

wasn't until 1988 that they were given any benefits, and even then they did not qualify for some portions of the GI Bill.

I am a proud cosponsor of H.R. 23, the Belated Thank You to the Merchant Mariners of World War II Act of 2007, under which certain honorably discharged veterans of the U.S. Merchant Marine would receive a monthly benefit of \$1,000. This benefit to the veterans (or their survivors) would be an important step in recognizing their crucial contribution to the protection and preservation of the freedom of the United States of America.

I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting the Merchant Mariners who deserve recognition and benefits for their service to the United States of America during World War II.

COMMEMORATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SOUTHERN CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

**HON. AL GREEN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Saturday, August 4, 2007*

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I wish to commemorate the Southern Christian Leadership Conference's, SCLC, 50th Anniversary. Committed to obtaining and securing equal rights for African Americans and human rights for all people, the SCLC is a prominent body of influence. The organization, along with others including the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), gave African Americans and other minorities a sense of pride when times seemed dismal and bleak.

Beginning with the Montgomery Bus Boycott in December 1955, the then Southern Leadership Conference on Transportation and Non-violent Integration was founded by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and Ralph David Abernathy. Although it was initially thought by some to be of an antagonist nature, in its early years the organization prided itself on education initiatives and voter registration campaigns to ensure that their young people had a voice in the political process. With the successful conclusion of the Montgomery Bus Boycott in February 1957, the group changed its name to the Southern Leadership Conference, widening their scale to reach a much larger audience. In August of the same year, the name was once again changed to the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, the name the organization bears today.

The initiatives and beliefs of the group, along with those of several others, culminated in the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom on August 28, 1963, where an estimated 250,000 demonstrators came to the Mall, making the march the largest political rally of its time. At this historic march, Dr. King delivered his famous "I Have a Dream" speech, inspiring the masses in attendance and those viewing at home. The march was later seen as an integral part to the passing of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the National Voting Rights Act of 1965.

Committed to the philosophy of its founding president, Dr. Martin Luther King, the SCLC has always prided itself on nonviolent protests and rallies, allowing the message to overshadow the brutality they were often met with.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in celebrating this marvelous organization and wishing them great success in the next 50 years.

KOREA-U.S. FREE TRADE AGREEMENT

**HON. DIANE E. WATSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Saturday, August 4, 2007*

Ms. WATSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to address the recently completed Korea-U.S. Free Trade Agreement. The agreement was concluded on April 1 and now has been transmitted to Congress for consideration.

The Korea-U.S. FTA is of great importance to my Congressional district located in Los Angeles, Culver City, and Hollywood, as well as the entire state of California, which has played a critical role in the Pacific Rim's rapid economic expansion.

Today Korea is California's 5th largest trading partner and the Los Angeles Custom District's third largest trading partner, with nearly \$18 billion in two-way trade in 2005. Expanded trade between Korea and the U.S. will translate into more jobs and business for Los Angeles County where, most significantly, the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach handle 43 percent of cargo containers shipped to the U.S.

Madam Speaker, the Korea-U.S. FTA is also highly important to California's ethnic Korean community. As you know, California is home to the largest population of Koreans outside of Korea. In my 33rd Congressional district, Korean-Americans have built a thriving business and cultural area known as Koreatown. Many maintain close cultural, business, and family ties to their homeland.

The entertainment industry is critical to the economic health of California, and I am particularly heartened that the concluded Korea-U.S. FTA contains expanded protection for copyrighted works in today's digital economy. The agreement protects music, videos, software, and text from widespread unauthorized sharing via the Internet and provides for extended terms of protection for copyrighted works consistent with emerging international standards. The agreement will also decrease the Korean TV content quota for film and animation.

The Korea-U.S. FTA must now clear one final and most important hurdle: Congressional approval. It is my hope that accommodation can be quickly reached on those provisions of the FTA that remain problematic to certain U.S. business sectors. I look forward to reading the enacting legislation.

Despite these remaining barriers, I am encouraged by the comprehensive and historic U.S.-Korea Free Trade Agreement that will promote economic growth, ensure that Los Angeles and California remain on the competitive cutting edge, and strengthen ties between the U.S. and the Republic of Korea.

THE GHOST OF ABERCROMBIE

**HON. JOHN B. LARSON**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Saturday, August 4, 2007*

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, the cold night brought me into the cancered bowels of this capital place. Barren halls and walkways and crawl space in front of me and inside cerebral tunnels.

It is here, away from now. I come to face the ghost of Abercrombie.

Who walked these paths and is remembered for not so hallow words.

Who bragged sincerely of life and death long before the funeral chant.

As cold and dark and empty and hollow as these moments are, it is here in the mind's basement that we face this white ghost.

Abercrombie who is still here.

Have hope—nothing ends.

INTRODUCTION OF THE TRANSPARENT REPORTING UNDER ESA LISTING ACT

**HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Saturday, August 4, 2007*

Mr. MARKEY. Madam Speaker, since 1973, the Endangered Species Act, ESA, has been one of our Nation's most important environmental laws. For over 30 years, the ESA has been the primary safety net for our Nation's species that are facing extinction. And this cornerstone of our environmental policy has been a tremendous success. More than 99 percent of the species that have been listed as threatened or endangered have avoided extinction, including iconic animals such as the bald eagle, the gray wolf, and the whooping crane.

Recent reports have surfaced of political interference with the science behind Endangered Species Act decisions within the administration. It is crucial that we not allow politics to trump science in making decisions that can affect whether a species recovers or disappears forever. The ESA requires that decisions as to whether a species is an endangered or threatened species must be made purely based on the science. In addition, while decisions on the designation of a critical habitat of a species can include economic considerations, they must also be based on science.

The Transparent Reporting Under ESA Listing Act or, the TRUE Listing Act, that I am introducing today would help ensure that the science behind these decisions is never compromised by political interference. This legislation would require that concurrent with the publication of a determination as to whether a species is threatened or endangered or the designation of critical habitat, the Secretary of the Interior publish a summary statement of the scientific rationale behind the decision or revision. Furthermore, the summary statement would include the name and title of any executive branch employee or officer who was involved in the decision. Publishing this important information will help ensure that political appointees not just within the Department of Interior but within the entire executive branch