

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

STATEMENT ON THE BASEBALL HALL OF FAME'S INDUCTION OF CAL RIPKEN, JR.

**HON. NANCY PELOSI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 30, 2007*

Ms. PELOSI. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate an outstanding athlete and role model, Cal Ripken, Jr., on his induction into the Baseball Hall of Fame. As a native Baltimorean, I am honored to have this chance to pay tribute to a man who has given so much of himself to the people of Baltimore, to their beloved Orioles, and to the game of baseball itself.

The outpouring of love and affection we witnessed at Cal's induction ceremony this Sunday in Cooperstown was a fitting tribute to a man whose love for the game and dedication to his craft knew no bounds. Greeted by a record crowd for a Hall of Fame induction ceremony estimated at 75,000—so many of whom traveled north from the Baltimore area—Cal again showed why he is held in the highest esteem by fans across America and by his fellow Hall of Fame members.

Cal Ripken's accomplishments on the field made him a certain first ballot Hall of Fame member. Cal exploded onto the baseball scene in 1982 and was named American League Rookie of the Year. He would twice win the League's Most Valuable Player award, his first honor coming in only his second full season, in which he also helped lead the Orioles to a World Series title. Over his 21-year Oriole career, Ripken compiled 3,184 hits—including 431 home runs—was selected to represent the American League in the All-Star Game 19 times, and won two Gold Gloves.

Of course, Cal is best remembered for breaking one of baseball's most cherished records when he surpassed Lou Gehrig's mark of 2,130 consecutive games played. A time when some thought interest in baseball was waning, Cal Ripken's "Iron Man" streak renewed America's love affair with our national pastime and helped create a new generation of baseball fans. The Streak was more than just a personal record; it was Cal's daily lesson to us all about how the game should be played.

Cal's dedication and respect to the game was engrained in him by his father, the late Cal Ripken, Sr., who spent 36 years in the Orioles organization and piloted the Orioles through the 1987 season. In a loving tribute during his induction speech, Cal said of his father, "He was for me and many others an example of how to play and prepare for the game the right way—the Cal Sr. way."

For Oriole fans, this past Sunday was a special moment as we watched Cal unveil his Hall of Fame plaque surrounded by so many Oriole stars of the past, including Brooks Robinson, Frank Robinson, Eddie Murray, Jim Palmer, and former Oriole manager Earl Weaver. It brought back so many wonderful memo-

ries of summers past at Memorial Stadium and Camden Yards. It also made me proud remembering the role my father, Thomas D' Alesandro, played in bringing the franchise to Baltimore in 1954 when he was the city's mayor.

For many, Cal's Hall of Fame induction was a mere formality because we already knew his play on the field and his positive demeanor off it had earned him a place among baseball's immortals. I congratulate him on this tremendous honor and look forward to his continuing contributions to the greater Baltimore community.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SOUTHERN CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

**HON. NANCY PELOSI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 30, 2007*

Ms. PELOSI. Madam Speaker, 50 years ago next month, a group of courageous champions of civil rights united to form the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), which became a driving force behind the fight for equality and economic opportunity for African Americans. Led by the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, the SCLC's commitment to non-violent civil disobedience exposed the evils of segregation and the violence and intimidation necessary to enforce this immoral policy.

The heroic efforts of the SCLC and the great faith and courage of its members were indispensable to the epic and defining struggle of our history: to secure rights for all and to live up to the purpose for which this nation was founded—equality and justice for all.

At the March on Washington for Freedom and Jobs, where Dr. King delivered his famous "I Have a Dream" speech, the SCLC created a turning point in the national debate over civil rights, helping propel passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965. These twin victories shattered the policy of segregation and reaffirmed our nation's commitment to equality for all of our citizens. The SCLC changed the nation with a vision of justice, equality, and opportunity for all.

Today, the SCLC continues its commitment to improving the lives of African Americans, focusing on issues of economic empowerment, access to health care, and opportunity through education. On the occasion of its 50th anniversary, I honor the SCLC for its commitment to positive social change through direct action and non-violence, and I look forward to the victories we will achieve together in the name of equal justice and equality for all Americans.

CONGRATULATING LEE MCGILVRAY ON RETIREMENT

**HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 30, 2007*

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Lee McGilvray of Denton, Texas on his retirement from the City of Denton Solid Waste Department.

Mr. McGilvray held employment in the City of Denton for 39 years and 33 days. For nearly 4 decades, Mr. McGilvray has provided the service that makes our everyday lives easier. He worked both in the Commercial Division as well as the Landfill Operations Division.

Mr. McGilvray is also a valued member of the Solid Waste Road-e-o Team. A vehicle obstacle course, Road-e-o gives drivers the opportunity to demonstrate their skills that are highly developed but often unnoticed by the general public. He placed 1st place in the state dozer competition in 2005, 3rd place in the national dozer competition in 2005 and 3rd place in the state dozer competition in 2006. The Road-e-o Team represents the department at statewide and national Road-e-o events aimed at promoting the safe operation of heavy equipment through competitions.

I extend my sincere congratulations to Mr. Lee McGilvray on his retirement. His dedication and commitment to serving the citizens of Denton made us all lead better lives. Thank you.

COMMENDING DICK ARMEY'S OP-ED ON THE MEK

**HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 30, 2007*

Mr. TANCREDO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend the following op-ed about the MEK to the body. This is an important topic and I hope Members will have an opportunity to review it.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

[July 24, 2007]

EMPOWERING THE DEMOCRATIC OPPOSITION IN IRAN

(By Dick Arme)

During the Cold War, the free world was threatened by a nuclear-armed state based on a radical, all-encompassing and discredited ideology, a regime that projected an aggressive agenda of global domination even as it struggled to keep its own dissatisfied citizens in line back home. While America and her allies maintained a resolute posture of military strength to keep Soviet expansionism in check, ultimately it was our example of freedom that inspired the restive peoples living under the Evil Empire to tear down the wall.

Taking a leaf out of history's notebook, there are striking similarities between the

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

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

dangers now emanating from tehran and those fueled by Moscow during the Soviet era. Iran's regime is also based on a radical, all-encompassing and discredited ideology, and projects an aggressive, destabilizing international posture while suppressing the will of its own citizens. The good news may be that, like the totalitarian ideology before it, the extremist fundamentalism of the Iranian mullahs could best be attacked by the power of an idea called freedom.

There is currently no shortage of high-level American attention to Iran. My former colleagues in Congress are working to impose tougher economic pressure and bans on investment in Iran, while the Bush administration is working to marshal stronger international will to enforce the sanctions.

But the other part of the Iran equation must be to encourage the kind of peaceful revolution inside Iran that not only Americans desire, but that a majority of the Iranian people themselves want.

Military intervention is not a viable option. "Engagement" may seem like an appealing alternative. But the diplomatic history of the past 30 years provides a chronicle of successive setbacks suffered by the West while the regime continued its relentless march toward nuclearization while bankrolling terrorists and expanding its power and reach.

Current efforts at "engagement" have done nothing to advance the cause of freedom inside Iran. The regime has recently resorted to a crackdown on internal dissent and personal freedom, targeting everything from community organizations to the nation's burgeoning private banking system—pillars of civil society and a free market economy. Visiting Iranian-American scholars are detained on absurd, trumped-up charges and made to "confess" their "crimes" on television.

Like the captive peoples of the Soviet empire a generation ago, today's Iranians are receptive to ideas that challenge the ruling orthodoxy. Indeed, the popularity of America in Iran seems to rise the more the regime demonizes us.

One of the best assets working for reform is demographics—nearly 70 percent of Iran's 68 million citizens are under the age of 30. They are impatient for change, and they are the future.

America and our partners should work with and empower freedom-loving elements within Iran and among the Iranian Diaspora, broadcasting messages of democracy and providing support, moral and otherwise, to the brave dissidents. While we must avoid doing this with a heavy hand, lest our efforts backfire, there are ways we can help level the playing field and give the opposition a fighting chance.

Supporting the democratic opposition holds great promise for promoting the cause of freedom and democracy in Iran, particularly the group feared most by the regime: the Mujahedin-e Khalq (MEK), for decades demonized by the regime for its efforts to encourage "soft" revolution.

Never has the old adage, "the enemy of my enemy is my friend," been more true than in the case of the MEK, whose members residing in Ashraf City, Iraq, are protected persons under the Geneva Convention. But, in a stark example of failed "engagement," the organization was placed on the list of foreign terrorist organizations by the Clinton administration as a way of placating the so-called "moderates" in Iran.

Attracting world attention in 2002, the MEK first revealed the existence of Iran's secret nuclear facility at Natanz. Today it is providing useful intelligence that is saving the lives of Coalition soldiers in Iraq. Thus, it comes as no surprise that the regime is

eager to use the next round of "engagement" with American officials to further isolate the MEK, as part of Iran's certain-to-be-unfulfilled pledge to reduce its influence in Iraq.

Two of my former congressional colleagues, Reps. Tom Tancredo (R-Colo.) and Bob Filner (D-Calif.), are leading a bipartisan effort to urge the State Department to remove the MEK from the terrorist list, where it was wrongly included in the first place.

Removing the MEK from the list represents one concrete step we could take to help the Iranian people forward on the long road to achieving freedom and real democracy in their country.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. JULIA CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 30, 2007*

Ms. CARSON. Madam Speaker, on Wednesday, July 25, 2007, I was unable to vote on Roll #716, 717, 718 and 719. Had I been present, I would have voted YES on each of these measures.

### FARM, NUTRITION, AND BIOENERGY ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

### HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 27, 2007*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2419) to provide for the continuation of agricultural programs through fiscal year 2012, and for other purposes:

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 2419, the Farm Bill Extension Act of 2007. The House Agriculture Committee has produced a comprehensive farm bill that represents true reform. Not only is the focus on getting vital benefits to family farmers and investing in America's producers; but it aims at stimulating rural economies, and securing renewable energy resources.

Chairman PETERSON has constructed an outstanding House Farm bill of which my colleagues on both sides of the aisle can be proud. H.R. 2419 protects family farmers and agriculture in America in a fiscally responsible way, and provides the freedom and the support that farmers need to compete and succeed at the business they know best—providing food, fiber and fuel for all Americans.

Furthermore, the 2007 Farm Bill addresses many of my grave concerns about improved access to socially disadvantaged, and more specifically black farmers by providing Mandatory funding of the 2501 Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers Outreach Program. Allowing deserving claimants in Pigford v. Glickman an opportunity to have their cases heard with a fund created to redress civil rights abuses against Black Farmers is an important step to providing justice to these families.

This bill further makes major and timely reforms to the nutrition title, especially the Food

Stamp program which increases and indexes benefits for the 26 million Americans that participate in this program each month. The House Agriculture Committee has also taken into consideration the need for expanding senior farmer markets and school snack programs, so that our elderly and youth have access to the proper amounts of fruits and vegetables to lead healthier lives.

Mr. Chairman, I encourage passage of H.R. 2419 that will both extend and reform our nation's farm and nutrition programs into 2012. It is a well balanced approach to maintaining the gains we have made in prior legislation, and makes the necessary improvements to lead us into the future.

### FARM, NUTRITION, AND BIOENERGY ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

### HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 27, 2007*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2419) to provide for the continuation of agricultural programs through fiscal year 2012, and for other purposes:

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Chairman, today I rise in strong support of H.R. 2419, the Farm, Nutrition and Bioenergy Act of 2007, which would make historic investments in conservation, nutrition and renewable energy while maintaining a strong safety net for America's farmers and ranchers.

For the first time, this Farm Bill cracks down on farm subsidies and would redirect more than a half billion dollars to working family farmers and ranchers. The legislation would provide \$4.6 billion in funding for important conservation programs, which includes the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), Farm Ranch Lands Protection Program (FRPP), and the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP). As a member of the House Select Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming, I am pleased that this bill would provide \$3.2 billion in funding for renewable energy research, development and production in rural America. This will expand the role of U.S. agriculture in our movement to greater energy independence.

In addition, this Farm Bill would provide more than \$1.5 billion in critical funding for specialty crop and organic growers in the United States. Under this bill, \$365 million in mandatory funding would expand the specialty crop block grant program. The block grants are provided to states, including Connecticut, to support projects in research, marketing, education, pest and disease management, production, and food safety. The legislation would also increase and expand the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Snack Program to schools in all 50 States, which will continue to encourage healthy diets to our Nation's children. More than 11,000 dairy farmers in the Northeast will benefit from the extension of the Milk Income Loss Contract (MILC) program in the bill.

Hunger in America is a reality for more than 11 percent of households. To this end, the legislation would make a long overdue funding

increase for Food Stamps and nutrition programs by \$4 billion over the next five years. Among other things, the bill would reform the program by indexing asset limits and eliminate the current cap on childcare costs to help the working poor meet rising costs. This will benefit the estimated 210,000 individuals in Connecticut who receive food stamps every month.

The legislation before us today was a collective effort from members of the House Agriculture Committee who made new investments and important reforms in this Farm Bill. I would like to especially thank Agriculture Committee Chairman COLLIN PETERSON for his leadership in putting forward a comprehensive bill that meets the 21st century needs of the United States and enhances programs in Connecticut. I urge my colleagues to vote for a new direction in our Nation's agriculture policy.

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PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. YVETTE D. CLARKE**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 30, 2007*

Ms. CLARKE. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 748, I was unavoidably absent. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea"; on rollcall No. 749, I would have voted "yea"; on rollcall No. 750, I would have voted "nay"; on rollcall No. 751, I would have voted "nay"; on rollcall No. 752, I would have voted "yea"; on rollcall No. 753, I would have voted "nay"; on rollcall No. 754, I would have voted "yea"; on rollcall No. 755, I would have voted "nay"; on rollcall No. 756, I would have voted "yea"; on rollcall No. 757, I would have voted "yea."

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FARM, NUTRITION, AND  
BIOENERGY ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

**HON. TOM UDALL**

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 27, 2007*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2419) to provide for the continuation of agricultural programs through fiscal year 2012, and for other purposes:

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Chairman, today we vote on one of the most critical bills that will come to the floor during the 110th Congress. While essential to farmers and ranchers across the Nation, the Farm Bill also impacts each one of us. Its provisions directly affect school children in this Nation and others, seniors and families struggling to live on fixed incomes, wildlife and wilderness, and international farmers struggling to become viable participants in a global marketplace.

I applaud Chairman PETERSON and the Agriculture Committee for their tireless efforts to produce a compromise bill that dissolves partisan boundaries, and improves upon the 2002 Farm Bill authorization. The bill takes modest steps towards improving commodity programs, by preventing the most wealthy from exploiting this safety net meant for assisting ranchers and farmers whose livelihoods precariously

teeter at the mercy of climate and market fluctuation.

The committee's bill extends and modestly increases funding for effective conservation and food security programs. Conservation programs help farmers to manage their lands in a sustainable manner that positively impacts wildlife, watersheds, and open spaces. Nutrition programs included in the bill bolster the fruits and vegetables industry, by increasing fresh food supplements for schools, children, families, and seniors.

The 2007 Farm Bill also takes initial steps towards redistributing commodity programs to those who need them most. The bill's authorization of new funding for organic farmers, specialty crops, and farmer's markets will assist small farmers in meeting organic standards and in getting their products into local markets.

I applaud the committee for initiating this redistribution of commodity programs and taking unprecedented steps towards expanding funding, outreach, and technical assistance for socially disadvantaged, beginning, and minority farmers. The committee's effort in this area brings the issue of the 2002 Farm Bill's exceptional lack of support for socially disadvantaged, beginning, and minority farmers to light. While an improvement, the bill could do more to affect real change in this area.

One quarter of all farmers participate in commodity programs. Of these, just 10 percent receive 75 percent of all commodity subsidies. Congress must readjust the reach of the farm bill. Too many minority farmers lack access to USDA programs, too many farmworkers transitioning into farm owners lack access to federal safety nets that would help them get on their feet, and too many socially disadvantaged farmers lack access to the tools that would help them maneuver through the maze of commodity programs.

With the reauthorization of the Farm Bill, Congress has the opportunity to make monumental changes to the distribution of agricultural and conservation programs. The Kind amendment would have brought such monumental changes to our Nation's agricultural sector and to the world economy. By gradually removing depression-era subsidies that have turned from a safety net into a security blanket, the Kind amendment would have lowered the federal deficit and redirected money into nutrition, food insecurity, and conservation programs at rates much greater than those outlined in the Farm Bill we are voting on today. The Kind amendment would have almost tripled funding for outreach and technical assistance for socially disadvantaged and beginning farmers, and would have put a moratorium on foreclosures on farms owned by socially-disadvantaged farmers and ranchers while creating a commission to investigate the causes of foreclosure.

I am proud to have supported the Kind amendment and hope that such comprehensive reform will be possible in the future. Nevertheless, I am pleased that the Agriculture Committee has at least taken initial steps in the direction of reform, and I will vote in support of their 2007 Farm Bill.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JOHN R. CARTER**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 30, 2007*

Mr. CARTER. Madam Speaker, on July 26, 2007, I was unable to be present for all rollcall votes due to an unexpected delay.

If present, I would have voted accordingly on the following rollcall votes:

Roll No. 734—"aye."  
Roll No. 735—"no."  
Roll No. 736—"no."  
Roll No. 737—"aye."  
Roll No. 738—"aye."  
Roll No. 739—"aye."  
Roll No. 740—"aye."  
Roll No. 741—"aye."  
Roll No. 742—"aye."

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PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. TOM COLE**

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 30, 2007*

Mr. COLE of Oklahoma. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably absent for rollcall vote No. 691, on agreeing to the Mica amendment to H.R. 3074. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

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CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 1,  
IMPLEMENTING RECOMMENDATIONS  
OF THE 9/11 COMMISSION  
ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

**HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 27, 2007*

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of "H.R. 1 Implementing the 911 Commission Recommendations Conference Report." This report provides an opportunity to enhance the security and protection of our citizens and strengthens our homeland security policy. "Six years after the terrorist attacks of 9/11 and three years after the bipartisan and independent 9/11 Commission delivered to the American people a roadmap for security that the Republican Congress had failed to pass into law, the Democratic Congress is about to deliver to the President a bill for his signature to make the American people safer. H.R. 1 will now provide a policy that will allow us to address the gaps that were created when the President decided to underfund many Homeland Security programs and initiatives.

This legislation, which was developed through bipartisan support, is a proactive step in making our country a safer place to live, work, and play. H.R. 1 makes the Nations security a top priority by significantly increasing the share of State homeland security grants provided on the basis of risk; requiring a significant increase in the number of maritime and air cargo containers scanned for weapons of mass destruction; significantly strengthening the Cooperative Threat reduction Program and creating a new National Bio-Surveillance Integration Center, which would support Federal

efforts to rapidly identify and track biological threats.

The Bush Administration has repeatedly shown a lack of commitment to improving relations abroad. The report seeks to utilize diplomacy by enhancing the International Arab and Muslim Youth Opportunity Fund and establishing a Middle East Foundation that will promote economic opportunities, education reform, human rights, and democracy in the Middle East. We now have an opportunity to begin to rebuild relations and move in a proactive direction.

I am convinced that this bill ensures that we are better prepared to protect our families, our homes, and our Nation against any and all terrorist threats. So, I am honored to support this legislation.

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TRIBUTE TO COLONEL ROBERT SWENSON

**HON. BILL SHUSTER**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 30, 2007*

Mr. SHUSTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor COL Robert Swenson, who is retiring from his post as Commander at the Letterkenny Army Depot in Chambersburg, Pennsylvania in August. Colonel Swenson has spent two years at Letterkenny, managing the multi-million dollar facility and overseeing the maintenance and base operation missions of the depot.

Prior to acting as Commander of Letterkenny Army Depot, Colonel Swenson served in the Army as a platoon leader in Germany, a COSCOM Ammunition Officer during Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm and commanded the 498th Corps Support Battalion in Seoul, South Korea. He was later assigned to be Army Secretary for Joint and Defense Affairs in the Office of the Chief of Staff of the Army. He then worked as the Special Assistant to the Commanding General Army Materiel Command prior to taking the post of Commander at Letterkenny. Colonel Swenson has earned numerous awards throughout his career, including the Bronze Star Medal, the Legion of Merit, and the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, just to name a few.

During his tenure at Letterkenny, Colonel Swenson demonstrated his leadership through the undertaking of numerous projects, by which he made important improvements to depot operations and efficiency. Colonel Swenson restructured the LEAN team and implemented his LEAN Manufacturing program, which was instrumental in Letterkenny's receipt of Army Environmental Award.

Colonel Swenson's accomplishments identify him as an Army officer of the highest caliber and reflect great credit upon himself, the Letterkenny Army Depot, and the U.S. Army. I, along with the employees at Letterkenny, would like to thank COL Robert Swenson for all of his leadership and dedication as Commander.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SOUTHERN CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

**HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 30, 2007*

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Madam Speaker, I rise with my colleagues in recognizing the founding of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference's 50th anniversary. I commend Congressman RUSH in reserving this time to pay homage to this great American institution.

When this organization held its first annual convention in Montgomery, AL, five decades ago this August, I was just a young boy understanding the strategy of the nonviolent approach to hate, segregation, and inequality that was and still is prevalent today in America's society.

As a former prosecutor and County Executive, I have worked very hard to ensure the organization's commitment to nonviolent action to achieve social, economic, and political justice currently are focused on issues such as racial profiling, police brutality, hate crimes, and discrimination.

Today, the Southern Christian Leadership is a nationwide organization that is made up of chapters and affiliates with programs that affect the lives of all Americans.

Its sphere of influence and interests has become international in scope because the battle for human rights is one that transcends national boundaries.

Madam Speaker, I believe by recognizing organizations that have given so much to this country is sending a clear message to the American people that the legacy of its past and future presidents will never be forgotten.

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CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 1, IMPLEMENTING RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE 9/11 COMMISSION ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

**HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 27, 2007*

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the 9/11 Conference Report, which will go a long way toward protecting this Nation from the ever-present threat of terrorism and safeguarding our families from future attacks.

The 9/11 Commission gave us a non-partisan blueprint for how to wage and win the global war on terrorism. This conference report helps us meet the unresolved challenges we have faced over the past 3 years since the commission issued its recommendations by expanding cargo screening at our ports, making air travel safer, and taking many other important steps to protect America from terrorism.

I am proud to represent many of the brave first responders who answered the call on September 11, 2001. I believe that this conference report honors the memory of the victims and rescue personnel who fell on that tragic day.

Mr. Speaker, I also firmly believe this legislation represents the single most important

measure we can take to prevent future terrorist attacks. I commend the leadership and all of my colleagues who helped negotiate this agreement. Our Nation will be safer from terrorism as will future generations of Americans.

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IN CELEBRATION OF THE OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY MEN'S BASEBALL TEAM, NCAA COLLEGE WORLD SERIES CHAMPIONS

**HON. DAVID WU**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 30, 2007*

Mr. WU. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Oregon State University baseball team on winning their second-straight NCAA College World Series championship. OSU is the first team since 1997 to win back-to-back College World Series championships.

The Beavers capped off their 49–18 winning season with a “no-nonsense” approach to the championship games in Omaha, Nebraska. The Beavers solidly won the first two games in the final series against the University of North Carolina Tar Heels, wasting no time to claim their consecutive championship trophy.

Congratulations to Head Coach Pat Casey and the Oregon State Beavers on this historic achievement.

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HONORING JOANN DIGENNARO, PRESIDENT, CENTER FOR EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION FOR HER PHILANTHROPIC WORK WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF BULGARIA AND THE STS. CYRIL AND METHODIUS FOUNDATION

**HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 30, 2007*

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Joann DiGennaro, president of the Center for Excellence in Education, for her hard work and dedication.

As an honorary member of the Board of Trustees for the Center for Excellence in Education, I have witnessed firsthand the important work that Joann has undertaken in her role as President of the Center, and I could not be more impressed by her years of effort and accomplishment.

Recognizing a need to make an essential investment in our national and global future, Joann founded the Center for Excellence in Education 1983 along with the late ADM H.G. Rickover, the father of the nuclear navy and discoverer of many civilian uses of nuclear power. Since its establishment the Center has a successful history of contributing to the scientific leadership of this country. The Center's commendable mission is to nurture young scholars to careers of excellence in science and technology through providing cost-free programs, such as the Research Science Institute (RSI) and the USA Biology Olympiad (USABO), to its student scholars.

Joann is one of the special few in our world who are willing to take dramatic steps to address the current and future needs of our Nation, and she has striven to provide countless

opportunities for thousands of students from around the globe in order to promote the development of scientific and technological leaders.

Her global approach makes it no surprise that she was honored by the Bulgarian Government and the Sts. Cyril and Methodius Foundation. As a co-chair of the Bulgarian Caucus, I applaud Joann's efforts in creating strong business relationships between the U.S. and Bulgaria. I know that she is just as likely to be honored by any number of our Nation's partners for her work in developing partnerships around the world.

Madam Speaker, I ask you and all of my colleagues to rise and honor Joann DiGennaro for her dedicated spirit and the important work she continues to perform today as president of the Center for Excellence in Education.

FARM, NUTRITION AND  
BIOENERGY ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

**HON. BARBARA LEE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 27, 2007*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2419) to provide for the continuation of agricultural programs through fiscal year 2012, and for other purposes:

Ms. LEE. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in strong support of the Rangel Amendment and thank the gentlemen for offering such a forward-thinking measure.

This amendment will remove the banking restrictions that require prepayment for agricultural goods, that keep Cuban families from purchasing food from American family farmers. And frankly it's past time.

It's past time to leave outdated cold war era thinking on United States-Cuban relations out where they belong—in the cold.

It's past time to reach out to the Cuban people and allow them to engage our democratic free markets.

It's past time to restore the rights of the American family farmer's access to upwards of \$300 million dollars in sales to the Cuban market.

It makes no sense to me to allow agricultural exports into Cuba on one hand and then turn around and set up bureaucratic banking restrictions that severely limit those very exports on the other.

I commend Chairman RANGEL for his leadership on this issue and I hope to work with him to bring some common sense to Cuba policy.

HONORING WALNUT HILL PRES-  
BYTERIAN CHURCH ON ITS 75TH  
ANNIVERSARY

**HON. DAVID DAVIS**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 30, 2007*

Mr. DAVID DAVIS of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to dedication of the congregation of Walnut Hill Presbyterian Church on the occasion of the celebration of their 75th Anniversary.

In the First District of Tennessee, there is a long tradition of worship that has brought a great sense of heritage and values to our community.

In 1932 a dedicated group of believers sacrificed to start a church in the area between Blountville and Bristol, TN. During this time they have been a shining light on a hill for all in the Walnut Hill community.

Madam Speaker, I ask that the House join me in honoring the congregation of Walnut Hill Presbyterian Church for their tireless efforts through the past 75 years in sharing the gospel and encouraging people to pursue better lives.

COMMEMORATING THE  
ACHIEVEMENTS OF GAY BRASHER

**HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 30, 2007*

Mr. HONDA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Gay Brasher, an extraordinary person who has dedicated her career and life to educating our youth in public speaking through speech and debate. Her excellence in teaching is reflected in the numerous accolades she has received for developing one of the most successful and renowned speech and debate programs in the nation.

Ms. Gay Brasher was raised in Lafayette, Louisiana. When she was young, she was certain she wanted to eventually coach public speaking and debate. Gay went on to the University of Southwestern Louisiana, now the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, where she successfully debated in multiple state tournaments. After obtaining her Bachelor's and Master's Degrees from the university, she stayed in the Louisiana area to begin her teaching career.

At the beginning of her career, Gay loudly voiced her belief in the importance of public speaking courses. She served on the Louisiana State Committee for textbook adoption, focusing on the need for speech education. At her first teaching assignment, she was named the Louisiana Speech Coach of the Year, and shortly after, she moved to the San Francisco Bay Area to continue her teaching.

In the Silicon Valley, Gay bolstered San Jose High School's award-winning speech and debate program. Gay was a great influence on the community and was frequently recognized for her commitment to improving high school debate programs. In March of 1996, she was honored by the Tech Museum of Innovation as an Inspirational Teacher, and in 1999, she was awarded the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Good Neighbor Award for her contributions and voluntary service to the community. At one point in her career, she coached speech and debate at all six San Jose High Schools at the same time. She eventually settled at Leland High School, where she developed one of the best speech and debate programs in the nation.

The Leland team consistently wins the sweepstakes award at several league and invitational tournaments; dozens of individual team members qualify yearly for the state and national championship tournament. Gay has now mentored several California State Champions, two Catholic Forensic League National

Champions, and one National Forensic League National Champion. In 2007, Leland High School was chosen as one of only three schools from the hundreds of participants to be honored with the Excellence in Speech and Debate Award.

Aside from coaching the Leland High School Speech and Debate Team, Gay also provides learning opportunities for other members of the Leland community. She hosts an annual speech tournament for English as a Second Language Students to help with their speaking skills. Gay also teaches public speaking at Burnett Junior High School and donates her earnings to the Leland Speech and Debate Program. In addition, she was the Area Chairperson for the California High School Speech Association (CHSSA) and was elected to the CHSSA Hall of Fame.

Gay has been widely recognized by the community for her excellence. Besides being named as the Teacher of the Year for Leland High School in 1998, Gay was also chosen as the San Jose Unified School District's Teacher of the Year. In 2001, the National Forensics League (NFL) named Gay as the Speech Coach of the Year, and in 2006 she was inducted into the NFL Hall of Fame. Now in 2007, Gay received her Fifth Diamond from the NFL and continues to inspire the speech and debate community.

The impact that Gay has made on her students is immeasurable. Gay regularly receives letters from former students and universities noting her influence and praising her support. Her passion for speech is inspiring to educators and students alike as we are reminded of the enormous importance of public speaking programs in our educational system. Her guidance has been vital in the lives of so many as she shaped not only an immensely successful speech and debate program but also the students within it.

I offer my congratulations to Gay Brasher on her distinguished career as the coach of the Leland High School Speech and Debate Program. She has touched a generation of students, and her legacy will live on for many years to come.

HONORING THE 90TH BIRTHDAY OF  
ADA MANUEL

**HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 30, 2007*

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor and congratulate Ada Manuel who will be celebrating her 90th birthday at the J. Charles Griswell Senior Citizens Center in Georgia.

She was born on August 10, 1917 to Frank and Hettie Drake Spence. Ada was married to the late Booker T. Manuel with whom she had two daughters Juanita Manuel Rhodes Mond and Elaine Manuel Symonette. She is the grandmother of Reginald E. Symonette, Dr. Yulanda Rhodes, Edward R. Rhodes and Wanda D. Rhodes Price; and the great grandmother of Chandler Price, Chad Price, Chelsea Price, Chania Price, Aaron Rhodes and Xenia Rhodes who sadly preceded her great grandmother in death.

After graduating from Mitchell County Elementary High School, she felt the need for

spiritual growth so she became a member of Friendship Missionary Baptist Church under the leadership of the late Reverend J. I. Ross. Eager to serve, she became a doorkeeper at the Church. She also served as an assistant chief to the usher board. She later formed the now Jordan Grove Missionary Baptist Church under the leadership of the late Reverend Charlie E. Smith.

Ada also enjoys singing and praying; especially praying because she will pray for everyone. During her forty years at Jordan Grove Missionary Baptist Church, she was a member of the Willing Workers where she served as president for one term and then vice-president. As also a member of the Prayer Band, she worked on several committees including Women's Days.

Currently she is a member of the First Baptist Church of Brownsville. She is an exemplary figure for both the young and the old of her parish.

Madam Speaker, and colleagues, I ask that you join me in honoring Ada Manuel today. I hope we all have the good fortune to live such a full life as she has; she is truly a great lady. Her family and friends must be very proud, and I thank her for continuing to serve the community.

COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE,  
AND RELATED AGENCIES APPRO-  
PRIATIONS ACT, 2008

SPEECH OF

**HON. JOHN ABNEY CULBERSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 26, 2007*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3093) making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, and Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes:

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Chairman, I commend the House and the Appropriations Committee for passing the FY 2008 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill last week.

Back in January, I signed a bi-partisan letter along with 39 of my colleagues calling for an increase in NASA's budget. The President requested \$17.3 billion, an increase of over \$1 billion from FY 2007 enacted levels. Subsequently, 23 CEOs of our country's top aerospace companies wrote Congress calling for a top-line increase in NASA's budget.

I'm happy to report that Appropriations Committee not only listened but acted. This bill contains over \$17.6 billion for our space program, \$1.3 billion above current levels and \$313 million on top of the President's request. The bill moves ahead with construction of our next generation human space vehicle, while ensuring that our current vehicle, the Space Shuttle, is fully funded so that it can continue to fly safely, complete construction of the International Space Station (ISS), and service the Hubble Space Telescope. It also restores funding for important missions in space science and aeronautics.

Some of my colleagues who don't have an active space constituency in their district might ask why should we spend this amount of

money on NASA? Quite simply, NASA programs are about investing in our country's future—our future from a scientific standpoint given all the agency does to promote and to inspire young people to study science, math and engineering; our future economically given the agency's development and support for new industries, just think of how many folks are watching this debate as a result of space-based communications; and lastly, our future from a national security standpoint.

Let me go into that last point in more detail. My colleagues are well aware of China's irresponsible and provocative anti-satellite weapons test. Debris from that test is now floating in orbit and presents a real threat to our space-based assets. But my colleagues may be less aware of China's plans for manned space exploration. China has already flown humans in orbit and has stated plans to build a space craft to land people on the Moon. Thirty years ago we were in a space race with the Russians. Now, our main competitor is the Chinese. Frankly, I do not want to see the American flag on the Moon supplanted by the Chinese flag. That remains a real possibility if we do not properly fund NASA. This bill contains the full request for development of the next generation U.S. human space flight vehicle to get us back to the Moon and beyond.

Lastly, I would like to point out one area in the bill where we could make some improvements once we get into Conference with the Senate. The ISS faces \$20 million in reductions from the President's request in reserve funding and crew and cargo services. Given that we are entering into the most critical phase of construction, I believe it is vital that we fully fund the ISS. So I hope the Committee will be able to restore these funds.

I thank my colleagues for supporting this important legislation.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, July 31, 2007 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

AUGUST 1

9:30 a.m.

Foreign Relations  
African Affairs Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the United States Africa Command, focusing on a new strategic relationship with Africa.

SD-419

Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

Business meeting to consider S. 1677, to amend the Exchange Rates and International Economic Coordination Act of 1988, and original bills entitled, "Housing Assistance Authorization Act", "Private Student Loan Transparency and Improvement Act", and "Commission on Natural Catastrophe Risk Management and Insurance Act".

SD-538

Energy and Natural Resources

To hold an oversight hearing to examine recent advances in clean coal technology, focusing on the prospects for deploying these technologies at a commercial scale in the near future.

SD-366

10 a.m.

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

Business meeting to consider S. 579, to amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize the Director of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences to make grants for the development and operation of research centers regarding environmental factors that may be related to the etiology of breast cancer, S. 625, to protect the public health by providing the Food and Drug Administration with certain authority to regulate tobacco products, and S. 1858, to amend the Public Health Service Act to establish grant programs to provide for education and outreach on newborn screening and coordinated followup care once newborn screening has been conducted, to reauthorize programs under part A of title XI of such Act.

Room to be announced

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Business meeting to consider S. 680, to ensure proper oversight and accountability in Federal contracting, H.R. 1254, to amend title 44, United States Code, to require information on contributors to Presidential library fundraising organizations, S. 1000, to enhance the Federal Telework Program, S. 1446, to amend the National Capital Transportation Act of 1969 to authorize additional Federal contributions for maintaining and improving the transit system of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority, S. 547, to establish a Deputy Secretary of Homeland Security for Management, S. 1245, to reform mutual aid agreements for the National Capitol Region, S. 597, to extend the special postage stamp for breast cancer research for 2 years, H.R. 2570, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 301 Boardwalk Drive in Fort Collins, Colorado, as the "Dr. Karl E. Carson Post Office Building", S. 1732, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 301 Boardwalk Drive in Fort Collins, Colorado, as the "Dr. Karl E. Carson Post Office Building", S. 1772, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 127 South Elm Street in Gardner, Kansas, as the "Private First Class Shane R. Austin Post Office", S. 1781, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 118 Minner Avenue in Bakersfield, California, as the "Buck Owens Post Office", H.R. 2127, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 408 West 6th Street in Chelsea, Oklahoma, as the "Clem Rogers McSpadden Post Office Building", H.R. 2563, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at

309 East Linn Street in Marshalltown, Iowa, as the "Major Scott Nisely Post Office", S. 1539, to designate the post office located at 309 East Linn Street, Marshalltown, Iowa, as the "Major Scott Nisely Post Office", S. 1596, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 103 South Getty Street in Uvalde, Texas, as the "Dolph S. Briscoe, Jr. Post Office Building", H.R. 1722, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 601 Banyan Trail in Boca Raton, Florida, as the "Leonard W. Herman Post Office", H.R. 1425, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4551 East 52nd Street in Odessa, Texas, as the "Staff Sergeant Marvin "Rex" Young Post Office Building", H.R. 2078, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 14536 State Route 136 in Cherry Fork, Ohio, as the "Staff Sergeant Omer T. 'O.T.' Hawkins Post Office", H.R. 2077, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 20805 State Route 125 in Blue Creek, Ohio, as the "George B. Lewis Post Office Building", H.R. 1617, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 561 Kingsland Avenue in University City, Missouri, as the "Harriett F. Woods Post Office Building", H.R. 2025, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 11033 South State Street in Chicago, Illinois, as the "Willye B. White Post Office Building", and H.R. 1335, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 508 East Main Street in Seneca, South Carolina, as the "S Sgt Lewis G. Watkins Post Office Building".

SD-342

2:30 p.m.  
Commerce, Science, and Transportation  
To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Department of Commerce.  
SR-253  
Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs  
Oversight of Government Management, the Federal Workforce, and the District of Columbia Subcommittee  
To hold hearings to examine the underrepresentation of Americans at the United Nations and its organizations; focusing on ways to build a stronger American diplomatic presence.  
SD-342  
Energy and Natural Resources  
Water and Power Subcommittee  
To hold hearings to examine S. 1054 and H.R. 122, bills to amend the Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to participate in the Inland Empire regional

cycling project and in the Cucamonga Valley Water District recycling project, S. 1472, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to create a Bureau of Reclamation partnership with the North Bay Water Reuse Authority and other regional partners to achieve objectives relating to water supply, water quality, and environmental restoration, S. 1475 and H.R. 1526, bills to amend the Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act to authorize the Bay Area Regional Water Recycling Program, H.R. 30, to amend the Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to participate in the Eastern Municipal Water District Recycled Water System Pressurization and Expansion Project, H.R. 609, to amend the Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to participate in the Central Texas Water Recycling and Reuse Project, and H.R. 1175, to amend the Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act to increase the ceiling on the Federal share of the costs of phase I of the Orange County, California, Regional Water Reclamation Project.

SD-366

## Intelligence

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Donald M. Kerr, of Virginia, to be Principal Deputy Director of National Intelligence.

SH-219

## AUGUST 2

9:30 a.m.

## Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Randall S. Kroszner, of New Jersey, Larry Allan Klane, of the District of Columbia, and Elizabeth A. Duke, of Virginia, all to be Members of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

SD-538

10 a.m.

## Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Business meeting to consider pending calendar business.

SR-253

## Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Federal Financial Management, Government Information, Federal Services, and International Security Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act (Public Law 109-435), focusing on the services that are provided to customers.

SD-342

## Judiciary

To continue hearings to examine the Department of Justice politicizing the hiring and firing of United States Attorneys, focusing on preserving prosecutorial independence.

SD-226

11:30 a.m.

## Armed Services

To receive a closed briefing on drawdown planning for the United States forces in Iraq.

S-407, Capitol

## Judiciary

Business meeting to consider S. 1692, to grant a Federal charter to Korean War Veterans Association, Incorporated, S. 1060, to reauthorize the grant program for reentry of offenders into the community in the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968, to improve reentry planning and implementation, S. 453, to prohibit deceptive practices in Federal elections, S. 1845, to provide for limitations in certain communications between the Department of Justice and the White House Office relating to civil and criminal investigations, a bill entitled, "School Safety and Law Enforcement Act", and the nomination of Rosa Emilia Rodriguez-Velez, to be United States Attorney for the District of Puerto Rico.

SD-226

2 p.m.

## Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe

To hold hearings to examine freedom of the media in the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe region.

B-318RHOB

2:30 p.m.

Energy and Natural Resources  
National Parks Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine S. 1253, to establish a fund for the National Park Centennial Challenge.

SD-366

## Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

Security and International Trade and Finance Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine reforming key international financial institutions for the 21st century.

SD-538

## Intelligence

To hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters.

SH-219

## AUGUST 3

8 a.m.

## Armed Services

To receive a closed briefing regarding the treatment of detainees.

SR-222