

Laurie's particular case. These include the FBI's decision not to have a polygraph test of the crewmember and the cruise line's decision to withhold Laurie's own medical information.

These incidents beg the question: what is the process when a crime is committed on a cruise line and what recourse do passengers have? The more I have inquired, the more I have been alarmed that there is no shortage of cases of: rape, sexual assaults of minors, alcohol related fighting and abuse, and persons overboard.

Even more troubling, most of these incidents have not been fully resolved or prosecuted. I have also learned that there have been no convictions for rape cases on cruise lines in four decades, a statistic that takes a new meaning through the lens of Ms. Dishman's experience.

As a result of continued cases of victims of crimes on the high seas, and with the much appreciated leadership of Chairman CUMMINGS, the Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation held a hearing on this important issue in March, 2007. The hearing showed numerous discrepancies between the experience sold by cruise lines and the real experience on board these ships. In addition, the hearing highlighted how crime numbers reported to Congress in a previous hearing are radically different from the cruise industry's internal crime statistics.

The result of our hearing, combined with numerous and unending media reports of crimes on cruise ships, point to the need for increased safety and security for these passengers. Prevention can be an important tool, and we all know that prevention starts with making people aware of the potential for a crime to occur. It is time for Congress to acknowledge formally this ongoing problem and to ensure that Americans are informed, aware and safe. The Resolution I am introducing today will do just that.

The resolution acknowledges:

The lack of federal regulation overseeing crime reporting by the cruise industry;

The absence of law enforcement officials on ocean voyages;

That without a law enforcement official, cruise officials are essentially responsible for collection and preserving a crime scene;

Most cruise ships are registered under the laws of another country;

Perpetrators of sexual violence and other violent crimes on cruise ships are rarely brought to justice; and

Consumers who book a cruise generally do not receive information at the point of sale about their legal rights as a cruise passenger and who to contact for help in the event a crime occurs during their voyage.

And Resolves that:

The members of the International Cruise Victims Association, the National Center for Victims of Crime, and the Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network are to be commended for their leadership in highlighting the problem of crimes against American citizens on cruise ships;

Americans who are victims of crime on a cruise ship should have access to justice, and necessary steps should be taken to ensure that the perpetrators of such crimes are brought to justice;

The cruise industry should provide comprehensive information to passengers about security risks and maintain necessary security personnel on each ship; and

Congress should provide oversight to ensure the safety and security of American passengers.

Madam Speaker, nearly all cruise ships operate under a foreign flag. U.S. citizens who are victimized onboard cruise ships often do not know their legal rights or who to contact for help in the immediate aftermath of crimes. Cruises operate in a legal vacuum, where a lack of accountability empowers predators and obstructs their victims' pursuit of justice. That is an unacceptable situation, made worse by the cruise lines' own efforts to avoid scrutiny of and accountability for their own handling of the security of their passengers.

My hope is that with increased Congressional involvement that the cruise lines finally take these crimes seriously and enact necessary reforms. The Resolution acknowledges the ongoing safety concerns and will help ensure that the millions of men, women and children who cruise each year are informed, aware and safe on cruise ships. This resolution is supported by the Women's Caucus and Victim's Rights Caucus, and I would urge all of my colleagues to cosponsor this important Resolution.

IN MEMORY OF MICHAEL
YARBROUGH

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 17, 2007

Mr. ROSS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Sergeant Michael Yarbrough of Glen Rose, Arkansas, who died on September 6, 2007, fighting for our country in Iraq while supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom. He was 24 years old when he selflessly gave his life for his country during combat operations.

Sergeant Yarbrough's deep sense of unity and teamwork led him to honorably serve his country as a United States Marine. Having completed 2 tours of duty, Sergeant Yarbrough volunteered to return to Iraq in place of a soldier whose wife was pregnant. This gesture of selflessness encapsulated the spirit of this young man as he was always thinking of others before himself.

Sergeant Yarbrough joined the Marines in January of 2002, and his proud service will continue to live on and serve as an inspiration to the many soldiers who knew him and fought alongside him in combat. He was a Marine in the 3rd Assault Amphibian Battalion, 1st Marine Division, 1st Marine Expeditionary Force. His bravery and courage as a Marine was exemplified by his numerous awards and military decorations, including the Purple Heart Medal.

Sergeant Michael Yarbrough gave his life to serve our country and he will forever be remembered as a hero, a husband, a son and a friend. My deepest condolences go out to his wife Mary Ann Yarbrough; his mother, Rhonda Kidder and his father Jerry Yarbrough; his 2 sisters Misty Hutcheson and Christy Smith; and to his numerous aunts, uncles, nieces and nephews. He will be missed by his family, his community, his country and all those who knew him. On this 17th day of September, which would have been Sergeant Yarbrough's 25th birthday, I honor him for his service and will continue to keep his family in my deepest thoughts and prayers.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND ITS
EFFECTS ON OUR PLANET

HON. MIKE MCINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 17, 2007

Mr. MCINTYRE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak about climate change and concerns that I share with many Americans about its effects on our planet. The Industrial Revolution ushered in a new world of economic opportunity and prosperity in this country, but with that also came major changes to the composition of the Earth's atmosphere.

For the past 200 years, the burning of fossil fuels, such as coal and oil, and deforestation have caused the concentrations of heat-trapping greenhouse gases to increase significantly in our atmosphere. As the concentrations of these gases continue to increase, the Earth's temperature is rising to record levels. According to NOAA and NASA data, the Earth's average surface temperature has increased by about 1.2 to 1.4 degrees Fahrenheit since 1900. The warmest global average temperatures on record have all occurred during the last 15 years, with 1998 and 2005 being the hottest. And we all know how extremely hot this past August was—one of the hottest months on record in many parts of the country.

If greenhouse gases continue to increase, climate models predict that the average temperature of the Earth's surface could increase from 2.5 to 10.4 degrees Fahrenheit above 1990 levels by the end of this century. This phenomenon of climate change may be a reason for many environmental issues facing our world today. Whether it's melting polar ice caps, devastating floods, shriveling droughts, or sea level rise, every area of the globe has the potential to be affected by the impacts of global warming.

The contributing factors to global warming are many and are not concentrated from one source. Emissions come from power plants, vehicles, industrial processes, agriculture, forestry, and other land use, and waste management. If we are to be successful in curbing our greenhouse gas emissions, we must institute an economy-wide application to protect our environment while not dislocating any vital economic sectors.

Working to reduce the contributing factors of climate change also has the strong potential of helping the U.S. reduce its dependence on foreign oil. New technologies are constantly being developed for alternative fuels and other petroleum-based products. It is important that we move forward with a balanced approach to both energy independence and emissions reduction that takes into account impacts to both the environment and the economy.

HONORING U.S. ARMY SPECIALIST
MARISOL HEREDIA

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 17, 2007

Ms. SOLIS. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Specialist Marisol Heredia who died of injuries suffered while serving in Iraq. Specialist Heredia was a member of the U.S.

Army's 15th Brigade Support Battalion, 1st Calvary Division, deployed from Fort Hood, Texas.

Specialist Marisol Heredia was from El Monte, California. She was born on September 16, 1987. She received a public school education and attended Mountain View High School, where she was a dedicated student who graduated half a year earlier than her class.

For love of country and out of admiration for her older sister who served in the U.S. military, Specialist Heredia joined the United States Army in July, 2005. Specialist Marisol Heredia was deployed last October to serve her first tour of duty in Iraq. On July 18, 2007 a vehicle she was fueling caught on fire in Baghdad, Iraq. She was evacuated to Brooke Army Medical Center in Fort Sam Houston, Texas, for treatment, but passed away on September 7, 2007 as a result of her injuries.

Specialist Heredia served this country with courage, pride and loyalty. She gave the ultimate sacrifice to our country and for that we will be forever grateful to her and her family. She was buried yesterday on what would have been her 20th birthday. My prayers and deepest sympathy go out to her family and friends.

She is survived by her 3 sisters, as well as her mother and stepfather who were deeply touched by her kind heart and gentle strength.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 17, 2007

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, unfortunately, I was unable to travel

to Washington, DC for votes on September 10, 2007.

However, I would like the record to reflect that I would have recorded "yes" for that day's recorded votes. They included:

(1) H. Res. 257—Supporting the goals and ideals of Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month, and;

(2) H. Res. 643—Recognizing September 11 as a day of remembrance, extending sympathies to those who lost their lives on September 11, 2001, and their families, honoring the heroic actions of our nation's first responders and Armed Forces, and reaffirming the commitment to defending the people of the United States against any and all future challenges.

TRIBUTE TO BISHOP EDWARD SMITH

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 17, 2007

Mr. CLYBURN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a spiritual leader whose commitment to his congregation and to his church spans half of a century. Bishop Edward Smith, dedicated pastor of the Progressive Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ, celebrates his 50th anniversary in the ministry this year. A beacon for hope in times of sorrow and an inspiring figure in times of celebration, Bishop Smith has faithfully and prayerfully served the Denmark community. I congratulate Bishop Smith on this significant milestone in his ministry.

In the Book of Micah we find the question, "What does the Lord require of you, but to act justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with

your God?" Bishop Smith has certainly answered with an adherence to that biblical admonition. He began his service in 1957. Bishop Joseph Williams appointed the then Elder Smith as the new pastor of Progressive Church following the resignation of Elder Collins. In accepting this challenge, Bishop Smith said, "The Lord saved me for service and if this is where I am to serve, here am I Lord use me." And so, with the Apostle Peter as his example, Bishop Smith sold his home in Columbia, South Carolina and went to Denmark to build a house for the Lord.

By fall 1959, Bishop Smith moved his church from Blackville, South Carolina to a storefront in Denmark, South Carolina, increasing his congregation from six to fifteen. With the power of faith, the force of hammers, and Bishop Smith as their guide, seven months of construction later, February 1963, there stood a new church on East Haynes Street.

Over the course of the 46 years that followed, he presided over an expansion that included a Progressive Child Development Center established in 1986, and the purchase of a sixteen acre track of land on Progressive Way, where Bishop Smith envisions a new K-12 school and efficiency apartments for the elderly. Today, the Progressive Church in Denmark attracts congregants from five neighboring counties.

Madam Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating Bishop Edward Smith on his 50th Anniversary. Like his spiritual guide, Saint Peter, he has established a strong house for God. In addition, this vibrant and devoted civic leader has enriched the lives of many in Denmark, South Carolina. I commend his steadfastness on behalf of "the least of these" and I applaud Bishop Edward Smith for his half century of public service.