

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 18, 2007

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I was visiting veterans at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center with members of the Texas Congressional delegation. I was unavoidably delayed and missed the votes on H.R. 980, the Public Safety Employer-Employee Cooperation Act (rollcall 633), and H. Res. 547, the resolution providing for consideration of the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations for FY 2008 (rollcall 634).

Although H.R. 980, the Public Safety Employer-Employee Cooperation Act (rollcall 633) passed by a vote of 314–97, and H. Res. 547, the resolution providing for consideration of the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations for FY 2008 (rollcall 634) passed by a vote of 232–178, I respectfully request the opportunity to record my position. Had I been present I would have voted “yea” on rollcalls 633 and 634.

I would particularly like to express my strong support for H.R. 980, a bill I am proud to have cosponsored. The bill would establish minimum standards for state collective bargaining laws for police officers, firefighters and other public safety officers, including the right to join a union; the right to have their union recognized by their employer; the right to bargain collectively over hours, wages and terms and conditions of employment; a mediation or arbitration process for resolving an impasse in negotiations; and enforcement of contracts through state courts. This legislation would not affect a majority of states because their laws already meet or exceed the minimum standards.

THE GENEROSITY OF IDAHOANS

HON. BILL SALI

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 18, 2007

Mr. SALI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize an extraordinary example of the American spirit, the ability for us as individuals and as businesses to give back to the community, support our neighbors, and do for ourselves—without relying on government to do for us.

Last week, the crew of the TV show *Extreme Makeover Home Edition* arrived in Middleton, Idaho. The show travels the country and selects a deserving family for a top-to-bottom remodel. In Idaho, the show's producers picked Ryan and Karia Stockdale.

The Stockdales are a loving couple with four children ages 2 to 6. All four children have an

extremely rare disease that attacks their blood, their lungs and kidneys, and their digestive systems. Because of this disorder, all four children are unable to eat food, and have to be fed through a special tube.

Karia became a stay-at-home mom to tend to the children.

To find a cure for his children, Ryan went back to school full-time studying immunology—in addition to working full-time to support his family.

What's more, the Stockdale home had major problems. The house was not insulated. It had a coal-burning furnace and no air conditioning. The ceiling had a hole. The basement leaked. The water and ventilation systems were bad.

The people of Idaho rallied—sending the *Extreme Makeover* program more than a thousand emails in support of the Stockdales.

But they didn't stop there. In Idaho, our communities and our citizens place high value on the ability of individuals to make a difference, the power of the private sector. We don't sit back and wait for government to do things for us.

So when *Extreme Makeover* decided to come to Idaho, the citizens and businesses of my state sent nothing short of an army of volunteers to help give the Stockdales a new home. Corey Barton of CBH Homes led the effort, bringing in competing construction crews to work together to build this 4,000 square foot home.

I wish I could name all the companies that contributed to this cause, but I can't. More than 200 companies pitched in—everything from construction equipment and supplies to bags of ice and beverages.

I wish I could name all of the people who volunteered to do a multitude of tasks—from the framing to running electrical and hanging sheetrock. But I can't. More than three thousand volunteers came out. That's three thousand people working together to build one house for one family.

And the volunteers kept coming as the work got dirtier and more grueling and the temperature reached triple-digits. I'm told that despite the heat and the stress of building a large home in four or five days, the volunteer response was the largest a community has ever given to an *Extreme Makeover* project. These volunteers finished in a week what it would take government months to accomplish.

I was at the job site on Saturday with my wife, Terry, and here's what we saw: we saw the most enthusiastic, engaged, and excited volunteers we have ever seen. They weren't doing it for the fame or glory; they were not doing it to get a few seconds of time on TV. They were not doing it because some government agency told them to. They were doing it because they wanted to. Many had never met the Stockdales. They didn't have to. They just knew there was a family in need and work to be done. It was up to Idahoans to do it.

This is the home that Idahoans built. Their work goes beyond generous. It is a testament to the American spirit: volunteers giving their

time, experience, and a lot of sweat to help make a beautiful home for a beautiful family. This was a true labor of love. Idahoans should be very proud of what they've done.

TRIBUTE TO SHERIFF KELVIN WASHINGTON

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 18, 2007

Mr. CLYBURN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an extraordinary public servant and a tremendous leader in his community and state. Williamsburg County Sheriff Kelvin Washington officially becomes President of the South Carolina Sheriff's Association on August 1, 2007, a remarkable achievement for this history-making law enforcer.

Kelvin Washington was born in Hemingway, South Carolina and was reared by his maternal grandmother, the late Thewoflar Washington. He graduated from Hemingway High School, and attended South Carolina State University. Kelvin went on to earn his Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice from American Intercontinental University. His desire to excel in a law enforcement career led Kelvin to complete the South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy, the FBI's Carolina Command College, and the National Sheriff's Institute. He is currently pursuing a Master's Degree in Criminal Justice from Troy University.

In 1990, Kelvin joined the City of Florence Police Department as a patrolman. He quickly rose through the ranks becoming a narcotics agent and an investigator. Just three years later, Kelvin joined the Williamsburg County Sheriff's Office as the Chief Investigator. Soon he was tapped as the Chief Deputy. In 1998, only 8 years after his law enforcement career began, Kelvin Washington was appointed Interim-Sheriff after the retirement of former Sheriff Jack McCrea. The following January, Kelvin Washington was elected Williamsburg County Sheriff making South Carolina history. Sheriff Washington was the youngest African American ever to be elected Sheriff in his home state, and he is currently one of the youngest African American Sheriffs in the nation. His effectiveness on the job and his popularity with county residents led to his reelection in 2000 and 2004.

Sheriff Washington is a member of Bethlehem A.M.E. Church in his hometown of Hemingway. He also holds memberships in the Chavis Masonic Lodge No. 446, the Kingtree Rotary Club, the Palmetto State Law Enforcement Officer's Association, and the South Carolina Sheriff's Association. Sheriff Washington still finds the time to serve as a board member for the Williamsburg County Boys and Girls Club and Williamsburg County Vital Aging. In 2002, he was selected as the Williamsburg County Area Omega Psi Phi Citizen of the Year.

None of these accomplishments could have been achieved without the support of his wife

• 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.

of 17 years, the former Patricia McEachin of East Orange, New Jersey, and their three children, Courtney, and twins Kelvin, Jr. and Kelsey.

Madam Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me today in celebrating the achievements of Williamsburg County Sheriff Kelvin Washington. His life is a testament to what one can do if you have a dream and pursue it with all your might. Sheriff Washington truly believes in giving back, and Williamsburg County and the State of South Carolina are certainly the beneficiaries of his commitment, talent and dedication.

TRIBUTE TO ADMIRAL EDMUND P.
GIAMBASTIANI, JR.

HON. JOHN M. McHUGH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 18, 2007

Mr. MCHUGH. Madam Speaker, I take this opportunity today to honor Admiral Edmund P. Giambastiani, Jr., one of our Nation's stellar military leaders and a constituent of the 23rd Congressional District of New York which I am privileged to represent.

Admiral Edmund P. Giambastiani, Jr. is retiring after 41 years of service to our Nation, culminating in his service as the seventh Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, our Nation's second highest military officer. A submarine officer and a Canastota native, Admiral Giambastiani entered the U.S. Naval Academy in the summer of 1966 and graduated with leadership distinction in 1970.

The Admiral has been married to Cynthia Johnson of McLean, VA since 1976 and attributes his success in life to her and his parents. Cindy and he have two children, Peter and Catherine. Cindy is a Cornell University graduate and the daughter of a career Air Force officer. She was recently honored by the Secretary of the Navy with her selection as the ship's sponsor for the submarine USS *New Mexico*.

Admiral Giambastiani always kept close ties to his hometown of Canastota and in July 2003, he was honored with the Alumni Achievement Award from the Canastota High School Alumni Association. The Admiral's younger sister, Barbara Bartlett, lives in Cazenovia with her family and is director of New York's Lorenzo State Historic Site.

Admiral Giambastiani's operational assignments have included several in which he was responsible for both demanding at-sea operations and the development of new technologies and experimental processes. Early sea assignments included USS *Puffer* (SSN 652) and USS *Francis Scott Key* (SSBN 657) (BLUE). While assigned to *Puffer*, he was a 1973 winner of the Fleet Commander's Junior Officer Submarine Shiphandling Competition. He commanded submarine *NR-1*, the Navy's only nuclear powered deep diving ocean engineering and research submarine and USS *Richard B. Russell* (SSN 687), where the crew was awarded three consecutive Battle Efficiency "E"s, three Navy Unit Commendations, and two Fleet Commander Silver Anchors for excellence in enlisted retention.

Admiral Giambastiani also led Submarine Development Squadron Twelve, an operational submarine squadron that also serves

as the Navy's Warfare Center of Excellence for submarine doctrine and tactics. Established in 1949, Submarine Development Squadron Twelve is the oldest experimental unit of its kind in the U.S. military. He served as the first director of strategy and concepts at the Naval Doctrine Command, as well as Commander, Atlantic Fleet Submarine Force; Commander, Submarines Allied Command Atlantic; and Commander, Anti-Submarine and Reconnaissance Forces Atlantic in Norfolk, Virginia.

Admiral Giambastiani's other shore and staff assignments include duties as an enlisted program manager at the Navy Recruiting Command Headquarters, Washington, DC, in the early days of the all volunteer force; Special Assistant to the Deputy Director for Intelligence, Central Intelligence Agency; and, a fellowship with the Chief of Naval Operations' Strategic Studies Group. As a flag officer, he served as the Deputy Chief of Staff for Resources, Warfare Requirements and Assessments for the Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet; Director of Submarine Warfare for the Chief of Naval Operations; Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Resources, Requirements, and Assessments; and as the Senior Military Assistant to Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld from May 2001 until September 2002.

Admiral Giambastiani was on duty in the Pentagon on September 11, 2001 and will never forget those events that changed our Nation forever.

Prior to serving as Vice Chairman, Admiral Giambastiani was NATO's first Supreme Allied Commander Transformation and the Commander, United States Joint Forces Command, where he led the transformation of NATO and U.S. military forces, capabilities and doctrines and the introduction of new technologies.

As Vice Chairman, Admiral Giambastiani has pursued three overarching and interlocking goals:

Working with the Deputy Secretary of Defense and other senior defense leaders to draft and implement the 2006 Quadrennial Defense Review;

Synchronizing the efforts of the Department of Defense's requirements, resources and acquisition processes to deliver the right capabilities at the right time and the right price to our warfighters; and,

Transforming the Joint Requirements Oversight Council to make it more agile, transparent, inclusive and responsive to the capability needs of the Combatant Commanders and more focused on the nation's most pressing military issues.

Admiral Giambastiani has been awarded numerous U.S. and foreign decorations, including seven Defense and Navy Distinguished Service medals and two honorary doctorate degrees. He is most proud of his 19 unit awards and commendations because they recognize the participation and accomplishments of the entire team.

Madam Speaker, it is through the commitment and sacrifice of Americans like Admiral Giambastiani that our Nation is able to continue upon the path of democracy and strive for the betterment of mankind throughout the world. It is with sincere admiration and appreciation that I pay tribute to Admiral Giambastiani for all that he has accomplished for America and its Armed Forces. On behalf of a grateful nation, I thank Admiral

Giambastiani for his 41 years of dedicated service and wish him many years of continued success and happiness.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF
DR. WILLIAM WULF, PRESIDENT
OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF
ENGINEERING

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 18, 2007

Mr. HOLT. Madam Speaker, at the end of last month, Dr. William Wulf ended his 11 years as the President of the National Academy of Engineering.

Many of us have come to rely on the NAE, along with its affiliated organizations, the National Academy of Sciences and the Institute of Medicine, to help sort through the increasing science and technology quotient in our policy debates.

Bill has been extremely effective in helping Members of Congress understand how technical issues affect our lives. He was instrumental in the National Academy work *Rising Above the Gathering Storm*, which caught the attention of America about students' and workers' declining ability to compete internationally. He was among the first to warn of the increased need for cybersecurity, which everyone is talking about now, but Bill Wulf was realizing 10 years ago. He also worked on data copyright issues, patents, energy legislation—the list goes on. He also has shown great interest in deploying reliable voting machines around the country.

Bill Wulf was a frequent resource at committee hearings, where he taught many in the research community about the value of skillful communications with policy makers. He has led the NAE with grace and with vision and the organization emerges from his period of leadership strengthened and invigorated.

Bill is heading back to his faculty post at the University of Virginia, where many fortunate students, both in engineering and in the liberal arts, will now get the benefit of his thinking that has been so helpful to us here in Washington.

I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Bill Wulf for all he has done for the Academies and for the Nation. We look forward to continuing to work with you in the years to come.

RESPONSIBLE REDEPLOYMENT
FROM IRAQ ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2007

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 2956, the Responsible Redeployment from Iraq Act. This legislation requires a responsible redeployment of U.S. troops beginning within 120 days of enactment and ending by April 1, 2008. Additionally, this bill requires the President to publicly justify the post-redeployment missions for the U.S. military in Iraq and the minimum

number of troops necessary to carry out those missions.

Madam Speaker, we have sacrificed the lives of more than 3,609 soldiers and 26,695 wounded Americans, many with injuries from which they will never recover. We have a moral obligation to start the process of bringing our troops home, on our watch. A troop reduction will set our country in the right direction.

After more than 4 years of fighting, \$442 billion spent, and thousands of American and Iraqi lives lost in this war, the war in Iraq has evolved into a conundrum of massive proportions. American money, in the amount of almost \$330 million per day, is being spent on the war. Distinguished colleagues, this adds up to more than \$10 billion per month.

I believe history will regard the decision to go to war in Iraq as a tragic mistake, especially when we realize the cost of this war. The House of Representatives has authorized \$39.8 billion for the Department of Homeland Security for fiscal year 2008. The United States government will approximately spend that same amount in Iraq within a span of only 120 days.

The Administration's decision to increase the number of troops in Iraq has added to the already tremendous strain on our military personnel and their families. Both President Bush and General David H. Petraeus, commander of U.S. forces in Iraq, have repeatedly said that there is no military solution to Iraq and that the sectarian strife and the insurgency can be resolved only by the Iraqi government. Simultaneously, the personal lives of our troops have been devastated by unexpected early deployments or unexpected delays in their homecomings. Consequently, we have a moral obligation to get our troops out of Iraq with the same determination that got them into Iraq in the first place.

While our Administration's attention has been on Iraq, 6 years after the Bush administration declared war on al Qaeda, the terrorist network is gaining strength and has established a safe haven in remote tribal areas of western Pakistan for training and planning attacks. The most recent National Intelligence Estimate (NIE) concludes that al Qaeda is growing stronger. The report states that al Qaeda may now be a stronger terrorist organization now than it was just a year ago, and may be back to its pre-9/11 strength and reach. Meanwhile, as Osama bin Laden operates freely along the Afghanistan-Pakistan border, the Administration wants to keep our troops in an open-ended Iraqi civil war. The same administration report concludes that the terrorist group has significantly rebuilt itself despite concerted U.S. attempts to smash the network. Interestingly, while the Administration has escalated our involvement in Iraq, al Qaeda has gained more training, more money, and enhanced their communications.

In addition, according to the Bush Administration's own assessment, the Iraqi government achieved only eight of 18 political and security benchmarks, a mixed rating on two and an unsatisfactory rating on eight benchmarks in a White House report prepared for Congress. The Administration has borne witness to the fact that we cannot continue to support the Iraqi government while the Iraqi government fails to achieve even moderate success. Therefore, it is time for them to determine their own destiny. We can continue to

extend the hand of friendship, but we have to handover the country to them. Iraqis must take control of their streets, their towns, and their country so we can bring our troops home.

Mr. Speaker, it is now time to require the President and the Secretary of Defense to commence the reduction of the number of United States Armed Forces in Iraq to a limited presence and begin to bring our troops home. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 2956, the Responsible Redeployment from Iraq Act.

FREE THE ISRAELI SOLDIERS

SPEECH OF

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2007

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, today marks the one year anniversary of the kidnapping of Israeli soldiers Eldad Regev and Udi Goldwasser by Hezbollah, in a brazen and unprovoked cross-border attack that also resulted in the deaths of three other members of the Israel Defense Forces.

Only weeks earlier, Hamas abducted another Israeli soldier, Gilad Shalit, and killed two others in an attack carried out on Israeli territory adjacent to the Gaza Strip.

These three brave soldiers—kidnapped by terrorists while conducting routine duties inside Israel—have endured over a year of captivity.

They have endured a year without proper medical care.

They have endured a year without their loved ones.

I rise today to let the Shalit, Goldwasser and Regev families know that we stand with them in this very difficult time, and that we are all praying for the safe and timely release of their courageous sons.

33RD ANNIVERSARY OF THE ILLEGAL TURKISH INVASION OF CYPRUS

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 18, 2007

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, as co-chair and co-founder of the Congressional Caucus on Hellenic Issues, I rise today to commemorate the 33rd anniversary of the 1974 illegal Turkish invasion of Cyprus. I have commemorated this day each year since I became a Member of Congress.

PSEKA (The International Coordinating Committee "Justice for Cyprus"), The Cyprus Federation of America, SAE (World Council of Hellenes Abroad), and The Federation of Hellenic Societies are primarily located in the 14th Congressional District of New York, which I am fortunate to represent.

These organizations have been strong advocates against the division of Cyprus and the human rights violations perpetrated by the Turkish army in Cyprus.

For the past several years, the Hellenic Caucus has been very engaged on the issues facing Cyprus. Many members of the Caucus remain concerned about the continued occu-

pation and division of the Republic of Cyprus. Turkey illegally invaded Cyprus in 1974. As a result of the Turkish invasion and occupation, 160,000 Greek Cypriots, amounting to 70 percent of the population of the occupied area and over a quarter of the total population, were forcibly expelled from their homes and approximately 5,000 Cypriots were killed. More than 1,400 Greek Cypriots, including four Americans of Cypriot descent, remain missing and unaccounted for since the Turkish invasion. Today, 33 years later, Turkey continues forcibly to occupy more than one-third of Cyprus with more than 43,000 Turkish troops. The peaceful and cooperative spirit in the person-to-person, family-to-family interactions between Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots is an encouraging sign for the successful reunification of Cyprus. However, it is time for Turkey to remove its troops from the island so that Cyprus can move forward as one nation.

As a full-fledged member of the European Union, Cyprus is playing a vital role in European affairs while also strengthening relations with the United States. It has joined with us on issues important to our own security, including the fight against terrorism and other forms of international crimes. Cyprus was the first EU member to join the ship boarding protocol of President Bush's Proliferation Security Initiative, particularly important because Cyprus has one of the world's largest commercial shipping registries. As Cyprus developed into a regional financial center, the government moved aggressively and put in place strong anti-money laundering legislation.

On July 8, 2006, the President of the Republic of Cyprus Tassos Papadopoulos and Turkish Cypriot leader Mehmet Ali Talat agreed to immediately begin a process of establishing bi-communal technical committees and working groups. This UN-brokered agreement also emphasized the need for confidence-building measures to make this process successful. Unfortunately, the Turkish Cypriot side has not reciprocated the positive approach taken by the Cyprus Government. President Papadopoulos proposed a meeting with the Turkish Cypriot leader Mr. Talat to jumpstart the process and move forward with the agreement. Mr. Talat initially accepted this invitation but on July 12th decided to cancel. I hope that the Turkish side will reconsider this decision so that the July 8th agreement can proceed.

On March 8, 2007, the Government of the Republic of Cyprus demolished a wall at Ledra Street in Nicosia, a key thoroughfare through the divided capital, as a gesture to facilitate the opening of Ledra Street as a crossing point. I have introduced H. Res. 407, which expresses the strong support of the House of Representatives for the positive actions by the Republic of Cyprus aimed at opening additional crossing points along the cease-fire line, thereby contributing to efforts for the reunification of the island. Once Turkey removes its occupation forces from the adjacent area and other issues of safety and security have been addressed, the citizens of Cyprus will be free to travel Ledra Street as they had generations ago.

I also strongly support legislation introduced by my colleagues including H.R. 1456, introduced by Representative PALLONE, which would enable U.S. citizens who own property in the Turkish-occupied territory of the Republic of Cyprus to seek financial remedies with

either the current inhabitants of their land or the Turkish government, and H. Res. 405, introduced by Representative BILIRAKIS, which expresses the strong support of the House of Representatives for the implementation of the UN-brokered July 8, 2006, agreement as the way forward to prepare for new comprehensive negotiations for the reunification of Cyprus.

The people of Cyprus deserve a unified and democratic country, and I remain hopeful that a peaceful settlement will be found so that the division of Cyprus will come to an end.

In recognition of the spirit of the people of Cyprus, I ask my colleagues to join me in solemnly commemorating the 33rd anniversary of the invasion of Cyprus.

Long Live Freedom.
Long Live Cyprus.
Long Live Greece.

HONORING THE 60TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY OF THOMAS AND BEVERLY SHAUGHNESSY

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 18, 2007

Mr. LIPINSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Thomas and Beverly Shaughnessy on their 60th wedding anniversary.

The Shaughnessys are long-time residents of Berwyn, Illinois and are the proud parents of two children. Thomas served the town of Berwyn as mayor for three terms, retiring in 2005. Beverly retired in 1999 from a career in public service working in the Cook County Circuit Court. Both Thomas and Beverly have been deeply involved in the community and continue to be to this day. Thomas belongs to the Knights of Columbus, VFW, the American Legion and the Claddaugh Ring, while Beverly is a member of the Berwyn Women's Club and the Red Hats.

It is my honor to recognize Thomas and Beverly Shaughnessy and provide my heartfelt congratulations to them on this wonderful event in their lives. Together they exemplify the ideals of strong family and public service. I would like to extend my best wishes to the Shaughnessys as they and their family celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary.

HONORING CAPTAIN RYAN KELLY

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 18, 2007

Mr. TANCREDO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Captain Ryan Kelly, an exceptional everyday hero from my district in Denver, Colorado. Ryan Kelly is one of many voices that paint a clear picture for America of the war our nation is waging. A company commander and an Army UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter pilot, Kelly spent a year fighting in Iraq.

Ryan Kelly participated in a national project by the National Endowment for the Arts called Operation Homecoming. This project sought to bring a real time perspective of what our soldiers are experiencing and allowing America to see through the lens of not only the soldiers

fighting this war, but also the family members they leave behind.

While serving our nation at war, Ryan Kelly wrote numerous letters home to his wife Judy and his mother Lynn. Two of his letters, as well as short stories, eyewitness accounts, poems and even lyrics written by other soldiers and their family members, appear in "Operation Homecoming," and his writing is also included in a new documentary, "Muse of Fire," with Ray Bradbury and Kevin Costner.

The messages contained within these words by the everyday heroes of America who are fighting this war need to be heard. The message of the sacrifice that our soldiers are making can be best summed up by this paragraph written by Ryan Kelly to his mother while he was serving in Iraq:

If it weren't for the Army uniforms and the constant noise of helicopters taking off and landing, and the Russian 747-like jets screaming overhead every hour of the day, and the F-16s screeching around looking for something to kill, and the rockets exploding and the controlled blasts shaking the windows and the "thump, thump, thump" sound of the Apache gun ships shooting their 30 mm guns in the middle of the night, and the heat and the cold, and the hero missions and the body bags and the stress, and the soldiers fraught with personal problems—child custody battles fought from 3,000 miles away, surgeries on ovaries, hearts, breasts, brains, cancers, transplants and the scorpions and the spiders who hide under the toilet seats, and the freakish bee-sized flies humming around like miniature blimps, and the worst: the constant pang of home, the longing for family, the knowledge that life is rolling past you like an unstoppable freight train, an inevitable force, reinforcing the desire for something familiar, the longing for something beautiful, for something safe, with love and laughter and poetry and cold lemonade and clean sheets, if it weren't for all that, Iraq would be just like home—almost.

I rise today to thank Captain Ryan Kelly and all of our Armed forces for their commitment to our country, and the sacrifice that all of them and their families are making.

TRIBUTE ON THE GRADUATION OF AMERICAN STUDENTS FROM THE LATIN AMERICAN SCHOOL OF MEDICAL SCIENCES IN CUBA

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 18, 2007

Ms. LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize and offer my personal congratulations to Dr. Melissa Barber, Dr. Evelyn Erickson, Dr. Carmen Landau, Dr. Toussaint Reynolds, Dr. Teresa Thomas, Dr. Wing Wu and especially my two constituents, Dr. Jose de Leon and Dr. Kenya Bingham, who will all be graduating on July 24, 2007 from the Latin American School of Medical Sciences. They have all traveled a long road to earn Medical Doctorates in Havana, Cuba.

These dedicated doctors overcame immense hurdles to complete their medical educations. They not only had to face 6 years away from home, but had to pursue their educations in Spanish after attending a 12-week intensive language program. They had to complete their studies cut off from their families and uncertain about their futures due to the

draconian Cuban embargo that continues to threaten this excellent program. I was proud to have initiated the scholarship program, along with other members of the Congressional Black Caucus, after a visit to Cuba in 2000. I am also proud to support the students' ability to travel to Cuba and I hope to encourage more students to take advantage of this incredible opportunity to bring access to healthcare back to those who need it most.

These pioneering students of medicine should be recognized for not only the many challenges that they had to overcome, but also for their dedication to service. They had to commit to serve in medically underserved communities, back home in the United States, in order to receive their free medical education in Cuba. The Cuban government offers 250 full scholarships each year for students from the United States to study medicine there. Tuition, dormitory room and board, and textbooks are all provided free of charge and allow students who might otherwise not have the resources to pursue medical degrees in the United States to become doctors and to serve the uninsured and underinsured who too often fall through the cracks of our for-profit healthcare industry.

It is my hope that these doctors have achieved will not only bring desperately needed health care to the uninsured, but will also serve as an example to the healthcare industry, the American people and the Members of this Congress, that health care is a basic human right, not a privilege.

RESPONSIBLE REDEPLOYMENT FROM IRAQ ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. PHIL ENGLISH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2007

Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, in March 2003 the United States set out, with the overwhelming support of the American people, to remove Saddam Hussein from power and establish a stable democracy in Iraq that would no longer threaten our nation or its neighbors. Coalition forces led by the finest military in the world, quickly accomplished the first goal. Unfortunately the conflict did not end at that point.

Future generations of military scholars will use this administration's conduct of military, diplomatic and reconstruction efforts in Iraq between June 2003 and November 2006 as a case study in how not to fight a war. The American people are justifiably disillusioned with almost every aspect of the conduct of our operations in Iraq for the past four years. The near sole exception to this disappointment is the pride which all Americans share in the dedication, professionalism and sacrifices of our men and women in uniform.

Time does not permit a full catalogue of errors, nor would a demonstration of 20-20 hindsight provide a positive contribution to this discussion. It is sufficient to recognize that by March 2006 forward thinking members of Congress recognized the need for a change of direction and asked the United States Institute of Peace to form an Iraq Study Group, ISG, to conduct a forward-looking, independent assessment of the current and prospective situation on the ground in Iraq, its impact on the

surrounding region, and consequences for U.S. interests.

On December 6th 2006, the Iraq Study Group presented a report to Congress containing 79 specific recommendations in support of three broad equally important strategies designed to reinforce each other:

A change in the primary mission of U.S. forces in Iraq that will enable the United States to begin to move its combat forces out of Iraq responsibly.

Prompt action by the Iraqi government to achieve milestones—particularly on national reconciliation; and

New and enhanced diplomatic and political efforts in Iraq and the region. Significantly, the ISG specifically rejected proposals for a precipitous withdrawal of U.S. combat forces or a major sustained increase in troop levels.

Unfortunately; the ISG report recommendations, which I immediately endorsed, was equally immediately rejected by both advocates of withdrawal and proponents of continued engagement. President Bush announced plans to “surge” 21,500 combat troops to Iraq and Democrats in Congress announced plans to cut off funding for the troops in the field unless the President agreed to an almost immediate withdrawal. I opposed both of these policies when they were announced, oppose them now and will continue to oppose them in the future.

President Bush and the Democrats in Congress both need to step back from their respective ideologically driven positions and focus on developing bipartisan legislation, based on recommendations of the Iraq Study Group, that will refocus U.S. operation in Iraq on helping the Iraqi people reconcile with each other and achieve a level of internal security that will make our continued presence unnecessary. We must shift the emphasis of U.S. military efforts from conducting combat operations to training the Iraqi security forces. We must demand that Iraqi government leaders set aside their sectarian differences and cooperate in governing their country for the greater good of all its citizens. Finally, we must work with governments in the region to eliminate the external threats to Iraqi security, particularly the foreign terrorists infiltrating from Syria and Iran.

Both President Bush and the Democrat leadership have paid lip service to the recommendations of the Iraq Study Group while steadfastly avoiding or actively opposing any effort to actually implement them. In early January 2007 President Bush took a single line in the ISG report regarding possible support for a SHORT TERM redeployment of U.S. combat forces to stabilize Baghdad and used it to justify a long term escalation of troop levels by over 20,000 soldiers. I immediately joined with several of my colleagues in sending a letter to the President expressing our opposition to this policy and shortly thereafter voted in favor of a Congressional resolution disapproving the surge. At almost the same time, the democrats in Congress seized upon another line in the ISG report acknowledging the United States should not make an open-ended commitment to keep large numbers of American troops deployed in Iraq and used it to justify a series of resolutions to cut off funding for the troops in the field. I have voted against each and every one of these efforts.

Neither President Bush nor the democrats in Congress has ever made any serious effort to

implement the ISG recommendations. In fact, the Democrat leadership in the House has consistently used a series of parliamentary maneuvers to prevent the subject from even being discussed. On June 6, 2007, I joined 45 of my colleagues as an original cosponsor of H.R. 2574, legislation to implement the recommendations of the Iraq Study Group. This legislation would establish as United States policy:

A new diplomatic offensive in the region that includes the creation of the Iraq International Support Group;

Giving the highest priority to training, equipping and advising the Iraqi military and security forces;

Assessing the full budgetary and personnel impact of the war in Iraq on the U.S. military;

Accelerating and increasing oil production and accountability including equitable distribution of oil revenues in Iraq;

Implementing and oversight of economic reconstruction programs in Iraq with the creation of a new Senior Advisor for Economic Reconstruction;

Ensuring that the President includes the cost of the war in his annual budget request; and

Setting conditions that could lead to redeployment of U.S. combat brigades not needed for force protection as early as the first quarter of 2008 if diplomatic, infrastructure and security benchmarks are met.

Last night I joined with Congressman WOLF to ask the Rules Committee to make in order an amendment that would substitute the proposals in The Iraq Study Group Recommendations Implementation Act for the fatally flawed language in H.R. 2956. On the directions of the Democrat leadership the Rules committee refused to even allow discussion of these proposals by voting 9–4 along party lines to not allow our amendment.

In the absence of cooperation between President Bush and the democrat leadership in Congress, our enemies have been emboldened and our allies have become discouraged. Sectarian violence continues to plague the Iraqi people. Iranian special operations forces are openly training insurgent forces, Turkey has massed nearly 140,000 troops on Iraq’s northern border and Syria continues to serve as a conduit for both illicit arms and foreign fighters. Meanwhile the democratically elected Iraqi government, in which our leaders took such pride just 18 months ago, has degenerated into a state of near paralysis. President Maliki becomes increasingly more marginalized with each passing day. The various ministries are riddled with corruption, incompetence and tribal rivalries. Finally, the Iraqi parliament has become so terrified of retribution they refuse to enact, or even vote on, any legislative proposal that cannot command the support of 100 percent of all sectarian leaders. This is a recipe not for progress but for disaster.

Under these circumstances, the democrat leaders in Congress bring us a partisan political statement masquerading as a not very substantive legislative proposal. I for one refuse to participate in their tawdry charade and will therefore vote NO on this legislation.

TRIBUTE TO THE UNITED STATES TENNIS ASSOCIATION BOYS’ 18 AND 16 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS ON ITS 65TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 18, 2007

Mr. UPTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the United States Tennis Association Boys’ 18 and 16 National Championships on the occurrence of its 65th Anniversary. Hosted at Kalamazoo College since 1943, the tournament has earned a reputation of prestige and excellence, offering the finest in men’s junior tennis anywhere in the world.

Over the past six and a half decades, most of the great names in American tennis—Agassi, Ashe, Connors, Courier, McEnroe, Roddick, Sampras, and Young, among many others—have competed at Kalamazoo’s Stowe Tennis Stadium for the coveted title of USTA junior champion. The Championships have not only been witness to many record achievements in junior athletics, but also many of the most exhilarating moments in sports history.

The continued success and popularity of this event can only be attributed to the hundreds of volunteers and sponsors throughout Southwest Michigan, who have generously given of themselves year after year. Special recognition is also accorded to Kalamazoo College and Western Michigan University, whose hospitality in hosting and organizing the tournament has been essential. Not least, for their exceptional contributions, Kalamazoo’s own Rolla L. Anderson, Timon Corwin, David R. Markin, and Allan B. Stowe are to be praised for providing the leadership and commitment necessary for the tournament to flourish.

Hosting the USTA Boys’ 18 and 16 National Championships for so many years has been a tremendous honor for my district. On this momentous occasion, we look back to those whose legacies are manifest in the present, as well as those future generations of volunteers and athletes that will build upon this tradition.

THE IMPACT OF AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT ON FOOD SECURITY IN AFRICA

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 18, 2007

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, this morning the Subcommittee on Africa and Global Health held a hearing on the impact of agricultural development on food security in Africa. Living in a country of plenty as we do, at least for most of us, where local grocery stores have aisles of fresh produce, cereal and even pet food, one can easily forget that other parts of the world are not similarly blessed, and what undernourishment that results from food insecurity means in practical terms.

UNICEF estimates that undernutrition is a leading cause of mortality of children under the age of five, contributing to the death of about 5 million children every year. One to two

percent of all children under 5 in the developing world, or almost 13 million, suffer from severe acute undernutrition. These children are far more susceptible to dying from childhood illnesses including diarrhea and pneumonia.

Of course, undernutrition does not affect only children. Twenty-five percent of all undernourished persons in the world, or about 218 million, live in Sub-Saharan Africa. This constitutes about 30 percent of that region's population.

Agriculture production is essential for addressing this crisis on both the local and national levels. And yet Africa faces numerous challenges in meeting the basic need of food and nutrition for its people. These include the simple lack of food in markets or fields; poor food delivery mechanisms; many people's inability to buy food or agricultural resources due to poverty; obstacles to food access due to social status; lack of sanitation and clean drinking water; and natural and man-made natural resources.

I can attest to at least one aspect of these challenges from my own experience in Africa. I have traveled along a segment of the Pan-African Highway, which is one of Africa's primary transportation routes. The part that I rode on is a narrow, paved, two-lane road with numerous bicyclists, pedestrians and animals walking along the shoulder. I was told that another major segment was a dirt road that was taking far longer than anticipated to be repaved. One often encounters open-air trucks overloaded with bananas or other produce broken down in the middle of the road, exposed to the sun and heat. I am told that they can remain there for hours or even days at a time. No one can travel this major road after dark, as the road is not lit and the danger of hitting one of these disabled vehicles or some other object on the road is too great. Even if a community is growing bumper crops of high quality agricultural produce, it would be next to impossible to transport food in a timely manner under these conditions.

As we are noting time and again during the subcommittee hearings, inadequate infrastructure is a major obstacle to development generally in Africa, and that certainly applies in the case of agricultural development. African leaders recognized this when they named increased agricultural trade capacity and infrastructure as one of the four pillars of the Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Program of the African Union's New Partnership for Africa's Development. The Subcommittee heard just three weeks ago how the Millennium Challenge Corporation is working to address this need. Congress should be looking for additional measures to create the infrastructure necessary to support agriculture businesses and rural farming populations.

It is unfortunate that some attribute Africa's food crisis, at least in part, to the Continent's population growth rate, and name people themselves, especially children, as a cause of the problem of food insecurity. At a recent hearing on the shortage of safe water in Africa, the Subcommittee learned that the United Nations Development Programme has found that the global water crisis is attributable to power, poverty and unequal access to safe drinking water, not shortages in quantity resulting from population increases.

I would propose that the same analysis applies with respect to the availability of food

and levels of food security. Many researchers on this issue attribute food insecurity not so much to an absolute deficit of food, particularly at the national and international levels, as to the failure of socioeconomic systems, including markets and political processes, to distribute food equitably or efficiently. Many are of the opinion that better functioning and open market systems are equally or even more important to providing adequate food supplies as absolute increases in food production. While we should and must seek to increase the quality and quantity of food supplies, we must also address longer-term challenges of policy and infrastructure to attain a permanent solution for food security. People themselves should be considered not a source of the problem, but a valuable resource in achieving this goal.

THE LAW LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 18, 2007

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, the Law Library of Congress was created by an Act of Congress in 1832. That year, President Andrew Jackson signed the bill into law stating that: ". . . be it enacted by the Senate and House . . . that it shall be the duty of the librarian to prepare an apartment near . . . Congress . . . for the purpose of a law library." Since then the Law Library's mission has expanded beyond service to Congress, to include making its resources available to the Supreme Court, other branches of the U.S. Government, the American public and the global legal community.

The Law Library's first systematic effort to collect legal documents from foreign nations began soon after the U.S.-Mexican War, when Congress directed the Law Library to obtain all available laws of Mexico; later, the laws of the major European nations were also added to the collection. The Law Library grew significantly during the 20th century, developing a much larger and well-cataloged collection, and publishing many authoritative reference works on U.S. and foreign laws. A sustained program for the acquisition of foreign legal material began after World War II, reflecting the expanding number of foreign jurisdictions, as well as the changing position of the United States in world affairs. The Law Library now has an unparalleled collection of 2.6 million volumes and is staffed by more than 100 lawyers, librarians, and other professionals.

The mission of The Law Library of Congress, the de facto national law library, is to make its resources available to Members of Congress, the Supreme Court, other branches of the U.S. Government, and the global legal community, and to sustain and preserve a universal collection of law for future generations.

Unique among libraries, the Law Library is a repository of legal and legislative documents from around the world, and the most comprehensive, current, and reliable resource of its kind. In addition to housing some of the world's rarest legal sources, the Law Library stands as the primary resource for legal research for the United States Congress in U.S. law as well as foreign, comparative, and international law. The Law Library also conducts

legal research for other branches of the U.S. Government and provides resources and services for the national and global legal community.

Dr. Rubens Medina has been the Law Librarian of Congress, since 1994. He holds a law degree from the National University of Asunción, Paraguay, a Ph.D. in Law and Sociology from the University of Wisconsin and has practiced and taught law in Paraguay and Chile. As Law Librarian of Congress, Medina manages and directs the government's only general legal research library and the largest law library in the world.

Medina also serves as Chair of the Executive Council of the Global Legal Information Network (GLIN), an international cooperative information system developed and maintained by the Law Library to serve the United States Congress. The recipient of numerous awards and fellowships, Medina recently was presented with a 2007 Federal 100 Award for shepherding the 2006 upgrade of GLIN, thereby providing citizens and nations with a means of accessing laws and related legal material from nations across Asia, Africa, Europe and the Americas, in 13 searchable languages. Medina first came to the Library of Congress in 1971, when he was appointed Chief of the Hispanic Law Division. He held the position until 1994, when he was appointed the 21st Law Librarian of Congress.

On July 14, 2007, the Law Library of Congress celebrated its 175th anniversary with a Gala Dinner in the Great Hall of the Library of Congress' Jefferson Building. Over 130 of the most respected and influential individuals in the political, legal, and educational world were present, including the Law Librarian of Congress, Dr. Rubens Medina, and the 175th Anniversary Honorary Chairperson, Jeffrey Toobin (from CNN).

Madam Speaker, I had the distinguished privilege of being the gala's keynote speaker. The Honorary Committee consisted of members from the Library of Congress, the Supreme Court, Congress, and representatives from AT&T, Hewlett-Packard Corporation, Real Networks, Inc., Microsoft, The World Bank, Apple, Sony Corporation and Google. Additional Friends of the Law Library sponsorship came from: Thomson West; Beirne, Maynard & Parsons, L.L.P.; Burton Foundation for Legal Achievement; HeinOnline; LexisNexis; Roll Call Group; American University and Congressional Quarterly, Inc. All of these society individuals were present to pay homage to the institution that serves as the world's largest law library.

The Law Library of Congress is truly one of the greatest resources available to this Nation. Enriched in years of history, it allows individuals from across the world to search for and research hundreds of years of legal advice, opinions, and case decisions, providing these individuals the opportunity to create laws for the future society. I salute the Law Library of Congress on its 175th year anniversary and all its achievements. Here is to another 175 years.

And that's just the way it is.

DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR,
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES,
AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED
AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS
ACT, 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 17, 2007

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3043) making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes:

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Chairman, I rise in opposition of the Stearns Amendment to the FY 2008 Labor-HHS-Education and Related Agencies Appropriations Act. This amendment would cut vital funding from the Corporation for National and Community Service. I am proud to be a part of those standing up in support of the corporation. I believe strongly that the programs supported by the Corporation embody the spirit of the American people, and it is important for Members of Congress to continue to support these programs.

As a Co-Chair of the National Service Caucus, it is a pleasure to call attention to the tremendous work of those involved at every level and in every program of the corporation. As a part of the corporation, AmeriCorps is a national service program that engages Americans of all ages and backgrounds in service. Since AmeriCorps was established in 1994, AmeriCorps members have performed over 637 million hours of service that help in each of our communities.

Through programs such as AmeriCorps State and National, Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA), and National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC), AmeriCorps volunteers address critical needs in our communities.

These generous men and women help supplement opportunities and programs in the areas of education, public safety, disaster response and recovery, and environment preservation.

As a result of the great work of AmeriCorps members, extraordinary things are happening all around America. The Corporation supports such important non-profit organizations as Habitat for Humanity, City Year, Red Cross and Teach for America. AmeriCorps volunteers have built homes, healed wounds, and taught elementary school kids. These volunteers are part of the backbone of America.

With very little funding, AmeriCorps members leverage millions of dollars and perform crucial work in classrooms, in national parks, and in areas of our nation hit by disaster. As a result, I hope that my colleagues will support AmeriCorps programs and vote against this amendment. The spirit of service that is so important to all of our communities is one that should be encouraged, not stripped of federal support.

Madam Chairman, I want to extend my greatest appreciation to those who have served our country through AmeriCorps programs. These volunteers have embraced the American spirit of volunteerism, and they are to be applauded for their service.

I strongly urge my colleagues to reject this misguided amendment.

25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LAND
STEWARDSHIP PROJECT

HON. TIMOTHY J. WALZ

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 18, 2007

Mr. WALZ of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, today I rise to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the Land Stewardship Project.

I would like to applaud the outstanding work this organization does representing Minnesota's family farmers and promoting sustainable approaches to farming practices. From its very beginnings, the Land Stewardship Project has advanced practical stewardship solutions and built widespread public support for an agricultural system in which family farms, small towns and a healthy environment can thrive.

Over the years, the Land Stewardship Project has fought to ensure a healthier food supply, preserve our soil, water and wildlife habitat, and support diversified and profitable family farming. The Land Stewardship Project has created a positive alternative for Minnesota producers and rural residents. And, as those of us in elected office know, the Land Stewardship Project is a strong, effective voice on behalf of its members.

With their "Farm Beginnings Program," the Land Stewardship Project educates beginning farmers in the basics of financial management. This program has helped bring the next generation of farmers and ranchers into agriculture and has graduated over 300 students in the past 10 years.

For their 25 years of service to Minnesota's farmers and rural communities, I commend the members and staff of the Land Stewardship Project and I look forward to their bright future.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF LAFARGE
OF NORTH AMERICA CEMENT
PLANT

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 18, 2007

Mr. STUPAK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a business in my district that has enjoyed a proud history in northern Michigan. This month, Lafarge of North America's cement plant in Alpena, Michigan celebrates its 100th anniversary. For one hundred years, through three different owners, the Alpena cement plant has led the cement industry with innovations and served as an example of the industriousness of the people of northern Michigan.

The plant began as the Huron Portland Cement Company. The idea for the plant originated from Harry J. Paxton of Fenton, Michigan. While, during this time, Michigan had many young men full of entrepreneurial spirit, Mr. Paxton had a unique passion: Portland cement. He had learned to produce cement while managing a small mill at Fenton. Another one of the early cement pioneers in Alpena was John B. Ford, who served as the company's first president.

In January of 1907, Articles of Association were filed for the Huron Portland Cement Company in Lansing, Michigan. The purpose of the corporation was stated simply as "The

Manufacture of Portland Cement." Capital stock was listed as merely "twelve hundred thousand dollars" divided into twelve thousand shares of the par value of one hundred dollars. From these meager beginnings, the City of Alpena Michigan would grow into its nickname "Cement City."

When the plant first started, stone from the quarries in Alpena were loaded by hand into horse-drawn wagons to be delivered to the plant. By these crude means, cement was produced in Alpena, loaded, again, by hand, into ships moored at Alpena's Thunder Bay. The cement was then transported across the Great Lakes to ports throughout the Midwest, where the product served as the basic fabric of America's economic growth and industrialization. As our great Nation paved its roads and built its highways, much of the cement used came from the Huron Portland Cement Company of Alpena, Michigan.

Over time, steam driven shovels and rail cars took the place of the horse-drawn wagons and human muscle. In turn, the steam driven shovels and rail cars were replaced by electric shovels and large haul trucks. Today, a large front-end loader and huge haul trucks are used to mine the rock. At Lafarge's modern plant, state-of-the-art electronics, computers and x-ray analyzers controlled by highly skilled and educated employees produce a high quality product with maximum efficiency.

Over the years, individuals with great vision, indeed, leaders of the cement industry, developed the cement plant in Alpena. There have been many significant technological developments at the Alpena plant. One of the most important was the invention of the air slide in the late 1940s. After the air slide patent was sold to the Fuller Company, it was refined and became a widely used piece of equipment in a number of industries.

The Alpena plant was also the first of two North American plants to use waste heat from its kilns to generate steam, which drives turbines producing electricity. In 4 days, the turbines produce enough electricity to power each residence in the county of Alpena for 3 weeks. In 1957, the plant was purchased by National Gypsum, which owned and operated the Alpena cement plant for nearly 30 years, until the plant was sold to Lafarge of North America.

Under Lafarge's leadership, the plant has continued to innovate. In recent years, the Alpena Plant has significantly reduced its use of the virgin natural resources it uses as raw material in the cement manufacturing process, replacing them with waste from other industries. This concept of reusing industries' waste for another industry's raw materials is called "industrial ecology," and LaFarge's Alpena Plant has been a pioneer in this area. This development provides another example of how Lafarge of Alpena has helped lead the North American cement industry into the future.

Madam Speaker, 100 years after it was built, the Alpena cement plant still towers over the City of Alpena and Thunder Bay. Today, the Alpena cement plant is the largest plant in Lafarge's North American portfolio, a testament to Lafarge's continued faith and investment in the people and community of Alpena.

While a century has passed, the Alpena cement plant remains standing as a physical tribute, a testament to the role northern Michigan and the City of Alpena has played in the cement industry and in our nation's economic

growth. This week, the people of Alpena will celebrate 100 years of the plant's existence and their reputation as "Cement City." The workers—past and present—who have labored there as well as the plant's previous and current owner all deserve our enduring respect for their contributions to the cement industry's past, present and future. Madam Speaker, on the centennial celebration of the Alpena cement plant, I would ask that you and the entire U.S. House of Representatives join me in saluting this northern Michigan institution.

MEDICAL WAITING TIMES A PROBLEM FOR AMERICAN CONSUMERS

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 18, 2007

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, I rise today on behalf of my constituents who continue to receive inadequate health coverage in our broken health care system. With the recent release of Michael Moore's documentary, "Sicko," attention is being brought to the many problems perpetuated by our health care system, especially those that result from a desire on the part of insurers to maximize their profits. The movie strikes a chord with my constituents who know that, in a Nation in which over 45 million citizens are uninsured, even those with health insurance are at risk for not getting the health care they need. Although those who support the status quo have been quick to criticize the movie, its popularity in my district underscores its resonance with my constituents who are dissatisfied with a system that has failed them over and over again and who are demanding comprehensive change.

I am deeply troubled by recent comments from health insurance companies and their defenders arguing that wait times under universal health care systems are disproportionately longer than those in our private health system. Such comments gloss over the realities faced by my constituents, who continue to call and write my office frustrated that pre-existing conditions, pre-approval, and prohibitive costs have made long wait-times commonplace for them. Recent statistics from the Institution of Healthcare Improvement reveal that Americans nationwide are waiting an average of 70 days to see a provider. In many circumstances, people who are initially diagnosed with cancer are waiting over a month. Is this the best we can do for our citizens in the richest, most prosperous nation in the world?

When we compare ourselves to nations with national health care, the statistics paint a much different picture than the critics would like us to believe. According to a recent article in *Business Week* ("The Doctor Will See You—In Three Months"—July 9, 2007), "both data and anecdotes show that the American people are already waiting as long or longer than patients living with universal health-care systems." In addition, a Commonwealth Fund study that compared the U.S. health-care system to five industrialized countries with national health coverage showed that waiting times were worse in the U.S. than in all of the other countries but one. Only 47 percent of

U.S. patients can get a same or next-day appointment for a basic medical problem, and 26 percent of U.S. adults have gone to an emergency room in the past 2 years because they couldn't get in to see their regular doctor when needed.

As long as Congress ignores this issue, our constituents will continue to wait for medical care that should be provided to them expeditiously. It is disappointing that this problem has been left on the backburner for so long, and I hope that this reinvigorated health-care discussion will allow us as Members to seize the opportunity to do what is right for our constituents. I strongly urge Members to read the attached *Business Week* article and a recent column by Paul Krugman that describe the health-care waiting game that so many of our constituents face on a regular basis.

[From *Business Week*, July 9, 2007]

THE DOCTOR WILL SEE YOU—IN THREE MONTHS

(By Catherine Arnst)

The health-care reform debate is in full roar with the arrival of Michael Moore's documentary *Sicko*, which compares the U.S. system unfavorably with single-payer systems around the world. Critics of the film are quick to trot out a common defense of the American way: For all its problems, they say, U.S. patients at least don't have to endure the endless waits for medical care endemic to government-run systems. The lobbying group America's Health Insurance Plans spells it out in a rebuttal to *Sicko*: "The American people do not support a government takeover of the entire health-care system because they know that means long waits for rationed care."

In reality, both data and anecdotes show that the American people are already waiting as long or longer than patients living with universal health-care systems. Take Susan M., a 54-year-old human resources executive in New York City. She faithfully makes an appointment for a mammogram every April, knowing the wait will be at least six weeks. She went in for her routine screening at the end of May, then had another because the first wasn't clear. That second X-ray showed an abnormality, and the doctor wanted to perform a needle biopsy, an outpatient procedure. His first available date: mid-August. "I completely freaked out," Susan says. "I couldn't imagine spending the summer with this hanging over my head." After many calls to five different facilities, she found a clinic that agreed to read her existing mammograms on June 25 and promised to schedule a follow-up MRI and biopsy if needed within 10 days. A full month had passed since the first suspicious X-rays. Ultimately, she was told the abnormality was nothing to worry about, but she should have another mammogram in six months. Taking no chances, she made an appointment on the spot. "The system is clearly broken," she laments.

It's not just broken for breast exams. If you find a suspicious-looking mole and want to see a dermatologist, you can expect an average wait of 38 days in the U.S., and up to 73 days if you live in Boston, according to researchers at the University of California at San Francisco who studied the matter. Got a knee injury? A 2004 survey by medical recruitment firm Merritt, Hawkins & Associates found the average time needed to see an orthopedic surgeon ranges from 8 days in Atlanta to 43 days in Los Angeles. Nationwide, the average is 17 days. "Waiting is definitely a problem in the U.S., especially for basic care," says Karen Davis, president of the nonprofit Commonwealth Fund, which studies health-care policy.

All this time spent "queuing," as other nations call it, stems from too much demand and too little supply. Only one-third of U.S. doctors are general practitioners, compared with half in most European countries. On top of that, only 40% of U.S. doctors have arrangements for after-hours care, vs. 75% in the rest of the industrialized world.

Consequently, some 26% of U.S. adults in one survey went to an emergency room in the past two years because they couldn't get in to see their regular doctor, a significantly higher rate than in other countries.

There is no systemized collection of data on wait times in the U.S. That makes it difficult to draw comparisons with countries that have national health systems, where wait times are not only tracked but made public. However, a 2005 survey by the Commonwealth Fund of sick adults in six nations found that only 47% of U.S. patients could get a same- or next-day appointment for a medical problem, worse than every other country except Canada.

The Commonwealth survey did find that U.S. patients had the second-shortest wait times if they wished to see a specialist or have nonemergency surgery, such as a hip replacement or cataract operation (Germany, which has national health care, came in first on both measures). But Gerard F. Anderson, a health policy expert at Johns Hopkins University, says doctors in countries where there are lengthy queues for elective surgeries put at-risk patients on the list long before their need is critical. "Their wait might be uncomfortable, but it makes very little clinical difference," he says.

The Commonwealth study did find one area where the U.S. was first by a wide margin: 51% of sick Americans surveyed did not visit a doctor, get a needed test, or fill a prescription within the past two years because of cost. No other country came close.

Few solutions have been proposed for lengthy waits in the U.S., in part, say policy experts, because the problem is rarely acknowledged. But the market is beginning to address the issue with the rise of walk-in medical clinics. Hundreds have sprung up in CVS, Wal-Mart, Pathmark, and other stores—so many that the American Medical Assn. just adopted a resolution urging state and federal agencies to investigate such clinics as a conflict of interest if housed in stores with pharmacies. These retail clinics promise rapid care for minor medical problems, usually getting patients in and out in 30 minutes. The slogan for CVS's Minute Clinics says it all: "You're sick. We're quick."

How the U.S. Stacks Up: Able To Get Appointment Same or Next Day for Medical Problem

	Percent
New Zealand	81
Germany	63
Britain	61
Australia	56
U.S.	7
Canada	36

Data: Commonwealth Fund

[From the *New York Times*, July 16, 2007]

THE WAITING GAME

(By Paul Krugman)

Being without health insurance is no big deal. Just ask President Bush. "I mean, people have access to health care in America," he said last week. "After all, you just go to an emergency room."

This is what you might call callousness with consequences. The White House has announced that Mr. Bush will veto a bipartisan plan that would extend health insurance, and with it such essentials as regular checkups and preventive medical care, to an estimated

4.1 million currently uninsured children. After all, it's not as if those kids really need insurance—they can just go to emergency rooms, right?

O.K., it's not news that Mr. Bush has no empathy for people less fortunate than himself. But his willful ignorance here is part of a larger picture: by and large, opponents of universal health care paint a glowing portrait of the American system that bears as little resemblance to reality as the scare stories they tell about health care in France, Britain, and Canada.

The claim that the uninsured can get all the care they need in emergency rooms is just the beginning. Beyond that is the myth that Americans who are lucky enough to have insurance never face long waits for medical care.

Actually, the persistence of that myth puzzles me. I can understand how people like Mr. Bush or Fred Thompson, who declared recently that "the poorest Americans are getting far better service" than Canadians or the British, can wave away the desperation of uninsured Americans, who are often poor and voiceless. But how can they get away with pretending that insured Americans always get prompt care, when most of us can testify otherwise?

A recent article in *Business Week* put it bluntly: "In reality, both data and anecdotes show that the American people are already waiting as long or longer than patients living with universal health-care systems."

A cross-national survey conducted by the Commonwealth Fund found that America ranks near the bottom among advanced countries in terms of how hard it is to get medical attention on short notice (although Canada was slightly worse), and that America is the worst place in the advanced world if you need care after hours or on a weekend.

We look better when it comes to seeing a specialist or receiving elective surgery. But Germany outperforms us even on those measures—and I suspect that France, which wasn't included in the study, matches Germany's performance.

Besides, not all medical delays are created equal. In Canada and Britain, delays are caused by doctors trying to devote limited medical resources to the most urgent cases. In the United States, they're often caused by insurance companies trying to save money.

This can lead to ordeals like the one recently described by Mark Kleiman, a professor at U.C.L.A., who nearly died of cancer because his insurer kept delaying approval for a necessary biopsy. "It was only later," writes Mr. Kleiman on his blog, "that I discovered why the insurance company was stalling; I had an option, which I didn't know I had, to avoid all the approvals by going to 'Tier II,' which would have meant higher copayments."

He adds, "I don't know how many people my insurance company waited to death that year, but I'm certain the number wasn't zero."

To be fair, Mr. Kleiman is only surmising that his insurance company risked his life in an attempt to get him to pay more of his treatment costs. But there's no question that some Americans who seemingly have good insurance nonetheless die because insurers are trying to hold down their "medical losses"—the industry term for actually having to pay for care.

On the other hand, it's true that Americans get hip replacements faster than Canadians. But there's a funny thing about that example, which is used constantly as an argument for the superiority of private health insurance over a government-run system: the large majority of hip replacements in the United States are paid for by, um, Medicare.

That's right: the hip-replacement gap is actually a comparison of two government

health insurance systems. American Medicare has shorter waits than Canadian Medicare (yes, that's what they call their system) because it has more lavish funding—end of story. The alleged virtues of private insurance have nothing to do with it.

The bottom line is that the opponents of universal health care appear to have run out of honest arguments. All they have left are fantasies: horror fiction about health care in other countries, and fairy tales about health care here in America.

INTRODUCTION OF THE LEAD POISONING REDUCTION ACT

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 18, 2007

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Madam Speaker, today I am pleased to introduce the Lead Poisoning Reduction Act, a bill that will remove toxic lead hazards from childcare facilities, and put an end to an entirely avoidable public health crisis. It is critical that Congress provide our communities the tools necessary to make the places where our children spend their time safe and defend them from the dangers that exposure to lead poses to their health.

Exposure to lead is not safe for anyone, but children are most vulnerable among us. Even the slightest amounts of lead can do serious, irreparable damage because their bodies and minds are still in developmental stages. Among many other things, lead poisoning can cause learning disabilities, brain damage, organ failure, coma and even death in children. Despite the knowledge of the risks associated with exposure to lead hazards and the availability of tools that can prevent more children from suffering from lead poisoning, 310,000 American children are affected every year.

Unfortunately, lead poisoning remains a threat to our children in places where they ought to feel the most safe—our childcare facilities. According to a report from the Environmental Protection Agency, nearly 12 million children under the age of five spend 40 hours a week in childcare. The Department of Housing and Urban Development has reported that approximately 14 percent of licensed childcare centers across the U.S. have hazardous levels of lead-based paint. Children attending daycare centers in the Northeast and Midwest are at a greater risk of being exposed to lead hazards, as 40 percent of the childcare facilities in those regions were built before 1960.

In addition to lead hazards posed by paint at childcare facilities, these old buildings are home to corroded pipes and water lines which are also sources of lead exposure. A parent should not have to worry about their child consuming lead when their thirsty child visits a drinking fountain.

Our childcare professionals must have the tools they need to guard our children from lead poisoning. The Lead Poisoning Reduction Act would establish a Select Group on Lead Exposure comprised of experts from the National Institute of Environmental Health Science, the Administration for Children and Families, the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, the Secretary of Education, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The Select Group will

conduct a study of child-occupied facilities created before 1978 and develop baseline standards that facilities must meet to receive grants under this Act. To help childcare facilities comply with the new lead-safety standards, the bill establishes a grant program to defray associated costs. Finally, the Act requires that all contractors hired for repair, renovations, or reconstruction of childcare facilities be provided with educational materials about lead hazards and the guidance necessary to avoid imposing additional risks.

The Lead Poisoning Reduction Act fills a major gap in our national policy to eradicate lead poisoning by 2010 by providing the guidance and resources need to protect our children from lead hazards in their childcare facilities.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the Lead Poisoning Reduction Act.

RESPONSIBLE REDEPLOYMENT FROM IRAQ ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. ALBERT RUSSELL WYNN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2007

Mr. WYNN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this resolution. Our continued engagement in Iraq is obscene and pointless. We went into Iraq to thwart the development of weapons of mass destruction, then to effect regime change of a ruthless dictator, then to promote the establishment of a democratic government, then to our currently sad assessment that we cannot leave because it will result in a catastrophe—and now we find ourselves serving as policemen in the middle of a civil war.

The Administration can no longer deny, after 3,611 American soldiers dead, over a thousand American contractors dead and over twelve thousand wounded, an estimated 50 thousand or more Iraqis dead, and 12,014 Americans severely injured and countless American families disrupted, that to continue down this path is both irresponsible and tragic.

We cannot resolve the Iraqi civil war. We cannot prop up a government that refuses to lead, and despite Vice President CHENEY's fondest wishes, we will not be able to control Iraqi oil. It's past time to bring our troops home.

What about the aftermath of our leaving? The Shiite and Sunni in turn will have to look at each other and ask, now that the United States is gone what do we do? They can either continue killing each other or work for peace. The United States must disengage militarily, but we cannot abandon the Iraqi people. After our departure, the United States must work to assist Iraqis and the Muslim countries in the region to develop a peace process. I am confident the Iraqi people want peace, and neighboring countries don't want the sectarian conflict to spread across the region. Currently, we are an impediment to peace.

The United States should continue to provide humanitarian support and aid for reconstruction for schools and hospitals, with increased Congressional oversight. We must also support an Iraqi peace process, brokered by the parties in the region or respected 3rd

party religious leaders or the U.N. However, the United States does not have the credibility to broker such a process. It is time for the United States to get out of the way and become part of the solution instead of part of the problem.

It is time for United States to bring American troops home from Iraq.

RECOGNIZING TYLER MCLAIN FOR
ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE
SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 19, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Tyler McLain of Pleasant Valley, MO. Tyler is 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 394, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Tyler has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many 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 McLain for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF AMY SULLIVAN

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 19, 2007

Ms. DeLAURO. Madam Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to join family, friends, and colleagues in paying tribute to an extraordinary woman and my good friend, Amy Sullivan, who lost her long battle with cancer earlier this month. Amy was a very special part of so many lives and was taken from us all too soon.

Graduating with a degree in English Literature and Theater Arts from Upsala College followed by a 2 year acting program at the Neighborhood Playhouse School of Theater, Amy began her career as a performer. She went on to become a program director for the American Theater Wing and a special assistant to Broadway producers Robert Whitehead and Elliot Martin. After she completed her master's degree in Arts Administration from the Yale School of Drama, Amy worked in a variety of positions—always working to promote and further the arts in Connecticut. She lectured at the Yale Drama School, served as a panelist for the Connecticut Commission on the Arts, and was an active member and Trustee of several Connecticut arts organizations including the Florence Griswold Museum and Young Audiences of Connecticut. It is no wonder why she has been recognized by the State of Connecticut as well as on this very floor for her outstanding and invaluable contributions to the arts and arts education.

Named Executive Director of the Eugene O'Neill Theater Center in Waterford, Connecticut in September of 2003, it was Amy's passion for the arts and commitment to education that allowed the O'Neill to return to its original splendor. Named in honor of America's sole Nobel Prize winning playwright, Eugene O'Neill, the O'Neill is a non-profit organization that is home to six distinct programs: the O'Neill Playwrights Conference, Music Theater Conference, Puppetry Conference, National Theater Institute, Critics Institute, and the Monte Cristo Cottage, O'Neill's childhood home located in neighboring New London. At The O'Neill, writers and directors, puppeteers and singers, students and audiences alike take their first steps in exploring, revising and understanding their work and the potential of the theater they help create. The O'Neill has established a distinguished reputation as the pre-eminent developmental laboratory for new works and new artists. Sharing the vision of founder George C. White, Amy's determination and leadership led to the creation of a new development conference for Cabaret and Performance, the initiation of an accredited National Theater Institute summer learning program, as well as the renovation and re-opening of the Monte Cristo Cottage. All of this accomplished in just 3 short years.

In January of this year, Amy stepped down from her position at the O'Neill and just a few short months later, Connecticut's arts family lost one of its strongest and most beloved advocates. I was fortunate to have known Amy on a more personal level. I first met Amy when she worked with my mother, Luisa, at the St. Francis Home for Children in New Haven and, most recently, it was Amy who presented me with a very special award honoring Connecticut's "uncommon women." Advocate, mentor, friend, mother, and wife, Amy was an extraordinary woman whose passion, commitment, and dedication touched the lives of many.

She will not only be missed by those who knew her but by all of those, present and future, in the arts community she so loved. I extend my heart-felt sympathies to her husband, Bruce, her son, Dan, family, friends, and colleagues as they mourn the loss of Amy Sullivan and remember all that she gave to our community.

HONORING KEVIN MILLS OF
CITRUS COUNTY, FL

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 19, 2007

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Kevin Mills, a Naval Petty Officer from Citrus County, FL, currently stationed in Norfolk, VA. His parents, Barbara and Jerry, reside in Inverness, FL.

A graduate of Citrus High School, Kevin enlisted in the Army in October 2000. After attending basic training in Great Lake, IL, Christopher was assigned to Basic Electronics Technical Corps at Naval Training Command in Illinois. Following his graduation, Kevin accepted his duty command on the USS *Shreveport* in Norfolk, VA.

During his 7 years of service, Kevin has taken part in Operation Enduring Freedom off

the coast of Afghanistan, conducted Maritime Interception Operations off the coast of Africa, and in 2007 was deployed to COB Speicher, Iraq, in support of the Counter Improvised Explosive Devices Units.

Kevin has served many hours in humanitarian aid and several Navy Public relations projects. He has represented the Navy and Marine Corp color guard at New York's Annual Fleet Week celebration and Boston's Bunker Hill Day, as well as at the 2005 National Scout Jamboree held at Fort A.P. Hill. Kevin and the USS *Shreveport* also brought humanitarian aid to hurricane Katrina victims and help established the Joint Task Force Katrina's TOC.

Kevin's awards throughout his Naval career include two Army Commendation Medals, two Navy and Marine Corps achievement medals, a Navy Unit Commendation, two Good Conduct Medals, a National Defense Service Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Armed Forces Service Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal, three Sea Service Deployment Ribbons, a Navy Expert Rifle Medal, Navy Expert Pistol Medal, as well as being qualified as Enlisted Surface Warfare Specialist.

Madam Speaker, it is soldiers like Kevin Mills who volunteer to protect the freedoms that all Americans hold dear to their hearts. While brave men and women like Kevin serve in the name of freedom and liberty, his family, friends, and loved ones should know that this Congress will never forget his sacrifice and commitment.

IN RECOGNITION OF SAINTS
PETER AND PAUL CHURCH

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 19, 2007

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Saints Peter and Paul Russian Orthodox Church, on the occasion of their 90th anniversary, and to celebrate their contributions to the Cleveland community.

Since its founding, Sts. Peter and Paul Church has been a cornerstone of the Cleveland community, faithful to the Biblical imperative of concern for neighbor. Despite all the changes that our community has endured, Sts. Peter and Paul Church has been a lynchpin of the community, strengthening the fibers that have made Cleveland one of the most culturally diverse cities in the Nation.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring Saints Peter and Paul Russian Orthodox Church as they celebrate their 90th anniversary. May their faithful stewardship and service to the community endure for another 90 years.

HONORING CHRISTOPHER BLANCHARD
OF CITRUS COUNTY,
FLORIDA

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 19, 2007

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor SFC

Christopher Blanchard, an army soldier from Citrus County, Florida, currently stationed in Ft. Eustis, Virginia. His parents Sheila and Tom Densmore reside in Inverness, Florida.

A graduate of Citrus County High School, Christopher enlisted in the Army in September, 1998. After attending basic training at Ft. Jackson in South Carolina, Christopher was assigned to Ft. Eustis for advanced training as an aircraft technician.

Following his training, Christopher was assigned to Ansbach, Germany, where he performed electrical work on army helicopters. As part of a peace-keeping mission in Kosovo, Christopher spent 6 months on the ground helping to keep the fragile peace accords in place.

Christopher was next stationed in Hawaii for 4 years, where he took part in missions to Bosnia and Afghanistan. Currently he is a senior instructor for the helicopter instructor's course at Ft. Eustis, training new recruits in helicopter maintenance and electric work.

Over the course of his service, Christopher has earned many medals and commendations, including five Army Commendation Medals, two Army Achievement Medals, an Army Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Kosovo Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Non-Commissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon, Overseas Ribbon, two NATO Medals, Aviation Badge, Air Assault Badge, and Driver/Mechanic Badge. In January 2008, Christopher will attend Warrant Officer Candidate School at Ft. Rucker, Alabama. Following the completion of his training, Christopher will be assigned to his next duty station as an Aviation Maintenance Officer.

Madam Speaker, it is soldiers like Christopher Blanchard who volunteer to protect the freedoms that all Americans hold dear to their hearts. While brave men and women like Christopher serve in the name of freedom and liberty, his family, friends, and loved ones should know that this Congress will never forget his sacrifice and commitment.

RECOGNIZING ALEX DIERINGER
FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF
EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 19, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Alex Dieringer of Maryville, MO. Alex is 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 75, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Alex has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Alex 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 Alex Dieringer for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING RONALD SHAW, CHAIRMAN OF PILOT PEN CORPORATION OF AMERICA, ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 19, 2007

Ms. DeLAURO. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to join the many family, friends, colleagues and community leaders who have gathered to pay tribute to one of our most influential and successful business leaders, Ronald Shaw, as he celebrates his retirement from Pilot Pen Corporation of America after more than three decades of dedicated service.

When one thinks of industry leaders, Ron Shaw is a name that comes to mind immediately. If you know Ron, it is not difficult to believe that he began his career as a stand-up comedian—opening for the likes of Rosemary Clooney, Dean Martin, Connie Francis, and even Liberace. Ironically, it was through learning to “sell himself” that he developed his keen business sense. Knowing that the life of a stand-up comic was not conducive to his new found family life, Ron left the stage to, as he says, “get a real job.”

Joining Pilot Pen in 1975, the company has flourished under his leadership. In the three decades during which Ron has been with the company, sales have grown from \$1 million annually to nearly \$200 million. It has been through his vision and leadership that the company has continued to expand both in size and markets. Look around you and very shortly you will inevitably find one of their many products. From the pens we use every day to your child's Magna Doodle, Pilot Pen products are everywhere. It is no wonder that Ron is one of only six Americans to have served on the Board of Directors on any publicly held Japanese company.

From local companies such as Laticrete International, the Shubert Theater, and the University of New Haven to national organizations like the Anti-Defamation League, Larry King Cardiac Foundation, and the City of Hope National Medical Center, Ron has dedicated countless hours to industry and civic organizations focused on enriching the lives of our citizens. Ron has always wanted to make a difference in the lives of others—especially our young people. Inspiring our youth was the impetus behind the writing and publication of his book, “Pilot Your Life.” Wanting the book to serve as a career guide to college graduates, he hoped that in reading about his own experiences, they could learn from his mistakes and take advantage of some of the opportunities he did not. Ron has always held a strong belief in the American Dream—the opportunity to build your own business and make your own success—his parting advice in his book and a lesson that he certainly imparted to his own children, all of whom are small business owners today.

I have been fortunate to know Ron for many years and have always been grateful for his special friendship. For his many outstanding contributions, both professional and personal, I am pleased to join his wife, Phyllis, his children; Steven and his wife Carrie, Susan and her husband Michael, as well as Alan and his wife Nancy, his five grandchildren; Lauren,

Bryan, Stephanie, Jacob, and Yael; and all of those gathered this evening in extending my sincere thanks and heartfelt congratulations to Ronald Shaw as he celebrates his retirement. My very best wishes for many more years of health and happiness.

IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF
SUE WALTERS

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 19, 2007

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of Sue Walters, loving mother, grandmother, community activist, and dear friend and mentor to many. Her passing marks a great loss for her family and friends, and also for our entire Cleveland community, whom she served with the highest level of commitment, concern, integrity and honor.

Mrs. Walters worked tirelessly in support of the democratic process. Her involvement in several local campaigns, including my own, infused a vital level of energy throughout the process, and inspired everyone around her. “Susie,” as she was affectionately known by friends and co-workers, reflected an exceptional sense of humor, and her consistently sunny outlook naturally drew others to her—elevating the spirits of all of us.

Madam Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and remembrance of Sue Walters, whose boundless love for life served as a source of inspiration and joy for everyone who knew her well. I extend my deepest condolences to her beloved husband, Thomas; her children, Michelle and Thomas; her grandchildren, Jill Marie and Anthony Thomas; and also to her extended family and many friends.

Mrs. Walter's immeasurable heart, sparkling personality and focus on social action has forever touched the lives of countless individuals, young and old, and her unbridled spirit and vital work will soar forever in the hearts of those who knew and loved her well, especially her family, friends and the people of Cleveland, Ohio.

HONORING ANGELA MARIE
CERNICH OWENS OF INVERNESS,
FLORIDA

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 19, 2007

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Specialist Angela Marie Cernich Owens, a soldier from Inverness, Florida currently serving in Iraq.

Born in Omaha, Nebraska, Angela moved to Citrus County at a young age. She attended Floral City Elementary and Citrus High, eventually graduating from Withlacoochee Technical School. An acclaimed golfer on her high school team, Angela received many trophies for her prowess on the golf course.

Sworn into the military on September 10, 2001, Angela has seen firsthand the changes in the military since September 11. Originally

assigned to basic training in South Carolina, Angela was eventually sent to Ft. Sill, Oklahoma and Ft. Lewis, Washington before her deployment to Iraq in January 2005.

During her first tour in Iraq, Angela earned the Command Team Coin for Excellence for her role in missions outside Mosul. Disguised as a local Iraqi in the full length black dress and head cover, Angela worked side by side with her fellow soldiers to conduct the peace keeping missions so vital to stability in Iraq.

Upon her return from her first tour of duty, Angela was assigned to Ft. Lewis, where she was trained as a sniper. She also met her husband, James Russell Owens, and the two were married in September of 2006. Both Angela and James have since been reassigned to Iraq and are stationed at Camp TQ.

Madam Speaker, it is soldiers like Angela Marie Cernich Owens who volunteer to protect the freedoms that all Americans hold dear to their hearts. While brave men and women like Angela serve in the name of freedom and liberty, her family, friends and loved ones should know that this Congress will never forget her sacrifice and commitment.

SENATE ALL-NIGHTER

HON. JOSEPH R. PITTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 19, 2007

Mr. PITTS. Madam Speaker, I am sure we have all seen the images on the evening news and in this week's papers.

Cots laid out in the Capitol's hallways to provide for an all-night debate on Iraq. Oh, the plight of the modern day United States Senator.

What a decision to make. Sleep on a leather couch in a Capitol hideaway, or bunk up in the LBJ Room on a turned-down rollaway. We appreciate these good Senators' tough sacrifice, but how about our troops in the field?

While Senators are trying to get some shut-eye between rhetorical battles on the Senate floor, our soldiers are getting no sleep while dodging real bullets in combat.

Consider one 22-year-old Marine's comment to a reporter about life in Iraq—"If I get five minutes to close my eyes, I take it."

Another Staff Sgt. said "The 45-minute catnap is worth a million bucks. Getting some is better than none."

Let the debate go forward, but spare our troops who are sleeping in the sand and dirt the indignity of this political theater.

TRIBUTE TO TOM MAYER

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 19, 2007

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the life of Boulder County Commissioner Tom Mayer of Louisville, CO, who passed away on June 22, 2007. He was one of our county's most compassionate advocates in civic affairs and will be greatly missed by his loved ones, friends and the community.

Commissioner Tom Mayer was born March 22, 1951. In 1973, overlooking the Hudson

River and Catskill Mountains, Tom received his bachelor's degree in physics from Bard College. He later left his native New York and New Jersey to pursue a master's degree in atmospheric sciences from the University of Illinois in 1976. He then spent 26 years as a software engineer at the National Center for Atmospheric Research in Boulder, CO.

Though the white-bearded Boulder County commissioner savored the complexities of a good wine and a changing weather system, he held little tolerance for bad government and static bureaucracy. In 1992, Commissioner Mayer sought and won a seat on the Louisville City Council and went on to serve 11 years. During Tom's time on City Council he also served as a representative to the Boulder County Consortium of Cities, Boulder County Recycling and Compost Authority, and the U.S. 36 Major Investment Study.

It was Commissioner Mayer's unwavering commitment to health and human services, limiting growth and preservation of open space that drove him to change Boulder County government as a county commissioner. Tom passionately served as a commissioner from 2003 until his passing. His other commitments included: Boulder County Human Services Coordinating Council, Metro Area County Commissioners, Colorado Counties Inc., Colorado Child Care Assistance Program, State of Colorado Child Welfare Allocation Committee and the National Association of Counties Health and Human Service Committee.

We will miss Commissioner Mayer's style of leadership defined by his strong social conscience and overall sense of social justice. With a big heart and never-ending compassion he tirelessly fought for the underprivileged. Tom's intellect and generosity made him an admirable servant working for the public good with the right motivation. Tom helped make Boulder County a better place for all of us.

If the measure of a life well-lived is the impact that a person has on others, then Tom's impact is broad and deep. We all owe him a debt of gratitude and respect, and I am particularly indebted to him for his early support of my work in public service. I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating and remembering his life while expressing our deepest sympathies to his family for their loss.

FREE THE ISRAELI SOLDIERS

SPEECH OF

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2007

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with great concern to recognize the one year anniversary of the capture of three Israeli soldiers. Over one year ago, Hezbollah terrorists infiltrated into Israeli territory and attacked two IDF armored jeeps patrolling the border with Lebanon, killing three soldiers and kidnapping two: Eldad Regev, 26, of Kiryat Motzkin and Ehud (Udi) Goldwasser, 31, of Nahariya. Weeks earlier, on June 25, Gilad Shalit, 20, of Hila, was abducted by Hamas in the Gaza strip.

As an original cosponsor of House Resolution 107, a resolution which calls for the immediate and unconditional release of these Israeli soldiers held captive by Hamas and

Hezbollah, I was extremely pleased that it passed the House unanimously on March 3th of March. This critical piece of legislation demanded that Hamas release Israeli soldier Gilad Shalit, and required Hezbollah accept the mandate of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1701 to release Israeli soldiers Ehud Goldwasser and Eldad Regev.

My efforts to assist in the release of these soldiers began in July 2006 when I wrote to American Red Cross' Interim President Jack McGuire urging the American Red Cross to apply pressure to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to assess the well-being of these three Israeli soldiers. In that letter, I admonished Hezbollah and Hamas for continuously failing to accede to basic standards of humanitarian conduct and denying competent medical personnel and representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross access to the Israeli captives.

Hezbollah's and Hamas' blatant disregard for international law and the malicious uncertainty they have unleashed on the captured soldiers' families is simply heartless. This obvious disrespect for humanitarian law warrants an international response. Having met with Karnit Goldwasser, the wife of kidnapped Israeli soldier Ehud Goldwasser, I am even more committed to advocate for the plights of these brave soldiers.

I will continue to intensely oppose terrorist activities that compromise human life to advance a drastic agenda. These illegitimate actions only solidify the United States' commitment to support Israel as the only true democracy in the Middle East and achieving peace in the region.

Over the past few years, we have watched violence in Israel and the Palestinian territories spiral out of control. Clearly it is time for the United States to become more actively engaged in the region. While we continue to consume ourselves with our own war against terrorism, we cannot forget that Israel has been waging its own war against terrorism, as well as its own fight for democracy, for more than 55 years. Today, I stand with my colleagues in sending a message to the people of Israel: The support Israel enjoys from the United States is stronger today than it has ever been.

I will continue to lend my vigorous support and unwavering commitment to the welfare and survival of the State of Israel as a Jewish and democratic state with secure borders.

We cannot remain silent on this grave issue: we owe it to these brave soldiers, their families, and to ourselves. Silence would only tell the rest of the world that these actions have become acceptable. I urge my colleagues to continue to unequivocally condemn these acts and pray for the return of these brave soldiers and peace in the region.

HONORING WEEKI WACHEE SPRINGS ATTRACTION ON ITS 60TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 19, 2007

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize one of Florida's most distinguished natural and cultural treasures. Weeki Wachee Springs will be

celebrating its 60th anniversary from July 27–29. This famous attraction is a rich part of Florida's heritage, showcasing 60 years of one of a kind "mermaid" shows, as well as outdoor recreational opportunities, including river cruises, nature trails, canoeing, kayaking, and a water park.

Weeki Wachee got its start as a Florida phenomenon in 1946, when Newton Perry, a retired World War II Navy diving instructor, recognized the site's potential as a unique tourist attraction. The Seminole Indians gave "Weeki Wachee" its name, which means "little spring" or "winding river" in their language. The spring, which is so deep that the bottom has never been found, bubbles with crystal-clear water from the pristine Floridan Aquifer and maintains a year-round temperature of 72 degrees.

Perry invented a method of breathing underwater through a tube that allowed performers to move freely without cumbersome SCUBA equipment. He built a theater into the limestone, submerged below the surface of the water, so viewers could look right into the natural beauty of the ancient spring. The first show at the Weeki Wachee Springs underwater theater featured women dressed as mermaids performing underwater synchronized ballet. It opened on October 13, 1947, one day before Chuck Yeager broke the sound barrier.

When Weeki Wachee was purchased by ABC in 1959, its popularity began to skyrocket. More than half a million people came to visit the spring each year, and girls came from as far a way as Tokyo to audition as mermaids. Celebrities including Don Knotts, Esther Williams, Arthur Godfrey and Elvis Presley all came to Weeki Wachee.

While the park continues to attract thousands of visitors each year, Weeki Wachee will forever be remembered as one of Florida's first and finest attractions. Weeki Wachee is a showcase of the superb natural beauty and friendly atmosphere that continues to attract so many to our great State.

IN RECOGNITION OF BRENT
HOLBROOK

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2007

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the distinguished public service of Brent Holbrook. After nearly 40 years with the U.S. Department of Treasury—Internal Revenue Service, IRS, he retired this past June.

During his tenure, Brent worked at the IRS Fresno Service Center. Here, he steadily advanced in various staff positions to finally become a Supervisor. He then managed a large team of analysts, agents, and auditors improving the efficiency of processing Federal and State tax returns. I have had the pleasure of working with Brent frequently and his dedication to the community is to be commended.

In 1999, Brent was selected as the Governmental Liaison for California's San Jose Area and the Central Valley. In this position, he worked with the three California State tax agencies on compliance and customer service projects. He also served as the IRS Liaison for

11 congressional offices, providing them with IRS news and information, while answering constituent inquiries on general tax law. As his tenure with the IRS ends, Brent will be remembered as an example to staff throughout the Federal Government for his outstanding ability to work closely and effectively with government officials.

Throughout his career at the IRS, Brent Holbrook has proven to be a highly effective administrator who was always committed to excellence in public service. As he gets ready to spend much more time with his wife Linda, I wish him much continued success and best of luck for the future.

HONORING MR. CHRISTOPHER
CAVANAUGH, RECIPIENT OF THE
PLAINFIELD COMMUNITY
SCHOOL CORPORATION 2008
TEACHER OF THE YEAR

HON. STEVE BUYER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 19, 2007

Mr. BUYER. Madam Speaker, the educators of our country's youth are the trusted stewards of our country's future, and it is important to recognize those outstanding and irreplaceable teachers who go above and beyond serving our communities. Mr. Christopher Cavanaugh, of Plainfield, Indiana, is one such estimable teacher. He is a profound role model for aspiring teachers and good citizens.

Mr. Cavanaugh has been teaching students and setting standards of excellence at Plainfield High School for 17 years. On June 14, 2007, he was recognized by the Plainfield Community School Corporation as the 2008 Teacher of the Year for his work teaching senior government, Cultural Heritage of the American People, and We the People . . . the Citizen and the Constitution. His exceptional work highlights the vital role the American people play in their Government, teaching students not only the principle of their rights, but the honor of their responsibilities.

Last year, Mr. Cavanaugh received the inaugural American Civics Teacher Award, a national award sponsored by the National Education Association, the Center for Civic Education, and the Center on Congress at Indiana University. When he traveled to Washington, DC, to receive this distinguished honor, I had the distinguished pleasure of meeting with him in my office to discuss his enthusiasm for teaching American civics and his dedicated service to the community. It was immediately clear that his priorities include not only endowing his students with knowledge, but motivating them to act on what they learn by being responsible citizens and honoring the ideals of democracy by being lifelong participants in their Government.

Outside the classroom, Mr. Cavanaugh continues to encourage and empower students as the coach of Plainfield's swimming and diving team. His devotion and impetus have earned him recognition from the Indiana High School Athletic Association and he has received the Swimming and Diving Coach of the Year award eight times.

It is an honor and a privilege to have Mr. Cavanaugh inspire the hearts and minds of young Hoosiers. His work honors democracy

and helps to safeguard our country's future. By invigorating today's youth with the power and passion of the free world, Mr. Cavanaugh does his part to protect liberty for generations to come. I congratulate my cousin on his vision, his dedication, and his success. Chris, I am proud of you.

HONORING MARINE CORPS CORPORAL
PAUL BRODNER AND SERGEANT
ANDREW LOWE

HON. DUNCAN HUNTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 19, 2007

Mr. HUNTER. Madam Speaker, it is with the greatest sense of pride that I rise today to honor and pay tribute to Marine Corps Corporal Paul Brodner, Jr. and Sergeant Andrew Lowe. Corporal Brodner and Sergeant Lowe, both constituents of mine from El Cajon, California, recently returned from a seven month deployment to Haditha, Iraq, with Company E of the Second Battalion, Third Marine Regiment.

Immediately upon arrival in Haditha, which had a reputation as one of the most dangerous locations within Al Anbar Province and all of Iraq, Corporal Brodner and Sergeant Lowe's patrol were targeted and attacked by Sunni insurgents. For Marines in Iraq, especially those serving in Al Anbar, small arms and sniper fire, grenades and improvised explosive devices are a daily threat that challenge mission objectives and personal safety.

The Sunni insurgency in Haditha, at its strength, initiated a campaign of murder and intimidation. Despite being a hotbed of such activity, Marine units in Haditha launched a successful counterinsurgency operation that ultimately restored control of the city's infrastructure and resources to local officials and workers, and suppressed the sense of fear that was preventing Iraqis from joining police and security forces.

By the end of Corporal Brodner and Sergeant Lowe's deployment, Haditha's police force exceeded 200 volunteers and began conducting security operations independently of the Marines—who also began receiving regular intelligence reports on insurgent activity from city residents. Progress in Haditha became measurable, especially as attacks against Iraqi and coalition forces decreased from an average of ten per day to only a handful each month. Today, Marines and Iraqi soldiers are serving side-by-side and, most importantly, our Marines continue to provide Iraq's security forces with the training and techniques they will need to protect their government and its people.

It is without question that the service men and women who have served in Iraq have demonstrated absolute selflessness and courage. In fact, I am reminded of a recent conversation I had with a Marine leader regarding our efforts in Iraq, particularly the progress of our Marines in Al Anbar Province. The message relayed to me was, "We are crushing the enemy in Al Anbar."

Madam Speaker, this continued success in Al Anbar would not be possible without the dedication and commitment of Americans like Corporal Brodner and Sergeant Lowe. Their

service and contributions deserve to be recognized and commended, and I hope my colleagues will join me today in honoring these two American heroes.

TRIBUTE TO BEDFORD SPRINGS
RESORT

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 19, 2007

Mr. SHUSTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the reopening of the Bedford Springs Resort, a historic landmark in Bedford, PA. Founded in 1796 by Dr. John Anderson, the Bedford Springs served the Nation as a place of peace, tranquility and healing until its doors closed in 1990. The resort has been completely restored and will host its grand opening in August.

In its prime, the Bedford Springs Resort served many of our Nation's leading citizens, including U.S. Presidents, heads of state, and celebrities. President James Buchanan was a frequent guest of the resort, using it as a summer White House during his presidency. In 1858, President Buchanan received the first Trans-Atlantic cable from Queen Victoria in the resort's lobby. The Bedford Springs Resort is also the only place outside of Washington, DC, that all of the Supreme Court members stayed together. During their visit in 1855 the Justices discussed the Dred Scott case. In addition to its service to national figures, the resort was also utilized by the United States military. During World War II, Bedford Springs served as a Naval Communications Training Center, hosting over 7,000 Navy personnel. It was designated a national Historic Landmark in 1984 by the U.S. Department of the Interior. The resort's rich history is matched only by its grandeur, newly restored after a multimillion dollar renovation.

The Bedford Springs restoration began in 2005, when developers began combining history with luxury, adding modern day amenities to its original features. The springs will no doubt draw thousands of visitors to the Bedford area, showcasing Pennsylvania's beauty and serenity. The Bedford Springs Resort will provide a soothing atmosphere in which visitors may relax and enjoy the majestic scenery of the countryside and the Allegheny Mountains. I look forward to the grand opening of the Bedford Springs Resort, as it will bring a greater appreciation to our area and will surely be an asset to the community.

TRIBUTE TO NATHAN GOODIRON

HON. EARL POMEROY

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 19, 2007

Mr. POMEROY. Madam Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to a fallen soldier, Corporal Nathan Goodiron.

TRIBUTE TO NATHAN GOODIRON

(By Albert Caswell)

An eagle above our nation soars on high,
With but his courage and character and
Goodiron, the very bed of freedom he so
provides,

All so in peace and liberty, all so we may
lead our lives!

Goodiron, of great heart,
A Young Eagle, of this earth . . . of the
Mandan . . . a work of art,
Of the best, of great Native American Indian
. . . of great value,
As his fine true worth . . . this man, his
heart.

A good man,
Of warm heart and character, of great atti-
tude . . . who to our world so lent his
hand,

Who gave his life, of iron in the midst of
strife . . . where strength begins, and
ends . . .

Of good heart, where brave men stand.

Forever, a hero first

Strength in honor, of dream time fame . . .
lies Goodiron . . . as is your fine life's
verse,

Of brave warrior fame of old, who loved the
land . . . who loved the earth,
And all its great soul here first.

Your smile, than one . . . a great American
son,

Who went off to war, this one . . . to cast the
light of freedom's sun . . . as yes did
you,

Our most splendid of all ones,

For when we think of you, Goodiron . . . it
warms our souls, just like the great
bright sun of old,

And a breeze from above,

Running throughout the mountain tops, into
the valley runs . . . you and your love
. . .

Out on the river it flows,

Your spirit, Goodiron so . . . we see you, we
hear you, we feel and touch you . . . as
ever it grows.

To heaven my son, you have gone . . .

With all of those true of heart, with all of
those fine souls of iron . . . who so do
belong . . .

Goodiron, a man of heart . . . an American
hero with your ancestors, you are now
a part . . .

As ever living on . . .

Goodiron, Goodheart, American's son . . . our
Lord's work of art

Good Iron

In honor of a great American hero . . . Na-
than Goodiron . . . and may your fam-
ily find peace, bless them!

INTRODUCING THE "PORT CHI-
CAGO NAVAL MAGAZINE NA-
TIONAL MEMORIAL ENHANCE-
MENT ACT OF 2007"

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 19, 2007

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Madam Speaker, this week marks the 63rd anniversary of America's worst home-front disaster of World War II. This weekend, the National Park Service will join the community in commemorating the anniversary of the Port Chicago explosion and honoring those who were injured and gave their lives for their country.

I am introducing legislation today that honors the anniversary of Port Chicago by improving and enhancing the Port Chicago Naval Magazine National Memorial, in my district in California.

Thousands of tons of ammunition exploded on the night of July 17, 1944, at the Port Chicago Naval Magazine in the east San Fran-

cisco Bay area. The blasts instantly killed 320 sailors, wounded hundreds more, and damaged and destroyed merchant ships, the pier, a train, and the buildings of Port Chicago. Less than a month after the tragedy, three divisions were ordered to resume work at a new site a few miles away. Most of the men refused to continue their dangerous tasks until supervision, training, and working conditions were improved. In response, the Navy charged fifty men with conspiring to mutiny; all were convicted.

The majority of the men killed while handling ordinance at Port Chicago, and all of those convicted of mutiny, were African-American. This injustice had clear racial implications, and was a turning point in our Nation's history. Following the conviction, Thurgood Marshall, then a lawyer with the NAACP, took up the case. The Port Chicago disaster and its aftermath strongly influenced America's move towards racial equality, including the Navy's move toward desegregation in 1945, and President Truman's 1948 Executive Order desegregating the Armed Forces and guaranteeing "equality of treatment and opportunity for all persons in the armed services without regard to race, color, religion or national origin."

Recognizing the importance of the site to our Nation's history, I sponsored legislation in the 102nd Congress to designate the site of the Port Chicago Naval Magazine as a national memorial. Since the bill became law in 1992, the Port Chicago Naval Magazine National Memorial has been managed by the National Park Service to remind Americans of the contributions made by the Port Chicago sailors.

Today, to honor the anniversary of the 1944 disaster, I am introducing the "Port Chicago Naval Magazine National Memorial Enhancement Act of 2007," a new bill designed to increase the National Memorial's accessibility, provide additional visitor services, and preserve the site for future generations.

The legislation enhances the memorial in several ways. First, it directs the Secretary of the Interior to administer the Port Chicago Naval Magazine National Memorial as a unit of the National Park System. Second, when the site is determined to be excess to military needs, this new bill would transfer the property to the administrative jurisdiction of the Secretary of the Interior.

In order to improve public access to the Memorial, this legislation authorizes the Interior Department to work with the City of Concord and the East Bay Regional Park District to establish and operate a facility for visitor orientation and parking, administrative offices, and curatorial storage for the Memorial. Finally, the legislation directs the Defense Department and the Interior Department to work together to repair storm damage to the site.

I am including for the record a letter I received today in support of the Act from the president of the National Parks Conservation Association. As Mr. Kiernan says, the story of Port Chicago "deserves commemoration at the highest possible level, and clearly is worthy of being fully vested in the care of the National Park Service, the guardians of our Nation's natural and cultural heritage."

This new bill will protect and enhance the memorial, and will allow future generations to honor this important moment in American history. I urge my colleagues to support the Port

Chicago Naval Magazine National Memorial Enhancement Act of 2007.

NATIONAL PARKS
CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION,
Washington, DC, July 19, 2007.

Hon. GEORGE MILLER,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN MILLER: On behalf of the 330,000 members of the National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA), I am writing to express our strong support for your bill changing the designation by the Port Chicago Memorial from an affiliated NPS site to a full unit of the National Park System. This legislation brings the nation one step closer to fully honoring those whose service and sacrifice exacted such a heavy toll in blood and honor.

As you know, the Port Chicago Naval Magazine was the scene of a deadly explosion on July 17, 1944, which claimed the lives of 320 sailors and civilians and wounded 400 more. The blast, felt up to 500 miles away, occurred as merchant ships were being loaded with 5,000 tons of high explosives. Unaddressed concerns about safety led to a refusal by African American sailors assigned to an ordnance battalion to load or unload other ships. The subsequent court martial of 258 of these men on charges of bad conduct and mutiny was a highly controversial decision with decidedly racial overtones.

Establishing the Port Chicago Naval Magazine Memorial as a fully-fledged unit of the National Park System will complete work first started in 1990, when formal efforts to create a memorial first began. The explosion, work stoppage, and mutiny trial, provide invaluable insights into the injustice of racial discrimination, the African American

experience in the U.S. military, and home front life during the Second World War.

You are to be commended for the many years you have championed this cause and honored the legacy of the surviving veterans. This story deserves commemoration at the highest possible level and clearly is worthy of being fully vested in the care of the National Park Service, the guardians of our nation's natural and cultural heritage. We pledge to do all we can to help see your bill enacted into law.

Sincerely,

THOMAS C. KIERNAN,
President.

A TRIBUTE TO MR. HERBERT
WOODARD, SR.

HON. G. K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 19, 2007

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Madam Speaker, on July 4, 2007, Mr. Herbert Woodard, Sr., a resident of my home community of Wilson, North Carolina will celebrate his 100th birthday. And on July 8th, Mr. Woodard's family, friends and members of the community will join together to pay special tribute to this extraordinary man.

I have had the privilege of knowing Mr. Woodard all of my life as a family friend and neighbor. A remarkable person with an entrepreneurial spirit, Mr. Woodard was born during a period in our history when significant educational opportunities were not available to Af-

frican-Americans. As a result, Mr. Woodard only received a fourth grade education. Notwithstanding this tremendous obstacle, Mr. Woodard's work ethic demonstrates that diligence and determination produce lifetime rewards. As a self-employed businessman, Mr. Woodard's businesses have ranged from that of a gas station to baseball parks and hotels. He sold and delivered coal to local businesses, and has even cleaned septic tanks. As an accomplished and humble businessman, he has gained the respect and admiration of his community.

Madam Speaker, although a skilled and savvy businessman, Mr. Woodard always makes a practice of giving back to the community. Each holiday season, Mr. Woodard gives turkeys to senior citizens at his church. He also donates to charitable organizations that provide services to children and veterans.

Mr. Woodard and his devoted wife of many years, Mrs. Georgia Battle Woodard have nurtured a strong and loving family. During a recent visit to the Woodard home, I asked Mr. Woodard to what does he attribute his longevity, and he said "I took care of my family." What a powerful statement in so few words.

Madam Speaker, It is with great pride that I acknowledge the achievements of Mr. Herbert Woodard, Sr. His many accomplishments have made him a well respected person in our community. It is with extreme pride that I ask my colleagues to rise and join me in marking this monumental occasion in the life of Mr. Herbert Woodard, Sr.