

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

are not permitted to silently and anonymously interfere with the science behind ESA decisions.

However, this legislation shedding light on the Department of the Interior decisionmaking go hand in hand with additional whistleblower protections for government employees, such as those contained in H.R. 985, the Whistleblower Protection Enhancement Act of 2007 that overwhelmingly passed the House in March of this year by a vote of 331–94. As we look to expand the transparency of ESA decisions, we must also ensure that those employees at the Fish and Wildlife Service and the Department of the Interior who are acting in the best interests of the Nation are not subject to reprisal.

IMPROVING FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE SURVEILLANCE TO DEFEND THE NATION AND THE CONSTITUTION ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN J. HALL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mr. HALL of New York. Madam Speaker, in the interest of national security, I reluctantly voted in favor of H.R. 3356, the Improving Foreign Intelligence Surveillance to Defend the Nation and the Constitution Act of 2007. Although I ultimately supported this bill, I am concerned that this bill provided expanded authority to the Attorney General, who I believe has previously violated U.S. law regarding the FISA courts and has breached the trust of the American people. If this were a permanent change to law, I would have voted against it because I believe provisions of this bill could be abused and allow the Attorney General to authorize wiretaps on American citizens without a warrant. Since it expires in 120 days, I am willing to support it as a stop-gap measure. Should we hear any evidence that the Attorney General or any other administration official has blatantly abused provisions of H.R. 3356, I will call for and support aggressive investigations into their actions.

IMPROVING FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE SURVEILLANCE TO DEFEND THE NATION AND THE CONSTITUTION ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVID WU

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mr. WU. Madam Speaker, one lesson we Americans learn as children is that we should guard our liberty and our security with equal vigor.

The FISA bill before us, while reinstating the power to direct surveillance toward foreigners, protects Americans in two key ways:

1. An independent judge, and not the attorney general or anyone else in the executive branch, will rule on surveillance applications.

2. Nothing in this bill immunizes any potential illegal surveillance.

Americans expect accountability, that their private lives remain private, and that their own

government is one they need not fear, especially when we face difficult times. This bill strikes the appropriate balance between liberty and security.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF
ROBERT LEE MOTT

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, August 4, 2007

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, the City of Chickasaw and indeed the entire State of Alabama lost a dear friend, and I rise today to honor him and pay tribute to his memory. Robert L. Mott was a successful businessman and restaurateur whose kindness and willingness to help others had a strong impact on the lives of so many throughout south Alabama.

Known to his community as “Papa Bear,” Robert started his own restaurant, Papa Bear’s Seafood, 12 years ago. He also owned Mott-White’s Fixtures, a restaurant equipment business in downtown Mobile. Robert’s colleagues remember him as a fair businessman who was a pleasure to conduct business with.

Prior to his career in the restaurant business, Robert worked in the engineering division of the Alabama State Highway Department, in addition to serving in the Army National Guard. He was active in his community, often helping to set up local church facilities.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering a dedicated community member and friend to many throughout south Alabama. He will be deeply missed by those who knew him. Robert Lee Mott is survived by his wife of 46 years, Darothy Mott; 3 daughters, Robbin Stevens of Gulfcrest, Sandra Ivy of Chickasaw, and Kimberly Tait of Fort Morgan; his mother, Christine Mott of Tibbie; 2 brothers, Roger Mott of Mobile and Coyette Mott of Sarasota, Florida; and 7 grandchildren. May his family know that they are in our thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.

TRIBUTE TO PROFESSOR MARVIN
H. CARUTHERS

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, August 4, 2007

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Professor Marvin H. Caruthers on his recent selection as a recipient of the National Medal of Science. With this award Professor Caruthers officially joins the ranks of the finest minds to contribute to American science since Congress established the award in 1959.

Having held a faculty post at the University of Colorado at Boulder for the past 34 years, Professor Caruthers conducts the sort of cutting-edge research that consistently keeps CU-Boulder on the map for technological advancement and academic progress. The University deserves credit for creating an atmosphere that allows minds like Professor Caruthers’ to flourish, and I can say confidently that the 2nd District, the State of Colorado, and the country at large all benefit enormously from that investment.

Professor Caruthers is the cofounder of both Amgen, the world’s largest biotechnology company, and Applied Biosystems, a company that has commercialized Professor Caruthers’ work on DNA synthesizing. While his research is extraordinary in its own right, making his findings commercially available is how this important work manifests as life-saving technology, advanced understanding of human biology, and high-tech jobs for American workers. Professor Caruthers’ work gives us a textbook example of how advanced research becomes a guiding light for human advancement.

I hope my colleagues will join me in not only recognizing the past accomplishments of Professor Marvin Caruthers that have warranted his acceptance of the National Medal of Science, but also in wishing him all the best in his future pursuits.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CANDICE S. MILLER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, August 4, 2007

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 815 and rollcall No. 816, I did not vote as a protest of the actions of the majority related to rollcall No. 814. Had I voted, I would have voted nay on rollcall No. 815 and nay on rollcall No. 816.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN NOXAKIS

HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, August 4, 2007

Mr. McCOTTER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor and acknowledge the distinguished life of John Noxakis, who entered God’s eternal paradise far too soon for those of us he leaves behind in this ephemeral veil of tears.

A life-long Detroit proud of his ethnic heritage, John embodied the Greek’s love of food and music. He was a gifted culinary artist, whose dishes delighted and sated diners throughout our community; and, in his purest gift, he was an unparalleled percussionist. It was through John’s drumming my brother and I met him. We three formed the nucleus of the little acclaimed and over amplified band, “The Flying Squirrels”; and, cramped together on the “cover band” roller coaster, off and on we jammed our way through nearly twenty years of small gigs and smaller paychecks. Through it all, John was the one person in the band whose gentility and sanity kept an often tempestuous combination of musical prima donas kicking out the jams, instead of killing each other. He was true to this task until his tragic and unexpected death; and it has taken some time—is still taking time, may forever take time—for me to realize I will never see him ascend his set, hear his beat, and know my brother from another mother is right in time with every thought seeping through my strings.

Yes, in a world where too many crave at all costs to be “great,” John cared enough to be good. He was a loving brother to Michael and Katina; a devoted uncle to Christine, Sophia