

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