT. COL. TOM
CASTRIOTA FOR HIS EXEM-
PLARY MILITARY SERVICE

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2007

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Tom Castriota, a marine who has served his country with honor and distinction for nearly 3 decades. Having retired from the Marines after 26 years in service to his country, Mr. Castriota was so moved by the attack of September 11 that he volunteered to re-enter active military service and join his fellow soldiers and help wage the Global War on Terror.

Following his return to the Marines, Lt. Col. Castriota was first assigned to Tampa's U.S. Central Command Post. Last October, he was notified that he was being called up for a six month stint in Iraq as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom. While in Iraq, Lt. Col. Castriota served as part of the Multi-National Security Transition Command. His duties included helping to coordinate the training of the Iraqi soldiers and police recruits, as well as a twice-weekly briefing that he gave to general David Petraeus on the progress of his training.

When he is not serving his country as an active duty member of the Marines, Lt. Col. Castriota and his family own a Chevrolet dealership in Hudson, Florida. Working with his wife Anita, who is the daughter of a marine, and his 2 children Alex and Chrissy, Lt. Col. Castriota has built a second career helping area residents find the perfect car. True leaders in the Pasco County community, the Castriota family has worked hard to give back to Hudson and help make their neighborhood a better place to live and work.

Madam Speaker, it is military service members like Lt. Col. Castriota that help make our military the finest fighting force in the world. This Congress congratulates Lt. Col. Castriota for his outstanding sense of volunteerism and thanks him for once again joining the battle for freedom around the world. His story should serve as an inspiration to every American and each Member of the House and Senate.

HONORING THE NEW HAVEN COUN-
TY BAR ASSOCIATION AS THEY
CELEBRATE THEIR CENTENNIAL
ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2007

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today to join the community of my hometown, New Haven, Connecticut, as friends, colleagues, and community leaders gather to celebrate a remarkable milestone—the 100th anniversary of the New Haven County Bar Association. Founded in the late 18th century and incorporated in 1907, this organization serves as the professional association for judges, attorneys, and legal paraprofessionals throughout the greater New Haven area.

As one can see from the historical exhibition currently on display at the New Haven Museum and Historical Society, the legal community has long played a unique and integral role in the rich history of New Haven. From the earliest days of the colony and the Amistad case in the 1840s through the Black Panther trial in the 1970s and Connecticut v. Griswold in 1965, New Haven attorneys and judges have been at the center of legal decisions which have helped to define our Nation. Beyond those cases which garnered national attention, the exhibit also reminds us of the many local lawyers who had a significant impact on the character of our community. Theophilus Eaton wrote the laws of the New Haven Colony in the 1600s, Joseph Sheldon actively hired African-American law students in the 1880s and was influential in the development of the American Red Cross, George Dudley Seymour who was known for his dedication to civic duty in the 1900s, and Mary Manchester in 1938 was the first woman to be named a law partner in Connecticut.

Today, the New Haven County Bar Association is more than simply a professional association. It supports its members in many ways, including continuing legal education programs, new attorney mentoring opportunities, annual social events and working to foster relations between its members and the courts. The Bar Association is also the sponsor of the New Haven County Lawyer Referral Service—a not-for-profit public service that, for more than 50 years, has referred members of the public to private attorneys experienced in the appropriate field of law. The Bar Association also works closely with its charitable arm, the New Haven County Bar Foundation, Inc., which provides charitable outreach and educational programming.

As members gather this evening in celebration of the New Haven County Bar Association's 100th anniversary, we pay tribute to the many invaluable contributions the legal minds of our community have made locally, statewide, and nationally—but most importantly for the countless hours of hard work they do every day for their clients. While New Haven certainly has had its share of compelling legal cases which have caught the public's attention, more often than not, our lawyers, judges, and legal paraprofessionals are working on cases which—while they may not make national headlines—have a real impact on the lives of those they are representing. For the

outstanding work they do every day and for the many contributions they make to our community, I am honored to stand today to extend my sincere congratulations to the New Haven County Bar Association and its membership as they celebrate their centennial anniversary.

HONORING CAPTAIN DON
ORNDOFF, CIVIL ENGINEER
CORPS, UNITED STATES NAVY

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2007

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Captain Don Orndoff, a native of Winchester, in the 10th Congressional District of Virginia, for his distinguished career as he retires from the United States Navy.

Captain Orndoff served our country not only as a Navy Civil Engineer Corps Officer for 29 years, but also as Naval Facilities Engineering Command Assistant Commander for Navy Public Works and Navy Public Works Business Line Leader. Captain Orndoff graduated from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University and has done tours in such places as Pearl Harbor, San Francisco and Yokosuka, Japan.

After being chosen to lead a Navy Installation Command and Naval Facilities Engineering Command transformation Captain Orndoff implemented a dramatic restructuring and transformation of all NAVFAC components. He reduced their required workforce by 1,100 civilian positions and increased productivity 13 percent, directly resulting in over \$600 million in savings and creating the most comprehensive and fundamental reorganization of the command in more than three decades.

As the Navy Public Works Business Line Leader, Captain Orndoff successfully led over 9,000 civilian and military employees and contractors, executing an annual workload of \$3.6 billion for the Navy's global shore installation system.

I am proud to call attention to Captain Orndoff's service to our country through a career marked by inspirational moral courage, exceptional vision and relentless leadership. I also commend him and his family for their dedication to patriotism and their contributions to the United States Navy, and wish them well in the future.

TRIBUTE TO CARTER GAMBLE

HON. BARON P. HILL

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2007

Mr. HILL. Madam Speaker, my hometown of Seymour, Indiana, has lost one of its finest. Although Carter A. Gamble, Jr. was born and raised in Georgia, he called Southern Indiana home for a short while. Carter Gamble was tragically killed in Iraq Sunday. My deepest condolences go to his family—his wife, Peggy, his children, including one on the way, his extended family, particularly Jackson County Sheriff Marc Lahrman and Carter's grandparents, Bob and Helen Lahrman. Carter served this country so notably and honorably.

He was deployed to Iraq twice, the second time reenlisting in the Army knowing he would likely be sent to Iraq. I thank him for his unwavering commitment to our great Nation. I thank his family for loving and supporting him. Carter will be greatly missed and was taken much too soon from his young and growing family. Let us all keep Carter Gamble and his family in our constant thoughts and prayers.

INTRODUCTION OF ENERGY EFFICIENT BUILDINGS PROMOTION ACT OF 2007

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2007

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Madam Speaker, many of us recognize that one of the great challenges facing our nation today is combating global warming by reducing the greenhouse gas emissions responsible for the rapidly rising temperatures on our planet. What many may not realize, however, is that the largest source of emissions and energy consumption both in this country and around the world is buildings. Given this fact, any attempt to stem the tide of growing greenhouse gas emissions and improve energy efficiency must include the building sector. The federal government has an important role to play on this count, and must provide leadership to the rest of the country and world. To that end, I rise to introduce today the Energy Efficient Buildings Promotion Act of 2007.

This legislation takes up "The 2030 Challenge," issued by Ed Mazria of the organization Architecture 2030, who, I am proud to say, is one of my constituents and who was also instrumental in developing this legislation. The 2030 Challenge calls on the global architecture and building community to adopt targets to ensure that all new buildings, new developments and existing buildings undergoing major renovations, achieve carbon neutrality, or use no fossil fuel greenhouse gas emitting energy to operate, by 2030.

Organizations, architects, local governments, and individuals wanting to do their part have all taken up this challenge. The U.S. Conference of Mayors has adopted it for all buildings in all cities. It is time for the federal government to do so as well. In the United States, the building sector accounts for approximately 48 percent of all annual energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions. Several states have implemented building standards for state government buildings, but the federal government needs to lead the rest of the nation by example, to encourage reduced fossil-fuel energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions in the "built" environment.

My legislation ensures that the federal government answers Architecture 2030's call by establishing an energy performance standard for new federal or federally supported buildings. For new federal buildings and federal buildings undergoing major renovations, they must meet the United States Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) silver level standards, or an equivalent standard approved by EPA. They must achieve at least a 60 percent reduction compared to the regional average en-

ergy consumption for that building type, and they must be built in a manner that will allow for declining fossil fuel energy consumption in amounts of 70 percent by 2011, 80 percent by 2015, 90 percent by 2020, and 100 percent by 2025.

In addition, my legislation establishes similar standards for new buildings and buildings undergoing major renovations that were built with at least 10 percent of federal funds. These buildings or renovations must be designed to achieve at least a 50 percent reduction compared to regional average energy consumption for that building type. Also, they must be built in a manner that will allow for declining fossil fuel energy consumption in amounts of 60 percent by 2011, 70 percent by 2015, 80 percent by 2020, 90 percent by 2025, and 100 percent by 2030.

Madam Speaker, I believe these two new standards and the improved energy efficiency that will result will be a strong marker of Federal leadership towards more environmentally friendly buildings.

It is not enough by itself, however. Another avenue for Federal leadership is the U.S. tax code. The Energy Policy Act of 2005 recognized this and established several very important tax credits and deductions to promote energy efficient construction and improvements to homes and commercial buildings. Many of these tax provisions are not only scheduled to expire in 2008, but in the estimation of many, were also set at amounts too low to spark the level of construction and efficiency improvements needed.

To that end, this legislation extends to 2013 and increases the Nonbusiness Energy Property Tax Credit from \$500 to \$1,000, it extends to 2013 and increases the New Energy Efficient Homes Tax Deduction from \$2,000 to \$4,500 per unit, and extends to 2013 and increases the Energy Efficient Commercial Buildings Tax Deduction from \$1.80 to \$2.75 per square foot.

Madam Speaker, we must take steps to address the greenhouse gas emissions and energy inefficiencies in the building sector. The Federal Government has a unique opportunity to provide the leadership for the rest of the country and even the world in promoting greener building. I urge my colleagues to co-sponsor this legislation and help begin stemming the tide of a significant portion of the greenhouse gas emissions contributing to the problem of global warming.

A TRIBUTE TO CHRISTOPHER
WESTHOFF

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2007

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Christopher Westhoff, Assistant City Attorney—Public Works General Counsel with the City of Los Angeles, California, who will become President of the National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA).

Christopher Westhoff is an environmental champion for the City of Los Angeles, the State of California, and the Nation. He is an exceptional leader and public steward, dedicated to the improvement of Los Angeles' water quality and public health.

A former prosecutor with the Los Angeles City Attorney's office, Christopher has spent over 15 years serving as the General Counsel to the Board of Public Works. He has been the Public Works Department's legal counsel on environmental regulatory issues including wastewater treatment, air quality, and storm water management. He played a leadership role in guaranteeing clean and safe water for future generations of Californians by helping ensure the upgrade of the Hyperion Treatment Plant to full secondary treatment of its wastewater. Christopher helped to develop and defend policies that have helped clean up the Santa Monica Bay, and achieve 100 percent beneficial reuse of the city's biosolids. His negotiations in a landmark settlement agreement for Los Angeles' collection systems led to a reduction in sewer spills of more than 70 percent. Christopher also participated in the development and implementation of Proposition "O", which provided for \$500 million in bonds for stormwater management improvements and green technologies.

In 1999, Mr. Westhoff was elected to NACWA's Board of Directors. He currently acts as the Association's Vice President and Chair of the Strategic Planning Committee. Later this month; Christopher will become NACWA's President. As the President of NACWA, he will build on its reputation as the leading advocate for responsible national policies that advance clean water and a healthy environment.

For his tireless commitment to ensuring that Los Angeles becomes an environmentally smart city, I ask all Members of Congress to join me in congratulating Christopher Westhoff on becoming President of the National Association of Clean Water Agencies.

IN HONOR OF THE MONTEREY
SCOTTISH GAMES & CELTIC FESTIVAL

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2007

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Monterey Scottish Games & Celtic Festival which is celebrating an outstanding 40-year tradition. A special Monterey County Celtic Week, with a variety of Celtic-themed activities and events, will commemorate this milestone. These events include a Caber Parade in Carmel; the 3rd Annual Monterey Bay School of Piping and Drumming; a performance by the Monterey Bay Pipe Band in the 4th of July Parade in downtown Monterey; a Celtic Concert with musicians and dancers; culminating in the 40th Annual Monterey Scottish Games and Celtic Festival on July 7th–8th.

Featuring fun activities for the entire family, the Monterey Scottish Games & Celtic Festival is a wonderful "festival for the senses" which includes authentic Celtic music, colorful Highland, Scottish and Irish dancing, athletic competitions such as the famous Caber Toss, massed pipe bands on parade, children's games, delicious food, great shopping, and more.

The Monterey Scottish Games & Celtic Festival not only is an exciting event to attend, it also raises money to benefit many local chari-

table organizations. Over the past 40 years, the Festival has donated thousands of dollars to various organizations such as Peninsula Outreach, Alliance on Aging, Monterey Schools, Meals on Wheels, Boy Scouts of America, and the Armed Forces Relief Fund.

The Monterey Scottish Games & Celtic Festival celebrates tradition and family by highlighting and creating music, dance and athletic competitions for the youth and participating community members of the Monterey Area. The festival keeps alive the Celtic culture in Monterey County, promotes the study of Celtic music and dance, and awards funds and youth scholarships to the Monterey School of Piping and Drumming.

Madam Speaker, the Monterey Scottish Games & Celtic Festival provides quality events in a unique, friendly setting to educate, entertain, and inspire the local Monterey community as well as attract visitors to the County. The contributions the Festival has made to the community are invaluable and I am honored to acknowledge July 1–8, 2007, as Monterey County Celtic Week.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. HENRY E. BROWN, JR.

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2007

Mr. BROWN of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I am writing to notify you that I was absent for votes on June 22, 2007. The reason for my absence was that I was attending a memorial service for the nine firefighters who so bravely gave their lives in the line of duty on June 18, 2007, in Charleston, SC.

Regarding the votes that I missed, please see below how I would have voted had I been present:

Rollcall vote No. 543: On the Motion to Call the Previous Question for the Rule on H.R. 2771, The Legislative Branch Appropriation Act.—“nay.”

Rollcall Vote No. 544: On the Motion adopting the Rule for H.R. 2771, The Legislative Branch Appropriation Act.—“nay.”

Rollcall vote No. 545: On the Amendment offered by Mr. FLAKE of Arizona to reduce funding for the Government Printing Office by \$3,200,000.—“yea.”

Rollcall vote No. 546: On the Amendment offered by Mr. JORDAN of Ohio to reduce appropriations in the bill by 4 percent across the board.—“yea.”

Rollcall vote No. 547: On Republican Motion to Recommit that would strike the \$16 million included in the bill for the congressional takeover of the former FDA building.—“yea.”

Rollcall vote No. 548: On Passage of H.R. 2771, The Legislative Branch Appropriations.—“nay.”

TRIBUTE TO COMMISSIONER
CONNIE HUGHES

HON. MIKE FERGUSON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2007

Mr. FERGUSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Commissioner Connie

Hughes for a long and distinguished career as she retires July 1, 2007, after more than 30 years of public service to New Jersey and its residents.

A commissioner with the New Jersey board of Public Utilities, Commissioner Hughes was appointed to the board in July 2001 by then-Governor Donald T. DiFrancesco. She also has served as board president.

She has held numerous senior positions within the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, including serving as its representative to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Government Coordinating Council for the Telecom Sector.

Before joining the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities, Commissioner Hughes served as then-Governor DiFrancesco's Chief of Management and Policy; ex-officio Commissioner of Higher Education; and on the New Jersey State Planning Commission, the New Jersey Commission on Science and Technology, the New Jersey Commission on Environmental Education, the New Jersey State Board of Human Services, and the New Jersey Commerce and Economic Growth Commission Board of Directors.

Known chiefly for her expertise in telecommunications policy, Commissioner Hughes focused her career on issues affecting New Jersey and its consumers. My staff and I, as a member of the Energy and Commerce Committee, had the pleasure of working with her on matters of mutual interest to the State.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Connie Hughes on her more than three decades of outstanding public service to my state of New Jersey and its residents.

ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT
AND RELATED AGENCIES
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2007

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2641) making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes:

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Chairman, I supported the Hinchey-Wolf amendment to the FY 2008 Energy and Water Development Appropriations Bill. This amendment would have established a one-year spending limitation with regard to the designation of National Interest Electric Transmission Corridors under section 1221 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005. I supported this limitation amendment because section 1221 is a flawed provision of federal law, and the Department of Energy's implementation of the provision has enhanced concerns about the law rather than addressed them.

Section 1221 of the Energy Policy Act grants the Department of Energy unprecedented siting and construction authority for transmission lines. While I strongly support the upgrade of our nation's transmission infrastructure and believe that states and the federal government need tools to make this happen, section 1221 goes too far. The provision

invites only illusory participation from the states—one year is much too short a time-frame for states to make any decision about transmission siting, much less the right one.

I look forward to working with my colleagues to provide a realistic backstop for the federal government that gives the states time and flexibility to suggest alternatives. I hope that this Congress can advance a more balanced approach.

THE MEDICARE ADVANTAGE
TRUTH IN ADVERTISING ACT

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2007

Mr. STARK. Madam Speaker, Medicare Advantage Plans—by name and by advertising—promote that they provide added value to the Medicare benefit.

But under current law, MA plans are allowed to manipulate cost sharing for Medicare benefits. In some instances, enrollees save compared to Medicare. In many other instances, they spend more than they would in the traditional Medicare program. Few seniors or people with disabilities understand that—depending on their health—they could spend far more in a Medicare Advantage plan than they would under traditional Medicare.

Beneficiaries are often charged more for home health, skilled nursing facilities, hospitalizations, durable medical equipment, Part B drugs (chemotherapy being the biggest service), and inpatient mental health services. These services are vital to millions of Medicare beneficiaries who face multiple chronic conditions and depend on affordable health care for their very lives.

As Barbara Kennelly, President of the National Committee To Preserve Social Security and Medicare so aptly puts it, “While MA plans are required to cover everything that Medicare covers, they do not have to cover every benefit in the same way.”

The Medicare Rights Center emphasizes that, “On a daily basis, our counselors assist older adults and people with disabilities enrolled in these plans who run into unexpectedly high out-of-pocket costs for their health care.”

In my district in California, one of the major MA plans in our community charges \$275 a day for the first 10 days in the hospital. This compares to a single charge of \$992 in traditional Medicare for a hospital stay of up to 60 days. That means patients in this so-called Medicare Advantage plan who have to go to the hospital for 10 days are paying \$2750 instead of \$992—that is not an advantage!

With regard to home health benefits, Medicare charges no copayment for these services as recipients tend to be the most frail, elderly women who are often widows and living on very low fixed incomes. Yet many MA plans charge a 20 percent copayment for home health. They also impose tough utilization review standards to further restrict access to this needed benefit for our most at-risk beneficiaries.

Attached is a chart which further highlights how beneficiary cost sharing for various services in a variety of MA plans surpasses Medicare's cost-sharing for those same services. It is just an illustrative sampling.

The Medicare Advantage Truth in Advertising Act would fix this problem. It would require MA plans to cover all of Medicare's benefits with no greater cost-sharing than is charged in the traditional fee-for-service Medicare program. It would preserve the ability of MA plans to use flat copayments and per diem rates in lieu of deductibles and co-insurance charged in traditional Medicare, but it would prohibit their costs from exceeding the overall fee-for-service cost. In other words, it holds private plans to their propaganda that they're an advantage.

This is a simple bill. It holds Medicare Advantage plans to their word and assures Medicare beneficiaries that they won't face higher out of pocket costs if they choose to join one of the private plan options so heavily promoted in Medicare today.

With thousands of different MA plans out there and numerous complaints being filed about inappropriate and illegal sales techniques, the least we can do is assure Medicare beneficiaries that they'll still be eligible for Medicare-covered services at no more than Medicare prices.

I developed this bill in direct response to testimony presented by Medicare beneficiary advocates before our Ways and Means Health Subcommittee this year. I am pleased that numerous groups support this bill, including the National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare, the Medicare Rights Center, Consumers Union, the Alliance for Retired Americans, the Center for Medicare Advocacy, Families USA, the National Senior Citizens Law Center and California Health Advocates.

I urge you to join me in support of this common sense improvement to the Medicare Advantage program.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF EDOUARD
BRUNNER

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2007

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of a dear international colleague who passed away this weekend.

A world renowned diplomat, Edouard Brunner began his career in the Swiss Foreign Ministry in 1956. Rising through the ranks, he served as the Swiss Secretary of State from 1984 to 1989. He then went on to serve as Ambassador to the United States from 1989 to 1993.

In 1991, U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar appointed him to a parallel role as his special envoy to the Middle East, replacing Gunnar Yarring of Sweden. Following this position, he served as Special Representative of the Secretary General of the UN for Abkhazia from 1993 and 1994, where he led a U.N. mission that brokered a truce ending 2 years of fighting between the Georgian government and separatists in the Black Sea province of Abkhazia.

He is often cited for coming out of retirement in 1998 to address concerns related to his beloved country during the Nazi era, which with his involvement, provided an acceptable solution to the international community.

However, it is through our work within the Organization for Security and Cooperation in

Europe (OSCE) that I came to know him. Appointed to head the Swiss mission in 1972, Brunner played a key role within the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), which served as a multilateral forum for dialogue and negotiation between the East and West and culminated in the Helsinki Final Act in 1975. In 1994, the CSCE changed its name, becoming the OSCE. Over the years, in a testament to his dedication to the organization and its standing in the world, Brunner remained active within the OSCE both formally and informally.

In 2005, during my presidency of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, Brunner and I, in his capacity as chairman of the Swiss Foundation for World Affairs, held a Colloquium on the Future of the OSCE. A report on the findings of the colloquium was then provided as a report to the then-OSCE Chairman-in-Office, Slovenian Foreign Minister Dimitrij Rupel.

A major goal of the colloquium and subsequent report was to give new impetus to political dialogue and provide strategic vision for the OSCE. The initial purpose of the Helsinki Accords had been to expand cooperation in the areas of security, economic, and humanitarian affairs.

Additionally, for the first time, it afforded a systematic review of human rights practices in the Soviet Union and all other signatories of the accords.

With the collapse of the Soviet Union and the emergence of independent states from its territories, spanning from Europe into Asia, questions of the expanding role of the OSCE in politico-military, election observation, and relationships with other multilateral organizations were being raised.

Working together, Brunner and I were not only able to encourage and host the colloquium, but also actively succeeded in addressing those concerns, and establishing a path forward that addressed the new challenges of the 56 participating states of the OSCE.

In my current role as chairman of the Commission on Security and Cooperation Europe, I will sorely miss Brunner's counsel at the OSCE, but know that his memory will live on through his extraordinary contributions to this organization that has been instrumental to peace and security here in the United States as well as throughout Europe. He will not be forgotten.

HONORING NICK SWYKA FOR HIS
DEDICATED SERVICE

HON. JOHN ABNEY CULBERSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2007

Mr. CULBERSON. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize and commend the tireless public service of a dedicated and talented member of my staff, Nick Swyka. Nick has worked in my office for 4 years, the first 2 as a Legislative Assistant and the last 2 as my District Director, and he is one of the most intelligent and hard-working staffers I have had the privilege to employ.

Nick was born and raised in Houston, attended St. John's School and graduated from Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service with a degree in International Political

Economy. He was 1 of the approximately 650 students across the country who earned a perfect score on their SATs each year. Nick will be attending the Red McCombs School of Business at the University of Texas this fall and he will be sorely missed, but his contributions to his hometown and the people of Houston will not be forgotten.

Nick has carried on the tradition of outstanding public service established by my first

District Director, Jan Crow. He has conducted himself with the same dignity and professionalism as his predecessor, and his calm demeanor and sharp wit have served him well in his role as my representative in the district. Nick brought the right mix of policy savvy, well-honed political instincts and strength of character to the job, and he excelled at building relationships throughout the district.

We, as Members of Congress, trust our staffs to handle many of the day to day operations of our offices. I was always confident that my district staff was setting new and higher standards for constituent service with Nick Swyka as my District Director. I am equally confident that Nick will achieve each and every goal he sets for himself, and that he will continue to be an active and engaged participant in our democracy.