

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN RECOGNITION OF LINDA SPEARS' 2007 DON CARLOS HUMANITARIAN AWARD

SPEECH OF

HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 19, 2007

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize long time Tempe resident, past councilwoman and friend, Linda Spears, who will be receiving the 2007 Don Carlos Humanitarian of the Year Award tonight in my hometown of Tempe, Arizona.

The Don Carlos Humanitarian Award honors a Tempe resident who upholds the humanitarian ideals of Charles Trumbull Hayden, Tempe's founder, who was referred to as "Don Carlos" by Hispanic pioneers due to his generosity and compassion for people in need. This prestigious recognition is awarded each year by the Tempe Community Council to pay tribute to Tempeans for their outstanding humanitarian service in the community over an extended period of time.

Linda served on the Tempe City Council from 1994 to 1998. Yet Linda's service to the community dates back to 1990, through a variety of human service efforts in the community. Linda continues her dedication to the community through her activities with the Boys and Girls Club, contributing her leadership and fundraising skills to help the needs of children served by their programs.

Madam Speaker, in addition to her service to the Boys and Girls Club, Linda served on the boards of the TIE Foundation from 1997 through 2003, the Tempe Salvation Army from 1999 through 2002, the Centers for Rehabilitation from 1996 through 2003 and Tempe Community Council from 1999 through 2007.

Linda is an active member of Kiwanis Club of Tempe, was elected its first female president in 1992 and helped to conceptualize Tempe's Fantasy of Lights Parade which now draws crowds of over 45,000 from the community. Linda is passionate when it comes to providing affordable housing in Tempe, a passion that led her to the boards of the Industrial Development Authority and Newtown Community Development Corporation. And if that is not enough, Linda's current endeavors includes raising money and awareness for the Tempe Community Foundation, which provides funding to meet the needs of all human service agencies serving Tempe residents.

Linda's activities should be viewed as those of a true community steward. Linda's commitment to our Tempe community truly embodies the spirit of Don Carlos and the humanitarian ideals that continue to make Tempe a great and desired place to call home. It is for these reasons that I join former Mayor Neil Guiliano, the Tempe Community Council, and Linda's family and friends in relaying a heartfelt "thank you" for your service and congratulate her on receiving this award.

CELEBRATING WARREN COUNTY, TENNESSEE'S BICENTENNIAL

HON. LINCOLN DAVIS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 25, 2007

Mr. LINCOLN DAVIS of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the founding of Warren County, Tennessee. Nestled in the heart of the foothills of the Cumberland Plateau, Warren County is a proud piece of the Tennessee tradition.

Warren County takes its name from Major General Joseph Warren, a hero of the American Revolution who earned the rank of Major General and was killed in the battle of Bunker Hill. The County continued to serve as a staging ground for great historical moments through the Civil War, when General Forrest's brigade camped in Warren County before they launched an attack on the Federal Army that resulted in the capture of twelve hundred Union Soldiers, including a General.

But Warren County has far more to offer the State than its rich history alone. From the scenic beauty of Rock Island to the Highland Rim Classic bicycle race in McMinnville, Warren County has something for sportsmen and outdoorsmen alike. McMinnville, Morrison, Viola and Dibrell all make up the diverse landscape. Perhaps the best view of Warren County, however, comes from the annual "boogie," or sky diving event that gives brave participants a unique perspective on this great Tennessee County.

Warren County is also home to the nursery capital of the world, McMinnville, Tennessee. McMinnville and all of Warren County's growers have made Tennessee proud for a number of years, marking McMinnville as a city known for being "always in bloom."

I am proud today to wish a happy bicentennial to the people of Warren County, and hope that they will continue to enjoy the blessings of their place in middle Tennessee for years to come.

IN HONOR OF THE MONTEREY COUNTY FILM COMMISSION

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 25, 2007

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Monterey County Film Commission's 20th year of "lights, camera, and economic action" for Monterey County. It was created in 1987 by the Monterey County Board of Supervisors to increase local economic development through the film industry.

The film commission markets Monterey County to bring an economic boost to the area from film, video, and multimedia production. Its mission has expanded over the years as it also provides local educational programs on

various aspects of the film industry's artistry, skills, and employment opportunities. It has also created a scholarship fund for students of filmmaking.

The film commission has helped attract and facilitate hundreds of movies, TV shows, commercials, documentaries, and still shoots, bringing in nearly \$60 million to date to the local communities. There is also spin-off tourism value when local sites are shown in these products.

The film commission acts as a liaison between film productions and local governments and communities. It serves as a resource for information and guidelines on film procedures and filming on public and private property. It provides services including a location library, scouting assistance, and logistical referrals for crew, facilities, and support services. It markets the county's locations through tradeshow and sales trips, advertising and public relations, and film industry events.

The commission is a member of the Greater San Francisco Film Commissions, California Film Commission, and is affiliated with the Association of Film Commissioners International.

Madam Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to honor this group, and I know my fellow Members join me in congratulating them on 20 years of service to the community.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SEPTEMBER 25, 1957, DESEGREGATION OF LITTLE ROCK CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL BY THE LITTLE ROCK NINE

SPEECH OF

HON. NANCY E. BOYDA

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 24, 2007

Mrs. BOYDA of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I commend the House of Representatives for the passage of this important resolution to honor the Little Rock Nine. As a Kansan, I am proud to be a resident of one of the places where the road to justice began.

For Kansans, the story of the Little Rock Nine begins with the landmark Supreme Court decision *Brown v. Board of Education*. This case began in 1950 when 13 parents took their children to the schools in their neighborhoods for white children and attempted to enroll. All were refused admission, and for most, this meant traveling across town to attend the few available schools for African Americans. These courageous parents filed suit against the Topeka Board of Education on behalf of their 20 children.

When the parents agreed to become involved in the case, it's likely they never imagined they would change history in such a significant and meaningful way. The people who make up this story were ordinary—their story is anything but. Oliver Brown, who the case was later named after, was a Topeka minister who simply knew that it was not too much to ask that his country treat his children equally.

• 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.

On May 17, 1954, the United States Supreme Court announced in *Brown v. Board of Education* (347 U.S. 483) that, "in the field of education, the doctrine 'of separate but equal' has no place." The Court recognized the psychological effects of segregation and that separate is inherently unequal.

In 1957, 3 years after the *Brown v. Board of Education* decision, 9 brave students in Little Rock, Arkansas, continued the struggle that Oliver Brown and his daughter started. They endured a hostile school environment and a local government that was once again not supportive of their belief that equal treatment is a basic principle of a democratic society.

The story of *Brown v. Board of Education* is one of hope and courage. On this 50th anniversary of the Little Rock Nine, I am proud to take time to remember the contributions of students across the country—from Kansas to Arkansas—that fought for integration. I also hope that we can recommit ourselves to honoring the legacy that the *Brown v. Board of Education* decision left for us—to continue working to provide a world-class education for all children.

HONORING GREENHILLS SCHOOL
FOR RECEIVING THE 2007
SCHOOLS OF DISTINCTION
AWARD

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 25, 2007

Mr. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Greenhills School for receiving the prestigious Intel Schools of Distinction award for 2007.

Chosen from almost 1,000 entries, this prestigious award is granted to only six schools nationwide each year. The award is designed to recognize those schools that demonstrate excellence in implementing innovative programs within their classrooms, specifically in the fields of math and science. The science faculty of Greenhills School has exemplified the spirit of the award, modernizing classroom labs to incorporate wireless computers. Their efforts educated students not only in the complex field of science, but also in technology's role as a laboratory instrument. In addition, they have demonstrated an enthusiasm to connect with all students in the school.

Greenhills School has always stood out as an exceptional place to learn. Located in Ann Arbor, it boasts the largest percentage of National Merit Semi-Finalists and AP Scholars of any school in the State of Michigan. With students averaging outstanding SAT and ACT scores, it is not surprising that 100 percent of Greenhills graduates enroll in college. This award is a testament not only to the science teachers of Greenhills School, but all of the 64 faculty members who work to provide students with one of the best educations in the country.

Science teachers Dr. James Lupton, Dr. Deano Smith, Thomas Friedlander, Catherine Renaud, Dee Lamphear, Martha Friedlander, Ann Novak, Chris Gleason, Deborah Jagers and Michael Wilson have all demonstrated an admirable passion and dedication that benefits over 500 students at Greenhills School. They deserve recognition for their exceptional achievement.

Madam Speaker, I ask that all of my colleagues join me in commending Greenhills School for their 2007 Schools of Distinction Award.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 25, 2007

Mr. LANGEVIN. Madam Speaker, on September 24, 2007, I was unavoidably detained while returning from committee business and unable to vote, I would like the record to reflect that, had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote Nos. 891, 892 and 893.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 25, 2007

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I regret that I was unavoidably absent yesterday afternoon, September 24, on very urgent business. Had I been present for the four votes which occurred yesterday evening: I would have voted "Yea" on H. Con. Res. 193, rollcall vote No. 891; I would have voted "Yea" on H. Res. 668, rollcall vote No. 892; I would have voted "Yea" on H.R. 1199, rollcall vote No. 893; I would have voted "Yea" on H. Res. 340, rollcall vote No. 894.

CONGRATULATING NEW EAGLE
SCOUTS

HON. MARY FALLIN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 25, 2007

Ms. FALLIN. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor and congratulate Merritt William Parham, Joseph Price Fallin III, Joseph Graham Wolfe, William Upton McClendon, and Samuel Johnson Rainbolt upon the recent attainment of their Eagle Scout rank.

Each one of these young men has exemplified what it means to be a leader to the Boy Scouts of America, the State of Oklahoma, and their country. Their service is one of the greatest contributions they can make to their peers and their community. These young men have carried out this honor with great professionalism and dignity.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the entire House of Representatives, please join me in congratulating these outstanding young men in obtaining the highest rank of Eagle Scout.

RECOGNIZING ALL HUNTERS
ACROSS THE UNITED STATES
FOR THEIR CONTINUED COMMIT-
MENT TO SAFETY

SPEECH OF

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 24, 2007

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution recognizing hunters across the United States for their continued commitment to safety. Since State fish and game agencies began offering hunter safety programs in 1949, more than 35 million Americans have been certified through these programs.

Thanks to hunter education, hunting is safe and getting safer. Hunter education covers the skills, regulations and responsibilities of hunting, wildlife conservation and the outdoors. In my home State of Texas, mandatory hunter education became law in 1988. Texas Parks and Wildlife Department began offering voluntary hunter education courses long before that, however, in 1972, and has certified over 650,000 Texans. Every year, over 30,000 youth and adults in Texas become certified in hunter education.

Firearms-related accidents have declined sharply even as gun ownership in America is rising. More than half of all households now own firearms, yet accidental fatalities are at an all-time low—down 60 percent over the last 20 years. For decades, the firearms industry has emphasized education to ensure the safe and responsible use of its products. This effort and those by other organizations are why the shooting sports and hunting are rated among the safest forms of recreation. Some 40 million people of all ages safely participate in these activities.

I would also like to point out that in June, during the annual meeting of the International Hunter Education Association (IHEA), Heidi Rao of Houston was named Professional of the Year for providing outstanding service to IHEA and its mission. A hunter education training specialist with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department since 1998, Mrs. Rao trains the general public to comply with the mandatory hunter education programs in southeast Texas. She also trains adults in hunter education programs, policies, and procedures and the general public in hunting safety and legal practices.

Again, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this resolution commending hunters for their continued commitment to safety.

TRIBUTE TO MR. PHIL RIZZUTO

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 25, 2007

Mr. SERRANO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Phil Rizzuto, former New York Yankees shortstop and baseball game announcer, who died on August 13, 2007 at the age of 89. Popularly known as "the Scooter," Mr. Rizzuto dazzled baseball fans with his spectacular bunts and defense and his dynamic style as a broadcaster.

Mr. Rizzuto was born on September 25, 1917 and grew up in Brooklyn and Queens, New York, dreaming of one day playing professional baseball. He was eventually signed by the Yankees in 1937 as a free agent and played his first professional game in 1941.

After serving in the United States Navy during World War II, Mr. Rizzuto resumed playing for the Yankees in 1946, staying there through the end of his career in 1956. During this period, the Scooter played in five All-Star games, won the Hickok Belt in 1950, awarded to the top professional athlete of the year, and helped the Bronx Bombers win seven World Series championships with his clutch hitting abilities. Mr. Rizzuto's uniform number, 10, was retired by the Yankees on August 4, 1985.

In 1956, Mr. Rizzuto was hired as a television sports announcer for the Yankees, a position in which he would serve for the next forty years. He quickly became beloved as a quirky and witty announcer and for his intense affection for the Yankee organization. Mr. Rizzuto's energetic style and use of popular phrases such as "Holy Cow" and "Did you see that?" to describe an exciting play moved him from the category of popular announcer to that of broadcasting legend. He was an institution in the Bronx.

Phil Rizzuto was one of the true legends associated with the Yankees. People came to depend on hearing his voice calling the plays and often a little more. He was part of the rich tapestry of people and players that have come to define this great sports organization.

The New York Yankees have become synonymous with the community where they have played—the Bronx. They are part of the fabric of the community. Phil Rizzuto understood that special relationship. In return, he became an honorary son of the Bronx.

Mr. Rizzuto was truly a one-of-a-kind New Yorker and a Yankee legend. Although the Scooter is gone, he will certainly not be forgotten. I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute and bidding farewell to this baseball hero.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN M. McHUGH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 25, 2007

Mr. McHUGH. Madam Speaker, I was on a leave of absence for personal reasons on September 19 and 20. Consequently, I missed several rollcall votes. At this time, I wish to note that had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 884, "yea" on rollcall No. 885, and "yea" on rollcall No. 890.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR WOMEN LEGISLATORS AND OFFICE DEPOT

HON. DIANE E. WATSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 25, 2007

Ms. WATSON. Madam Speaker, I would like to congratulate the National Foundation for Women Legislators for working to distribute

thousands of backpacks filled with school supplies in every U.S. State and Puerto Rico.

These backpacks have been donated by Office Depot and are being distributed to at-risk and disadvantaged youth. As lawmakers we introduce and pass legislation every year that affects our Nation's youth. We talk about statistics and reading performance and free lunch programs, but we do not talk enough about ensuring that all students have the school supplies they need to perform both inside and out of the classroom.

Office Depot's National Backpack Program, now in its seventh year, is designed to make a difference in communities across the country and put backpacks in the hands of underprivileged and at-risk children so they have the tools they need to start the school year. Beginning in 2001 with 80,000 backpacks donated nationwide, the program has expanded to deliver 100,000 backpacks in 2002 and in 2003 and 2004, the program was increased to 200,000 backpacks containing school supplies. In 2005, the program grew to 300,000 backpacks with school supplies and finally, in 2006, 300,000 backpacks were again donated by Office Depot across North America and in Puerto Rico, totaling more than 1 million backpacks in the hands of children since the inception of the program.

Sadly, there are hundreds of thousands of children who cannot afford the basic supplies they need for school. This backpack initiative not only alleviates some of the financial burden from the many single-family households that are stretching their budget and have enough to worry about paying for food and bills, but it also allows their children to have the pride of being able to start the school year the right way.

I am proud to say that 1,000 backpacks will be delivered to the Bradley Elementary School in my home district. I ask all of my colleagues in this United States Congress to join me in recognizing the National Foundation for Women Legislators and their partnership with Office Depot, whose efforts to empower our children and provide them the tools they need to be successful in school and in life are to be commended.

EXPRESSING CONCERN ABOUT ADMINISTRATION'S SEPTEMBER 9, 2007 OIL DEAL

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 25, 2007

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express deep concern about the administration's involvement in an oil deal announced on September 9, 2007, between the U.S. company Hunt Oil and the Kurdistan Regional Government. This oil deal appears to benefit a large Republican donor and ally of President Bush and Vice President CHENEY.

The recent oil deal between the U.S.-based Hunt Oil Company and the Kurdistan Regional Government raises numerous questions. Hunt Oil, a privately held oil company based in Texas, and its founder, Ray Hunt, have close ties to Vice President CHENEY and are large donors to President Bush. The deal appears to undercut the goal of oil revenue sharing but is predictably consistent with the administration's attempt to privatize Iraqi oil assets.

This war is about oil. The Bush administration desires private control of Iraqi oil, but we have no right to force Iraq to give up their oil. We have no right to set preconditions for Iraq which lead Iraq to giving up control of their oil. The constitution of Iraq designates that the oil of Iraq is the property of all Iraqi people.

The Administration has misled Congress and the media into thinking that pending Iraqi oil legislation before Iraq's Parliament was about the fair distribution of oil revenue. But the Hunt Oil deal with Kurdistan exposes the real intent of that legislation, promotion of a privatization scheme.

The Hunt Oil deal with Kurdistan suggests the war has made foreign access to Iraqi oil a reality. Because the connections between Hunt Oil Company and the Bush administration are numerous, I have asked the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform to investigate Hunt Oil's ties to the Bush Administration and Halliburton.

The contract between Hunt Oil and Kurdistan would be the first of its kind in the Middle East where oil has been nationalized for decades and foreign oil companies have had no presence. The lack of consensus on how to manage the Iraqi oil resources suggests that the Hunt Oil Company deal could lead to greater instability within Iraq.

I have sent a letter to Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice urging an immediate investigation into the implications of the Hunt Oil Company's recent production sharing agreement for petroleum exploration with Kurdistan on U.S. and Iraqi national security.

Congress should put a stop to the outrageous exploitation of a nation already in shambles due to U.S. intervention. I will soon introduce legislation to prevent all U.S. companies from gaining financial interests in Iraq's oil resources. I hope my colleagues will join me to ensure that the people of Iraq are not made to endure greater suffering and injustice that has already occurred because of this illegal and unjust war.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
September 18, 2007.

Hon. CONDOLEEZZA RICE,
Secretary of State, Department of State, Washington, DC.

DEAR SECRETARY RICE: To assure the national security of the U.S. and Iraq I urge an immediate investigation into Hunt Oil Company's recent production sharing agreement for petroleum exploration with Kurdistan. The Iraq Central Government reportedly considers this agreement illegitimate. As such, a thorough investigation assessing the threat posed by the agreement to U.S. and Iraqi national security interests should be conducted promptly.

The Constitution of Iraq designates that the oil of Iraq is the property of all Iraqi people. Thus, it is unsurprising that the Iraqi Central Government believes that the oil production sharing agreement between Hunt Oil Company and the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) is illegal. The agreement is reportedly based on oil law passed by the KRG and is the subject of much legal debate. The lack of consensus on how to manage the Iraqi oil resources suggest that the Hunt Oil Company deal could lead to greater instability within Iraq.

As you are undoubtedly aware, the contract between Hunt Oil and the KRG would be the first of its kind in the Middle East where oil has been nationalized for decades. Foreign oil companies have had no presence in the Middle East for decades. The legality

of this matter is of obvious importance to the people of Iraq who have a constitutional right to the oil resources of Iraq.

Furthermore, close ties between Hunt Oil Company and the Administration's top officials coupled with this precedent setting agreement appears morally debased. The following will assist in clarifying this connection: Ray Hunt, CEO of Hunt Oil Company, was twice appointed to a seat on the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board (PFIAB). Mr. Hunt raised campaign funds for President George H.W. and George W. Bush. He also personally donated \$20,000 to the Republican National Committee's Victory Fund for the current President Bush. Ray Hunt gave \$100,000 toward the 2001 Bush inaugural festivities and one of his corporations, Hunt Consolidated, gave another \$250,000 toward the Bush 2005 presidential inaugural gala. In addition, Ray Hunt donated \$35 million toward the Bush library/think tank to secure additional property for the project.

This unmatched deal struck by the Hunt Oil Company coupled with the company's ties to the administration could be viewed as hostile to the interests of Iraq amidst growing knowledge of Iraqi opposition to privatization and sale of Iraq's national oil reserves.

Your investigation should address how the agreement will affect Iraqi public sentiment toward the Iraqi and U.S. governments, insurgent efforts, the stability of Iraq and the stated goals of U.S. policy to bring peace and stability to the region.

I look forward to your timely response and the conclusions of your investigation.

Sincerely,

DENNIS J. KUCINICH,
Member of Congress.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
September 18, 2007.

Chairman HENRY A. WAXMAN,
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN WAXMAN: I request that the Full Committee begin an investigation into the recently announced oil production sharing agreement between the Hunt Oil Company and the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG). The recently announced agreement raises numerous concerns.

(I) Was the U.S. company Hunt Oil and its CEO, Ray Hunt, in entering into the agreement with the KRG, the beneficiary of a special relationship with the Bush administration? Have reported ties between Ray Hunt and the Bush administration led to special advocacy for Hunt Oil by the administration that resulted in the production sharing agreement with the KRG?

In 2002, Mr. Hunt acted as the finance chairman of the Republican National Committee for President Bush. Mr. Hunt led the Republican National Committee's Victory Fund for George W. Bush and personally donated \$20,000 to the committee. Mr. Hunt contributed \$100,000 toward inaugural festivities for President Bush in 2001, while Hunt Consolidated contributed \$250,000 toward the 2005 Bush presidential inaugural gala. Mr. Hunt has also given generously toward construction of the Bush library by securing \$35 million dollars in additional property for the endeavor.

Furthermore, Mr. Hunt has twice been appointed to a seat on the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board (PFIAB); most recently in 2006. The PFIAB is said to have access to intelligence information that is not available to a majority of the members of Congress. There are experts who acknowledge that information accessible to Mr. Hunt through the PFIAB is advantageous to the

international energy interest of the Hunt Oil Company.

It is also notable that Vice President Cheney, as the head of Halliburton, invited Mr. Ray Hunt to sit on the Halliburton Board of Directors.

(II) Was Kurdistan pressured into promulgating a new oil law and/or entering into production sharing agreement with Hunt Oil and perhaps other administration connected companies by elements of the U.S. government in Iraq?

It should be of great concern to all those who wish to see Iraq achieve self-sufficiency that the Iraqi Central Government is opposed to the agreement entered into by the Hunt Oil Company and the KRG. Iraq's oil minister, Hussain al-Shahrastani, has said "any oil deal has no standing as far as the government of Iraq is concerned. All these contracts have to be approved by the Federal Authority before they are legal. This (contract) was not presented for approval. It has no standing."

(III) Does the Hunt Oil Company's deal with the KRG foretell of more such agreements in the future? If the KRG does plan to announce more production sharing agreements in the future what would be the consequences for any revenue sharing programs initiated by the Iraqi Central Government?

On numerous occasions President Bush has stated his support for a revenue sharing program in Iraq. On May 31, 2007, at a White House press conference President Bush stated, "We're working very hard, for example, on getting an oil law with an oil revenue-sharing code that will help unite the country." On August 9, 2007, at another White House press briefing, Mr. Bush stated, "People say we need an oil revenue sharing law. I agree with that, that needs to be codified."

While many have pointed out that the oil law that President Bush has supported is primarily a privatization bill, nevertheless is not the announcement between Hunt Oil and the KRG undermining the alleged purpose of the Iraqi oil law? Is this not at odds with President Bush's stated goal of revenue sharing? Supposedly the U.S. is in favor of an Iraqi oil revenue sharing program, but will the Hunt Oil agreement with the KRG contribute to or undermine a revenue sharing program in Iraq?

It is hard to imagine that in Iraq there is any matter more controversial than oil. So long as the U.S. occupies Iraq, it is hard to imagine that there can be anything more damaging to the United States' world reputation than the awarding of oil agreements to Bush administration cronies.

In light of the Full Committee's excellent past work on Halliburton, I strongly recommend that the Full Committee ascertain the relationships between the Hunt Oil Company, the Bush administration and the KRG that resulted in the September 9, 2007 announcement of the oil production sharing agreement.

Sincerely,

DENNIS J. KUCINICH,
Member of Congress.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 25, 2007

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Madam Speaker, unfortunately last night, September 24, 2007, I was unable to cast my votes on H. Con. Res. 193, H. Res. 668, H.R. 1199, and H. Res. 340 and wish the record to reflect my intentions had I been able to vote.

Had I been present for rollcall No. 891 on suspending the rules and passing H. Con. Res. 193, recognizing all hunters across the United States for their continued commitment to safety, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 892 on suspending the rules and passing H. Res. 668, recognizing the 50th anniversary of the September 25, 1957, desegregation of Little Rock Central High School by the Little Rock Nine, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 893 on suspending the rules and passing H.R. 1199, the Drug Endangered Children Act, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 894 on suspending the rules and passing H. Res. 340, expressing the sense of the House of Representatives of the importance of providing a voice for the many victims, and families of victims, involved in missing persons cases and unidentified human remains cases, I would have voted "aye."

RECOGNIZING THE SOUTHAMPTON FIRE COMPANY NO. 1 AND THE TRI-HAMPTON RESCUE SQUAD

HON. PATRICK J. MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 25, 2007

Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the Southampton Fire Company No. 1 and the Tri-Hampton Rescue Squad for their outstanding service and dedication to protecting our community. Everyday, they willingly and selflessly risk their lives to protect our families, friends and neighbors. They set an example with their inspiring courage and devotion and their sacrifice deserves our sincerest thanks and utmost respect.

Madam Speaker, as the son of a former Philadelphia police officer, I know how hard America's first responders work to keep our cities and towns safe. They bravely face considerable danger and peril for the safety of families across our community. As their proud representatives, we ought to be just as committed to providing our first responders with the tools they need to do their jobs. True homeland security means supporting those who keep our families safe.

Madam Speaker, the members of the Southampton Fire Company No. 1 and the Tri-Hampton Rescue Squad serve tirelessly to protect our community and we should do everything possible to give them the support they need to keep us safe.

TRIBUTE TO MARIA LORENSEN,
LAURA SMITH, AND BARBARA PICHOT

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 25, 2007

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Maria Lorenson, Laura Smith, and Barbara Pichot who are being honored by the Girl Scouts Shawnee Division as the 2007 Women of Distinction.

These three ladies are being honored for their career accomplishments and leadership that have made them role models for young women in their communities. The Girl Scouts Shawnee Council honors three women annually from the Eastern Panhandle.

The first honoree, Maria Lorensen, is being recognized for her role as editor-in-chief with the Martinsburg Journal. She has received various awards and honors in her 11 years with the Martinsburg Journal from the West Virginia Press Association. Maria is credited for balancing her career with her role as a wife, mother, and community leader.

Laura Smith of Morgan County is being honored for her many leadership roles in her community. She is currently the president of the Morgan County Board of Education. She has worked to promote the beauty of Morgan County through her work with Travel Berkeley Springs and as board member of George Washington Heritage Trail. She is also an active member of her church, St. Marks Episcopal Church.

The final recipient of the 2007 Women of Distinction award is Barbara Pichot. At a time when many women were not entering the field of business, Barbara was a trailblazer and eventually became a partner in the accounting firm Cox, Nichols and Hollida until her retirement. She now dedicates herself to volunteer endeavors including Rotary, United Way, and is responsible for the development of Hospice of the Panhandle.

It is an honor to represent these three outstanding women who serve as strong leaders and excellent role models for young women in their communities. Congratulations to Maria Lorensen, Laura Smith, and Barbara Pichot as the 2007 Women of Distinction.

TRIBUTE TO REVEREND WILLIAM
H. WATSON

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 25, 2007

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, I rise today in memory of Reverend William H. Watson, who was a long-time social activist and resident of Newark, NJ. His passion for social justice led him to direct many social service organizations within my district and the northeast coast of the United States.

Born on September 23, 1934, in Memphis, Tennessee, Rev. Watson always exhibited a passion for helping others. After ordination in the Central Pennsylvania Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, Bill served a couple of churches in North-Central Pennsylvania and served as Campus Minister at Penn State University.

Rev. Watson served respectively as the Executive Director of Voice a church based organization supporting community organization in northeastern Pennsylvania and as Director of the Social Concerns Department of the Capitol Region Conferences of Churches in Hartford, Connecticut.

Later in life, Rev. Watson worked at Unified Vailsburg Service Organization (UVSO) in Newark, NJ—a neighborhood based human services and community development agency founded by local residents in 1972 to “create a stable and compassionate community” by

bringing together representatives of various local groups in an attempt to solve some of the neighborhood problem. Rev. Watson worked as a community organizer dealing with issues of crime, education, and housing.

Reverend Watson also served as a VISTA Volunteer with the Newark Tenants organization; a member of the Board of Directors of Inside-Out: Citizens United for Prison Reform, Inc.; member of the Northeast Inter-Help Council which deals with social justice issues and ecology, and a founding member secretary of the Board of Directors of the Family Partnership Committee, and Hartford Area Habitat for Humanity.

Madam Speaker, I invite my colleagues here in the United States House of Representatives to join me in honoring Reverend William H. Watson, whose spirit lives on through lives he touched and work he accomplished while on earth. I am proud to have had him in my Congressional district.

IN HONOR OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE COMPLETION OF THE MONTICELLO DAM

HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 25, 2007

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Madam Speaker, I rise with the support of my colleagues, Hon. GEORGE MILLER and Hon. MIKE THOMPSON to recognize the 50th anniversary of the completion of the Monticello Dam. This monumental accomplishment has been instrumental in providing the people of Solano County with a vast supply of high quality water.

Completed in October of 1957 as part of the Solano Project, the Monticello Dam rises 304 feet high spanning a gorge of 1,023 feet while storing 1.6 million acre feet of water. The Monticello Dam created Lake Berryessa and is one of the largest reservoirs in the State of California.

The Monticello Dam is owned by the United States Bureau of Reclamation but is operated and maintained locally by the Solano County Water Agency.

Through the management of the Monticello Dam, the Solano County Water Agency is able to provide 200,000 acre feet per year of high quality and dependable water. This supply amounts to about two-thirds of the total water use of Solano County. The Solano Project serves a growing population of about 350,000 people in the cities of Vacaville, Fairfield, Suisun City and Vallejo. Additionally the Solano Project serves about 80,000 acres of irrigated farmland by providing agricultural water to the Solano Irrigation District and the Maine Prairie Water District.

In addition to serving the water needs of our communities the Monticello Dam has additional local benefits. The Dam created Lake Berryessa, 23 miles long and 3 miles wide with 165 miles of shoreline that offers year-round recreational opportunities.

The river downstream of the Dam, known as Lower Putah Creek, provides a valuable fish and wildlife area on the border of Yolo and Solano Counties. Community groups such as the Lower Putah Creek Coordinating Committee are involved in creek restoration planning. This committee, made up of Yolo and

Solano representatives, oversees stream restoration projects that enhance the natural setting.

We wish to commend the Solano County Water Agency for 50 years of outstanding management of the Monticello Dam and recognize its essential contribution to the quality of life in the region.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF GOLD STAR MOTHERS DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 24, 2007

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of those American mothers who have lost children in the service of our country. As a cosponsor of H. Res. 605, I strongly support this resolution to recognize their great sacrifice and suffering.

The Gold Star Mothers Club was formed in the United States to provide support for mothers that lost sons or daughters in war. The name came from the custom of families of servicemen hanging a banner called a Service Flag in the window of their homes. The Service Flag had a star for each family member in the military. Living servicemen were represented by a blue star, and those who had lost their lives were represented by a gold star. Today, membership in the Gold Star Mothers is open to any American woman who has lost a son or daughter in service to the United States. On the last Sunday in September, Gold Star Mother's Day is observed in the U.S. in their honor.

American Gold Star Mothers is a nationwide organization first incorporated in the District of Columbia in 1929 after years of effort by the mother of a deceased airman fighting in World War I. In the years following, the organization has grown to include members and chapters across the country.

The responsibility of motherhood is vast and as our mothers raise their children, they do so with great hope. This hope does not involve losing a child to war but raising a son or daughter that strives to change the world for the better. This bill acknowledges that those mothers have succeeded in that goal and we, too, recognize the ultimate sacrifice their children have made. H. Res. 605 supports the Gold Star Mothers and ensures that their sacrifice and that of their children will not be forgotten.

Mr. Speaker, again, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 605 and urge my colleagues to join me in supporting its passage.

TRIBUTE TO MR. ALEX
RODRIGUEZ

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 25, 2007

Mr. SERRANO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Alex Rodriguez, who, on August 4, 2007, made history by becoming the youngest baseball player to hit 500

home runs. Lovingly mown to baseball fans throughout the world as "A-Rod," Mr. Rodriguez exemplifies the great contributions Dominican-Americans continue to make to this Nation.

Born in New York, and raised in Miami, Mr. Rodriguez displayed his baseball talents early in life. He attended Miami's Westminster Christian High School, which went on to win the national baseball championship his junior year. During that time, he earned several prestigious awards, including USA Baseball Junior Player of the Year and Gatorade's National Student-Athlete of the Year. Mr. Rodriguez was also the first high-school player to try out for Team USA in 1993.

Today, Mr. Rodriguez is considered one of the best baseball players of all time. Proudly wearing #13 for my beloved New York Yankees, Mr. Rodriguez has become a legend to all prospective baseball players and fans. He has earned two American League Most Valuable Player (MVP) awards and has accomplished several noteworthy feats. For example, among all baseball players at the age of 30, Mr. Rodriguez ranks first in both home runs and runs scored, third in runs batted in (RBIs) and fourth in hits compared to other players at that point in their careers. Mr. Rodriguez also shares the record for most home runs in one month, hitting fourteen in April 2007. Mr. Rodriguez is also the third member of the exclusive 40-40 Club, composed of baseball players who accumulate a total of both 40 home runs and 40 stolen bases in a single season. These are just a few of the many accomplishments of this legendary baseball player.

Off the baseball field, Mr. Rodriguez is actively involved in his communities, from Miami to New York to the land of his parents, the Dominican Republic. For example, in 1998, he established the Alex Rodriguez Evening Benefit for the All Stars, which, up to this point, has raised more than half a million dollars for the Boys and Girls Club of Miami. In 2003, Mr. Rodriguez donated \$3.9 million to the University of Miami to remodel the university's baseball stadium and to provide scholarships to deserving students. In 2005, Mr. Rodriguez donated \$200,000 to the Children's Aid Society in New York and \$50,000 to the Dominican Republic branch of UNICEF, which fully funded five day-care centers outside of Santo Domingo for 1 year. These are only a handful of the many ways in which Mr. Rodriguez contributes to the development and success of our communities.

Madam Speaker, A-Rod is truly a shining star and a role model to us all both on and off the baseball field. I will continue to cheer him on as he breaks more records on his way to greatness. I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to this fine athlete on the occasion of his 500th home run.

INTRODUCTION OF THE
FOREWARN ACT OF 2007

HON. JOHN M. MCHUGH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 25, 2007

Mr. MCHUGH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Forewarn Act of 2007, which is designed to help American workers by im-

proving the Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification (WARN) Act (P.L. 100-379).

The WARN Act became effective nearly two decades ago in February 1989. Very simply, Congress rightly decided that it was good policy to ensure that workers receive 60 days advance notice of mass lay-offs and closures to facilitate their efforts to find a new job, obtain retraining, or otherwise prepare for the consequences of their employer's decision. Likewise, through the WARN Act, Congress required that the same 60-day notice be provided to state dislocated worker entities and the chief elected official of the pertinent local government to enhance their ability to respond to the situation and provide effective assistance.

I had the occasion to thoroughly review the WARN Act earlier this year when the General Motors (GM) Corporation unfortunately decided to phase out 500 jobs and close its Powertrain facility in Massena, New York, which I represent. As I have mentioned previously, it is difficult to overstate how important the plant's \$31 million annual payroll was to the local economy and how devastating GM's decision was to its employees, their families, and the residents of St. Lawrence and Franklin counties.

Despite the magnitude of this decision's impact upon my constituents, GM did not provide me with any advance notice. In fairness to GM, there was no legal requirement under the WARN Act that GM provide me with such notice, which I found to be unfortunate as it limits and even precludes opportunities to attempt to provide any and all assistance that could possibly prevent a closure or mass lay-off and the corresponding loss of jobs. In the event that the closure or mass lay-off is unavoidable, adequate advance notice allows elected representatives to begin taking actions to assist the individuals and community as they transition.

Accordingly, the Forewarn Act would expand the WARN Act's notice requirements to include the U.S. Senators and Representatives, as well as state senators and representatives who represent the area in which the facility is located. In addition, the Forewarn Act would require that notice be provided to the affected state's governor, as well as to the U.S. Secretary of Labor. As the intent of this notice is to allow elected officials to attempt to provide assistance, the amount of notice would be expanded from 60 to 90 days.

Additionally, the Forewarn Act would also increase the notice requirement for employers with 50 or more employees to 90 calendar days. By doing so, the Forewarn Act would enhance employees' ability to adjust to their change in job status. The Forewarn Act would also redefine mass lay-off to cover lay-offs of at least 25 employees who account for one-third of an employer's workforce or mass lay-offs of at least 100 employees.

To ensure compliance, the Forewarn Act would increase the back pay penalty; workers would receive 2 days pay multiplied by the number of calendar days short of 90 that the employer gives notice. Likewise, the Forewarn Act would allow the U.S. Secretary of Labor or the appropriate state attorney general to bring a civil action on behalf of employees and require the Secretary of Labor to provide educational materials concerning employees' rights and employer responsibilities.

It has been nearly two decades since the WARN Act was enacted. In that time, our na-

tion's economy has changed markedly as U.S. firms have restructured their operations to adjust to an increasingly competitive global marketplace. It is time to revisit and retool the WARN Act, and with the introduction of the Forewarn Act, I invite my colleagues to join with me in doing so.

HONORING FORMER
CONGRESSMAN CHARLES VANIK

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 25, 2007

Mr. STARK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to join Congressman KLEIN in support of a resolution honoring former Congressman Charles Vanik. Charlie was a dedicated public servant and a great man. From 1955 to 1981, he served the people of northern Ohio with distinction and is an exemplary example for those of us in public office of what it means to be a true representative of the people.

It is hard to say whether Charlie was best known for his signature black suits and bowties or his sponsorship of the now famous Jackson-Vanik amendment to the 1974 Trade Reform Bill. The former made him instantly recognizable throughout northern Ohio and in the corridors of Capitol Hill. The latter, which tied the former Soviet Union's trade status to whether it freely allowed Jewish emigration, allowed thousands of families to escape religious persecution. I personally will always remember Charlie for his strong work ethic and his tireless defense of the American working and middle class.

Charlie spent his 26 years in Congress pursuing policies that gave the American people opportunities to achieve their dreams and rejecting those that allowed corporations to dodge taxes and shirk their responsibilities to their employees. He was so adamant about representing the people instead of interest groups that, after winning reelection in 1970, he vowed to never accept campaign contributions again. Charlie was beholden to no one for his congressional seat except the people of northern Ohio, and it showed in his politics. He returned to Washington time and time again not because of his ability to fundraise, but because of his ability to pass meaningful legislation. Some of his greatest victories included: the section 13 summer school lunch program, the predecessor amendment to the Americans with Disabilities Act, Great Lakes pollution clean-up, a Cuyahoga Valley National Park, the original CAFE legislation, tax reform measures and Social Security and Medicare improvements.

When Charlie passed away late last month, the United States lost one of its greatest leaders. However, Charlie's legacy can be seen in the 110th Congress as we continue to protect our delicate environment for future generations, guarantee all of our Nation's children receive the care they need, and ensure that all people receive adequate healthcare and can retire with security. As one of his former staffers—and later one of mine—Bill Vaughan, recently wrote, "Like his black suit and bowtie, Mr. Vanik was a classic." Charlie was a one-of-a-kind leader and I hope today's generation of members can learn from his steadfast pursuit of policies that helped everybody in our Nation achieve the American Dream.

IRAN COUNTER-PROLIFERATION
ACT

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 25, 2007

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this important, bipartisan legislation—the Iran Counter-Proliferation Act of 2007—which has more than 300 cosponsors.

This bill would greatly strengthen the existing sanctions regime and propose new diplomatic strategies with respect to Iran, which continues to pursue its nuclear agenda in defiance of U.N. sanctions and international pressure.

Let us be clear: The Government of Iran—which is recognized as a state sponsor of terrorism by our State Department and which supports terrorist groups such as Hezbollah—believes it can exploit international irresolution. We must not allow it to do so.

It goes without saying that a nuclear-armed Iran constitutes a threat to the national security interests of the United States, as well as the peace and security of the international community. And, we cannot overlook the serious questions raised about Iran's efforts to exploit the civil war in Iraq to its advantage or intelligence information related to its arming of Iraqi insurgents.

Our concerns are only heightened by the inflammatory and irresponsible statements of Iran's president, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, who has stated his hope for a "world without America" and his desire "to wipe Israel off the map."

Let me say, Ahmadinejad's comments yesterday at Columbia University in New York only confirm the view that he is a dangerous menace, who spins loathsome propaganda while denying that the Holocaust occurred, threatening Israel, and repressing his own people.

I believe the international community must stand as one against Iran, an international lawbreaker whose record of deceit and belligerence leaves no doubt as to its motivations.

Thus, I believe this legislation is an important step forward in demonstrating our bipartisan resolve to address the serious security concerns posed by Iran.

Nothing in this act authorizes the use of force against Iran. However, it would support diplomatic and economic means to resolve the Iranian nuclear problem, and calls for enhanced U.N. Security Council efforts to respond to Iran's defiance.

Furthermore, the bill amends the Iran Sanctions Act to remove the President's waiver on sanctions, and expands the types of investments subject to sanctions. It reforms our commercial relationship with this rogue regime by limiting the export of U.S. items to Iran and by prohibiting all imports.

Among other things, the bill also prevents U.S. subsidiaries of foreign oil companies that invest in Iran's oil sector from receiving U.S. tax benefits for oil and gas exploration, and prevents nuclear cooperation between the United States and any country that provides nuclear assistance in Iran.

Madam Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this important bipartisan bill.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 25, 2007

Mr. HONDA. Madam Speaker, on Monday August 24, I was unavoidably detained due to official business in New York and was not present for a number of rollcall votes.

Had I been present I would have voted:

"Yea" on rollcall 891, H. Con. Res. 193, recognizing all hunters across the United States for their continued commitment to safety.

"Yea" on rollcall 892, H. Res. 668, recognizing the 50th anniversary of the September 25, 1957, desegregation of Little Rock Central High School by the Little Rock Nine.

"Yea" on rollcall 893, H.R. 1199, to extend the grant program for drug-endangered children.

"Yea" on rollcall 894, H. Res. 340, expressing the sense of the House of Representatives of the importance of providing a voice for the many victims (and families of victims) involved in missing persons cases and unidentified human remains cases.

HONORING THE GENEROUS CONTRIBUTION OF EL PASO PAUL L. FOSTER TO TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 25, 2007

Mr. REYES. Madam Speaker, it is with great honor that I rise to recognize Mr. Paul L. Foster, the president and CEO of Western Refining Inc. of El Paso, who, with a strong desire to give back to the El Paso community, donated \$50 million to the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center. That's right, Madam Speaker—\$50 million of his own money.

Foster's selfless contribution, the largest donation given to Texas Tech by an individual in the history of the university, will allow for great advances in border health issues research and various other health care initiatives. The gift will support the recruitment of staff members, finance faculty salaries, and purchase necessary medical equipment. In acknowledgment of his donation, the university named El Paso's 4-year medical school the "Paul L. Foster School of Medicine." Unique to the area, it is the first medical school on the U.S.-Mexico border and only the second new medical institution created in the U.S. in the last 25 years. Although a medical school of such stature and prestige has been greatly needed for the El Paso community for some time, it is now becoming a reality, in part due to Mr. Foster's assistance.

The Paul F. Foster School holds many prospects for medical science and healthcare. Increased specialized physicians coupled with superior medical equipment will allow for substantial economic growth in the El Paso region along with quality health care for my constituents. It will also provide greater incentives for researchers to come to the area and learn

about and help solve health issues unique to the U.S.-Mexico border.

A 1979 Baylor University graduate, Foster founded Western Refining Inc. in 1997, which is currently the Nation's fourth largest publicly traded independent oil refinery. Despite his tremendous success, Paul remains modest, humble, and connected to our local community. The magnitude of his generous gift will be felt for generations, yet in typical fashion he seeks none of the attention that such a gift merits.

I have always believed it is critically important that we continue to pave the way for greater healthcare infrastructure in El Paso and along the U.S.-Mexico border, and the 4-year medical school can serve as the cornerstone in this effort. This vision, this dream, is one step closer with the huge charitable contribution of Paul Foster.

As the Paul L. Foster School of Medicine pays tribute to this remarkable philanthropist, I would like to do the same. His contribution to the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center will prove extremely beneficial to the El Paso community and to aspiring doctors and nurses in our region.

IN HONOR OF THE CARMEL
WRITERS FESTIVAL

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 25, 2007

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the inaugural Writer's Festival in my hometown of Carmel, California. As co-chair of the Congressional Travel and Tourism Caucus, I would like to commend the organizers, Jim and Cindy McGillen, for their efforts to initiate the first ever Carmel Authors & Ideas Festival, which will take place at the Sunset Center in Carmel on September 28–30 this year.

Inspired by the Sun Valley Writers' Conference, the format of the festival is to be a combination of talks by well-known authors and break-out sessions with lesser-known writers, allowing attendees to interact with them on an informal basis. The first line-up of authors includes Frank McCourt, "Angela's Ashes"; Doris Kearns Goodwin, historian; John Grogan, "Marley and Me"; Douglas Brinkley, editor of "The Regan Diaries"; Seymour Hersh, investigative reporter; Irshad Manji, critic of radical Islam; and Elizabeth Edwards, "Saving Graces." In all, 25 award winning authors will be present, including Pulitzer Prize and Nobel Prize winners, and New York Times Best Sellers.

Carmel Mayor Sue McCloud said of the festival, "It's certainly in keeping with our history as a writers' haven and artists' haven." Boutique conferences like this one are a good match for the community which is known for its non-traditional approach to literature and poetry. McGillen has sought out authors who are interesting, compelling, and entertaining.

Madam Speaker, this festival promises to be an exciting new addition to the lineup of high quality cultural events enjoyed year-round in California's 17th District, and I am proud to represent them in the U.S. Congress.

CONGRATULATING PASQUALE
 "PAT" BANGOR UPON BEING
 NAMED "PERSON OF THE YEAR"
 BY THE LUZERNE COUNTY
 ITALIAN AMERICAN ASSOCIA-
 TION

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 25, 2007

Mr. KANJORSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to Pasquale "Pat" Bangor, of Hazleton, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania, who was named "Person of the Year" by the Italian American Association of Luzerne County.

Mr. Bangor is a son of the late Neil and Phyllis Cerullo Bangor. He has two sisters, Camella O'Donnell and the late Rose Realo and one brother, John.

He was married to Dorothy Gutosky Bangor for 30 years until her death in 1983. He has been married to Vanda Molinaro Bangor for the past 21 years.

Mr. Bangor has three daughters: Patricia Conahan, Carol Ann Brown and the late Jacqueline Cardillo. He also has three stepdaughters: Rose Esposito, Wanda Rosenbaum and Lydia Hunsinger. He is also blessed with grandchildren, step-grandchildren and great grandchildren.

A graduate of Hazleton High School in 1946; he served in the United States Army during the Korean Conflict. Following his military service, he was a self employed printer in the Hazleton area for more than 40 years.

In retirement, Mr. Bangor has remained active by driving a school bus for special needs children in the Hazleton Area School District and working part-time at a local carpet store.

He has been an active member of Our Lady of Grace Church in Hazleton all his life and has served on the church's financial council.

Mr. Bangor was a member of the Hazleton Elks Club for several years and has been an active and dedicated member of the Italian American Association of Luzerne County where he served many years on its board of directors.

Mr. and Mrs. Bangor spend much of their time with their children and grandchildren. They also enjoy dancing and world travel.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Pat Bangor on this auspicious occasion. Mr. Bangor is a shining example of a family and community minded citizen whose contributions of time and energy has improved the quality of life for all whose lives he has touched.

CONGRATULATING THE STAFF OF
 THE JOINT SERVICE EXPLOSIVE
 ORDNANCE DISPOSAL PROGRAM

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 25, 2007

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I rise to offer my congratulations to the staff of the Joint Service Explosive Ordnance Disposal, EOD, Program, which today marks the delivery of the 1000th EOD Man Transportable Robot

System, MTRS, to our military. This significant milestone is a testament to the highly skilled, top notch workforce marking this accomplishment today at the Naval EOD Technology Division.

The MTRS is a two-man portable robotic system used in both peacetime and wartime operations by EOD technicians to perform remote reconnaissance of unexploded ordnance and improvised explosive device, IED, incident sites. These EOD Robots are keeping EOD technicians alive and are mitigating the effects of emplaced IEDs and unexploded ordnance encountered in a wide variety of operational environments around the world. By using replaceable robots, EOD operators can effectively conduct and complete highly hazardous missions while remaining in a protected position, minimizing human exposure and time-on-target.

While no machine can replace a trained EOD technician, EOD personnel have embraced the ability of these robots to assist them in carrying out their important mission. Indeed, because of these robots, many of our EOD technicians have significantly reduced or avoided serious risk to themselves and their colleagues in military service.

We owe a great debt of gratitude to the brave men and women willing to risk their own lives for this Nation by serving in our active military forces. While we can never fully repay that debt, we can demonstrate our gratitude by providing our military forces with advanced technology to ensure their safe return to their loved ones. Those responsible for delivering MTRS have been working to do just this.

Madam Speaker, I ask that all Members join me in congratulating this outstanding Navy team as they celebrate the successful delivery of the 1000th Man Transportable Robot System to our deployed military forces.

THE MERCENARY TRAINING CON-
 TROL ACT (SEPTEMBER 19, 2007)

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 25, 2007

Mr. FILNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation (H.R. 3649) that would require mercenary training be conducted only on property owned by the Federal Government.

As you may know, Blackwater USA, a private military security contractor, already operates two private military-style training facilities: one in Moyock, North Carolina and the other in Mount Carroll, Illinois. Blackwater USA is also seeking to open a third facility in Potrero, California.

It is outrageous to allow private individuals or corporations to establish private military bases anywhere in the United States! The military-style training conducted at these facilities has no place in our backyards.

The Federal Government and U.S. military have also become too reliant on these private security contractors, especially in Iraq and Afghanistan. We must stop this trend!

However, in the meantime, my bill will take the modest step of requiring government contractors, like Blackwater USA, to train only on property owned by the Federal Government, such as our military bases.

NATIONAL HUNTING AND FISHING
 DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 24, 2007

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of this resolution. On National Hunting and Fishing Day, we celebrate the remarkable progress we have made in conserving our environment and recognize those who have worked to conserve our natural resources.

Dating back to President Theodore Roosevelt, early conservationists called for the first laws restricting the commercial slaughter of wildlife. They urged sustainable use of fish and game, created hunting and fishing licenses, and lobbied for taxes on sporting equipment to provide funds for State conservation agencies. These actions were the foundation of the North American wildlife conservation model, a science-based, user-pay system that would foster the most dramatic conservation successes of all time.

America's hunters and anglers represent the great spirit of our country and are among our Nation's foremost conservationists. These citizens have worked to protect habitat and restore fish and wildlife populations. They volunteer their time, talents, and energy to countless conservation projects, because they recognize the importance of maintaining the natural abundance of our country for future generations.

Americans are blessed to live amid many wonders of nature, and we have a responsibility to be good stewards of the land. I commend all who advance conservation and help our citizens enjoy the benefits of our environment. These efforts ensure that our national heritage remains a source of pride for our citizens, our communities, and our Nation.

As an avid hunter and member of the Congressional Sportsman's Caucus, I appreciate the efforts hunters, conservationists, scientists, and others have taken to manage wildlife and conservation of our natural environment. I commend these efforts and I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H. Res. 634.

SAUDI LAWSUIT AGAINST THE
 PUBLISHERS OF THE BOOK ALMS
 FOR JIHAD

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 25, 2007

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to bring attention to the book *Alms for Jihad*, co-authored by J. Millard Burr and Robert O. Collins. This seminal work details the use of Islamic charities to fund terrorist activity around the world.

The book's publisher, Cambridge University Press, agreed to pulp all unsold copies of "Alms for Jihad" in the face of a defamation lawsuit by Saudi billionaire Sheikh Khalid bin Mahfouz. The publisher also sent letters to 280 libraries around the world, asking them to insert an erratum slip or withdraw the book from their shelves. Since March 2002, bin

Mahfouz has sued or threatened to sue at least 36 times against individuals in England who have linked bin Mahfouz to terrorist financing and activities.

"Alms for Jihad" reaches back into history, particularly into Sudan where much of the activities of fundamentalist Islamist groups found their origins, and traces them to the modern-day struggle against extremist forces around the world. We cannot understand the current war on terror, which extends far beyond the terrible events of September 11, without examining the chronology and details of this issue.

I have enclosed the author's response to the lawsuit, and encourage our colleagues to obtain and read this important book.

SAUDI BILLIONAIRE VS. CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS: NO CONTEST

On 3 April 2007 Kevin Taylor, Intellectual Property Manager for the Cambridge University Press (CUP), contacted Millard Burr and myself that the solicitors for Shaykh Khalid bin Mahfouz, Kendall Freeman, had informed CUP of eleven "allegations of defamation" in our book *Alms for Jihad: Charities and Terrorism in the Islamic World* and requested a response. On 20 April CUP received our seventeen page "robust defence", but it soon became apparent that CUP had decided not to defend *Alms for Jihad* given "knowledge of claims from previous litigation" and that "the top-line allegations of defamation made against us by bin Mahfouz are sustainable and cannot be successfully defended . . . certainly not in the English courts, which is where the current action arises." Of the eleven points of alleged defamation "we [CUP] could defend ourselves against some of his individual allegations . . . which, as you say could hardly be deemed defamatory on its own," but on pp. 51-52 where you use the phrase "The twenty supporters of Al Qaeda" followed by the Golden Chain references . . . is defamatory of him under English law." The Golden Chain was a list of twenty wealthy Saudi donors to al-Qa'ida which included the name "Mahfouz" on a computer disk seized during a raid by the Bosnian police and U.S. security agents of the Sarajevo office of the Saudi charity, the Benevolent International Foundation (Bosanska Idealna Futura, BIF).

On 9 May 2007 CUP agreed to virtually all of the Shaykh's demands to stop sale of the book, destroy all "existing copies," prepare a letter of apology, and make a "payment to charity" for damages and contribute to legal costs. After further negotiations the press also agreed, on 20 June 2007, to request 280 libraries around the world to withdraw the book or insert an erratum slip. During these three months of negotiations Millard and I had naively assumed that, as authors, we were automatically a party to any settlement but were now informed we "are out of jurisdiction" so that CUP had to ask "whether of not they [the authors] wish to join in any settlement with your client [Mahfouz]." On 30 July 2007 Mr. Justice Eady in the London High Court accepted the abject surrender of CUP which promptly pulped 2,340 existing copies of *Alms for Jihad*, sent letters to the relevant libraries to do the same or insert an errata sheet, issued a public apology, and paid costs and damages.

The crux of this sordid and sorry saga lies firmly in the existing English libel law which is very narrow and restrictive compared to its counterpart in the United States with a long history and precedent of "good faith" protected by the First Amendment, absent in English jurisprudence. In effect, CUP was not prepared to embark on a long and very expensive litigation it could not

possibly win under English libel law in the English High Court, known to journalists the "Club Med for Libel Tourists." Laurence Harris of Kendall Freeman was quite candid. "Our client [Shaykh] Mahfouz chose to complain to Cambridge University Press about the book because the book was published in this jurisdiction by them" where he had previously threatened to "sue some 36 U.S. and U.K. publishers and authors" and in which Shaykh Mahfouz had previously won three suits for the same charges of his alleged financing of terrorism. Even Justice Eady's pious pronouncements about "the importance of freedom of speech" were of little relevance before the weight, or lack thereof, in English libel law he rigorously enforced.

This was the first time that Shaykh Mahfouz had brought suit only against the publisher that did not include the authors, for "our client [Shaykh Mahfouz] took the view that they [CUP] were likely to deal with his complaint sensibly and quickly, which they did," rather than include the authors who would not. As American authors residing in the U.S., we were "out of jurisdiction" and under the protection of the U.S. Courts, specifically the unanimous ruling by the Second U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in June 2007 that Dr. Rachel Ehrenfeld could challenge in a U.S. Court the suit previously won against her by Shaykh Mahfouz in Justice Eady's High Court in London thereby establishing a defining precedent in U.S. jurisprudence. Dr. Ehrenfeld is the director of the American Center for Democracy in New York whose book, "Funding Evil: how terrorism is financed—and how to stop it," published by Bonus Books of Chicago in 2003, describes how Shaykh Mahfouz helped finance al-Qa'ida, Hamas, and other terrorist organizations in greater detail than "Alms for Jihad." Although her book was not sold in Britain, Shaykh Mahfouz secured British jurisdiction by demonstrating that "Funding Evil" could be purchased or read on the internet by British citizens. When she refused to defend the case in the London High Court, Justice Eady declared for the plaintiff and ordered Dr. Ehrenfeld to pay \$225,000 damages. She then chose to confront the Shaykh and seek redress in the U.S. Court system.

Millard Burr and I had adamantly refused to be a party to the humiliating capitulation by CUP and were not about to renounce what we had written. "Alms for Jihad" had been meticulously researched, our interpretations judicious, our conclusions made in good faith on the available evidence. It is a very detailed analysis of the global reach of Islamic, mostly Saudi, charities to support the spread of fundamental Islam and the Islamist state by any means necessary. When writing "Alms for Jihad" we identified specific persons, methods, money, how it was laundered, and for what purpose substantiated by over 1,000 references. I had previously warned the editor at CUP, Marigold Acland, that some of this material could prove contentious, and in March 2005 legal advisers for CUP spent a month vetting the book before going into production and finally its publication in March 2006. We were careful when writing "Alms for Jihad" not to state explicitly that Shaykh Mahfouz was funding terrorism but the overwhelming real and circumstantial evidence presented implicitly could lead the reader to no other conclusion. Court records in the case of U.S. vs. Enaam Arnaout, Director of the Benevolent International Foundation and close associate of Osama bin Laden, accepted as evidence the "Golden Chain" which the British High Court later refused as evidentiary. The Mawafaq (Blessed Relief) Foundation of Shaykh Mahfouz and its principal donor was declared by the U.S. Treasury "an al-Qaida front that

receives funding from wealthy Saudi businessmen" one of whom was the designated terrorist, Yassin al-Qadi who "transferred millions of dollars to Osama bin Laden through charities and trusts like the Muwafaq Foundation." It appears very strange that the founder of his personal charity and its major donor had no idea where or whom or for what purpose his generosity was being used.

Although the reaction to the settlement by CUP has been regarded by some, like Professor Deborah Lipstadt at Emory University, as a "frightening development" whereby the Saudis "systematically, case by case, book by book" are shutting down public discourse on terrorism and intimidating publishers from accepting manuscripts critical of the Saudis, there still remains the free exchange of ideas, opinions, and written text in the world of the internet protected by the First Amendment. Ironically, the eleven points of the Mahfouz suit against CUP amount to little more than a large footnote, a trivial fraction of the wealth of information in "Alms for Jihad" that cannot be found elsewhere. The Shaykh can burn the books in Britain, but he cannot prevent the recovery of the copyright by the authors nor their search for a U.S. publisher to reprint a new edition of "Alms for Jihad" for those who have been seeking a copy in the global market place.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. WALLY HERGER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 25, 2007

Mr. HERGER. Madam Speaker, I was unable to vote on four bills brought up under Suspension of the Rules on Monday, September 24, 2007 because of an illness.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on H. Con. Res. 193, a resolution recognizing all hunters across the United States for their continued commitment to safety; "yea" on H. Res. 668, a resolution recognizing the 50th anniversary of the September 25, 1957, desegregation of Little Rock Central High School by the Little Rock Nine; "yea" on H.R. 1199, the Drug Endangered Children Act of 2007; and "yea" on H. Res. 340, a resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives of the importance of providing a voice for the many victims (and families of victims) involved in missing persons cases and unidentified human remains cases.

CONGRATULATING FRENCH LICK, INDIANA ON ITS SESQUICENTEN- NIAL

HON. BARON P. HILL

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 25, 2007

Mr. HILL. Madam Speaker, 2007 marks the 150th anniversary of the town of French Lick, Indiana. Many of my colleagues in Congress may recognize the town's name as the birthplace of one of basketball's finest, Larry Bird. But, those of us who have had the pleasure of spending time in French Lick know it for much more. I am looking forward to celebrating French Lick's Sesquicentennial with its residents this coming weekend when the festivities commence on Friday, September 28,

2007. The celebration will feature an array of events, such as the Queen's Ball, Historic Home Tours, Commemorative Post Mark, Pumpkin Festival Parade, Carnival Rides, Historic Train Rides, Time Capsule Dedication, live musical performances, art show, and golf tournament.

French Lick has a long and distinguished history. In the 1800s, as pioneers began settling the Indiana Territory, one of the few roads connecting Louisville and Vincennes was the buffalo trail through current day French Lick. Several pioneers established hotels and other business trades along the route, leading to the founding of French Lick in 1857. Some of these early residents included the likes of Dr. William Bowles, who constructed the first health resort sometime between 1840 and 1845; Charles Edward Ballard, the town's most famous entrepreneur known for his successful management of saloons and casino operations; and Ferdinand and Henry Cross, brothers whose artistic talents enriched the lives on travels to the town. Henry's work would later be used for the sketch of the buffalo on the United States nickel.

The tourist demand for French Lick's magical, health-rejuvenating water led to the construction and remodeling of the French Lick Hotel. One of the hotel's most famous owners was a resourceful entrepreneur named Thomas Taggart. Taggart, who served in several elected positions including as Mayor of Indianapolis and as a U.S. Senator, also led the State Democratic Party beginning in 1892 and the National Democratic Party in 1905. After fire destroyed part of the original hotel, it was Taggart that expanded and rebuilt the facility with its trademark yellow brick, six story front. Thousand of travelers flocked to the new hotel as a resort destination prior to traveling to other destinations or attending popular events such as the Kentucky Derby in nearby Louisville, KY.

The mineral springs of the French Lick area brought many travelers to the region, but it was the gambling that established the Spring Valley as the leisure destination during the first half of the twentieth century. Although seen as a "victimless crime" to many, gambling was illegal and in the late 1940s raids on several casinos ended the practice in the area. The resulting loss of tourism to the area created an economic hardship in the region and the French Lick Hotel passed among several owners. It was in the late 1990s that residents of the town and surrounding region, aided by Historical Preservationist such as William Cook, began restoring the Grand Hotels of the area. Coupled with the legalization of gaming in 2003, the French Lick Springs Resort Hotel and town has returned to its former grandeur as a resort and leisure destination.

Congratulations French Lick on this historical occasion. All Hoosiers look forward to seeing how this unique and wonderful town develops for decades to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 25, 2007

Mrs. CAPPS. Madam Speaker, I was not able to be present for the following rollcall

votes on September 24, 2007. I would have voted as follows: Rollcall No. 891: "yea"; rollcall No. 892: "yea"; rollcall No. 893: "yea"; and rollcall No. 894: "yea".

PROTECTING EMPLOYEES AND RETIREES IN BUSINESS BANKRUPTCIES ACT OF 2007

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 25, 2007

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, the "Protecting Employees and Retirees in Business Bankruptcies Act of 2007," addresses the vast inequities in current bankruptcy law with respect to how American workers and retirees are treated, an area long-neglected by Congress.

The rights of workers and retirees have greatly eroded over the past two decades, particularly in the context of Chapter 11. Let me just cite three reasons.

First, it is no secret that certain districts in our Nation interpret the law to favor the reorganization of a business over all other priorities, including job preservation, salary protections, and other benefits. Part of the problem is that the law is simply not clear, leading to a split of authority among the circuits.

This is particularly true with respect to the standards by which collective bargaining agreements can be rejected and retiree benefits can be modified in Chapter 11. Businesses, as a result, take advantage of these venue options and file their Chapter 11 cases in employer-friendly districts. This was one of the main reasons that Delphi, a Michigan-headquartered company, filed for bankruptcy in New York.

Second, it is clear that at least some businesses use Chapter 11 to bust unions or to at least give themselves unfair leverage in its negotiations with unions. According to a recently released GAO analysis that I requested nearly 2 years ago, 30 percent of companies in the study sought to reject their collective bargaining agreements in bankruptcy. Nearly as many companies took advantage of special provisions in the Bankruptcy Code by employers that can modify retiree benefits.

Let me be specific here. What we are talking about is terminating retiree health care benefits, medical benefits, prescription drug benefits, disability benefits, and death benefits, among other protections.

And, remember that these benefits were bargained for in good faith by hardworking Americans who gave their all to their employers and now are in retirement. This is a travesty.

Third, as a result of Chapter 11's inequitable playing field, employers are able to extract major concessions from workers and retirees, while lining their own pockets. As we learned at a hearing held earlier this year by the Subcommittee on Commercial and Administrative Law, executives of Chapter 11 debtors often receive extravagant multi-million dollar bonuses and stock options, while regular workers are forced to accept drastic pay cuts or even job losses and while retirees lose hard-won pensions and health benefits.

As many of you know, the Ford Motor Company reported a record \$12.7 billion loss for last year. But what many of you may not know

is that Ford paid \$28 million to its new CEO, Alan Mulally, in his first 4 months on the job. This disclosure comes as companies like Ford, General Motors, and DaimlerChrysler are in the midst of negotiations with unions to obtain concessions and labor cost savings when their current contracts end in this month.

A factor that will likely be present at the bargaining table is the threat of a potential Chapter 11 filing. As many of you know, the United Auto Workers yesterday announced a strike at General Motors principally because GM wants to shed more than \$50 billion in future health care benefits for retirees.

We need to restore the level playing field that the drafters of Chapter 11 originally envisioned and to ensure that workers and retirees receive fair treatment when their company is in bankruptcy. It is time that we include the interests of working families in the bankruptcy law and consider how we can add a measure of fairness to a playing field that is overwhelmingly tilted against workers.

My bill addresses these problems by:

Increasing the amount by which unpaid wage and employee benefit claims would be entitled to payment priority;

Creating a more level playing field for employees in Chapter 11 cases where employers want to terminate jobs, reduce wages, reject collective bargaining agreements, and terminate medical benefits for retirees;

Prohibiting companies in bankruptcy from paying lavish performance bonuses and incentive compensation to key management; and

Ensuring that the bankruptcy judges have clear statutory guidance that the purpose of Chapter 11 is—to the greatest extent possible—maximize assets so as to preserve jobs.

I will urge prompt consideration of this legislation by the Subcommittee on Commercial and Administrative Law and further proceedings by the House Judiciary Committee.

EQUITY FOR OUR NATION'S SELF-EMPLOYED ACT OF 2007

HON. WALLY HERGER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 25, 2007

Mr. HERGER. Madam Speaker, with nearly 47 million uninsured in America, rising health care costs, and a federal health entitlement system that is simply unsustainable in the long run, America is truly on the verge of a health crisis. Yet despite the looming fiscal insolvency of Medicare and other challenges facing U.S. health care, Congress is preparing now to approve one of the largest expansions of government health care in decades. Mr. Speaker, we must change course in today's debate, and address the root problems facing our health system. And true change can be achieved only through working together on a bipartisan level.

It is for this very reason that I am pleased to join with my colleague from the other side of the aisle, Representative RON KIND of Wisconsin, in introducing truly collaborative, bipartisan legislation that would help expand health coverage to millions of currently uninsured American taxpayers. Our legislation, the "Equity for Our Nation's Self-Employed Act of 2007," would correct an inequity that currently

exists in our tax laws to help make quality health care more affordable for millions of Americans. It achieves this by allowing the self-employed to fully deduct their health insurance premiums for the purposes of both income tax and self-employment tax.

Although many consider themselves "self-employed," only the owners of businesses that are organized as sole proprietorships pay the self-employment tax or SET. Across the U.S. there are more than 21 million sole proprietors who could be subject to some level of self-employment tax. In my own home State of California, there are more self-employed individuals than anywhere else in the country, with roughly 13 percent of the Nation's sole proprietorships, or more than 2.8 million self-employed individuals. The vast majority of the businesses owned by self-employed sole proprietors are small and micro-businesses with 10 or fewer employees. Despite their size, however, these businesses generate more than \$800 billion in economic activity in the U.S.

The self-employment tax serves as a proxy for Federal FICA payroll taxes, which other business combinations like C-corporations, limited liability partnerships and S-corporations withhold and pay on behalf of their employees. The SET tax rate is 15.3 percent, representing both the traditionally withheld employee share of 7.65 percent of wages (for Social Security and Medicare) plus the employer's matching share of 7.65 percent. Unlike other businesses, however, the SET applies to all income generated from the sole proprietorship.

At the crux of the current disparity is that all businesses apart from sole proprietorships can deduct employee health care premiums as normal business expenses before taxes. While self-employed taxpayers may deduct 100 percent of their health premiums for regular income tax purposes, sole proprietorships frequently pay more for insurance simply because these expenses are then subjected to the SET of 15.3 percent. One of my constituents, a micro-business owner named Gloria, who lives in Redding, California, reported that she pays about \$1,300 more on health insurance each year because of the SET. Another constituent, Tom, from Anderson, pays \$900 more for health care each year because of this increased payroll tax. By extending the health deduction to the self-employment tax, we would level the playing field for sole proprietors like Gloria, Tom and the more than 2.8 million self-employed Californians who cannot currently deduct their health coverage costs as a business expense.

Several of my sole proprietor constituents have commented on the rising costs of health care, and how the SET prohibits them from putting this extra amount they pay in taxes to better use expanding their business or purchasing more health coverage for themselves and their employees. Nationwide, more than half of all sole proprietors report that they are unable to purchase health insurance at all, citing affordability as a chief concern. Of these small business owners, more than 80 percent stated they would be more likely to purchase health insurance if it was deductible from payroll taxes through SET deductibility.

Owning and operating a small business in the United States has always been and continues to be extremely risky, with many small businesses not surviving the first 5 years of operation. However, despite great challenges,

small businesses provide nearly two-thirds of all new job creation in our country, employing tens of millions of workers and providing a higher standard of living for millions of American families. The difference between low or high taxes can make or break a firm, and mean the difference between profitability and continued entrepreneurial investment to survive, or going out of business. A recent report by the Small Business Administration's Office of Advocacy confirms this about the SET in particular, finding that extending the health insurance deduction for the SET actually increases the probability that a micro-business will remain in the market.

Madam Speaker, around 60 percent of America's uninsured individuals work for small businesses that cannot afford to provide coverage. Our simple, bipartisan legislation would help millions of sole proprietors and their employees better afford coverage by allowing a tax deduction for 100 percent of health insurance expenses from payroll taxes, just like other businesses in the U.S. I thank my colleague from Wisconsin for his leadership on this legislation, and look forward to working to enact it.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES WEEK

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 25, 2007

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I wish to recognize the importance of National Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) Week which was celebrated September 9 through September 15, 2007. During Historically Black Colleges and Universities Week, all Americans are encouraged to highlight our Nation's commitment to these notable institutions and their efforts to provide more Americans with the tools to accomplish their goals, realize their full human potential, and contribute to the advancement of our country's great ideals.

We must continue to provide our strong support to HBCUs so that every citizen can enjoy a future of hope, accomplishment, and opportunity. We commend these great institutions as they build on a foundation of continued success for every college student.

There are 114 historically black colleges in the United States today, including 2-year and 4-year institutions as well as public and private institutions. Most are located in the Southeastern United States. Four are located in the Midwestern states (two each in Missouri and Ohio), two are located in Pennsylvania, one is in Delaware, nine in Texas, and one is in the Virgin Islands. It is fitting that we take this week to honor all of these institutions for their service, accomplishment, and continuing legacy.

It is important that we as a nation take a moment to reflect on the tremendous service HBCUs have provided on behalf of our great Nation. America's HBCUs have a proud and solid tradition. Since their inception, HBCUs have furthered the development of African Americans who have become leaders in science, health, government, business, education, the military, law, and world affairs.

Graduates of HBCUs have made great contributions to our society, and America, and they continue to serve as role models for all Americans.

As a graduate of Texas Southern University, I understand the vital importance that Historically Black Colleges and Universities play in the advancement of minority education and empowerment. I will continue to work with my colleagues in preserving the educational institutions that have given knowledge and hope to so many minorities for so many years.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the importance of National Historically Black Colleges and Universities Week.

IN HONOR OF THE TOWERS AT WILLIAMS SQUARE WINNING THE 2007 INTERNATIONAL TOBY AWARD

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 25, 2007

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Cousins Properties, TIAA Realty, and the Towers at Williams Square for winning the coveted 2007 International The Office Building of the Year (TOBY) Award.

The Towers at Williams Square made Dallas Building Owners and Manager Association, BOMA, history as the first local association to win an International TOBY in the over 1 million square feet category. After losing to The Crescent at the local level in 2001, the Towers at Williams Square re-entered in 2007; this time winning at the local and regional levels before advancing to the international competition. The TOBY Award recognizes excellence in building office management and operations worldwide and speaks loudly of the value and contributions that Cousins Properties and TIAA Realty have brought to the Towers at Williams Square and the surrounding local community.

It is home to the "Mustangs of Las Colinas" sculpture and museum and was originally created as the symbolic center of Las Colinas. The Greater Irving—Las Colinas Chamber of Commerce will gather members of the local community to celebrate this prestigious honor that has bestowed on the Towers at Williams Square. Madam Speaker, I ask my esteemed colleagues to join me in congratulating them.

VIETNAM SEEKING TO BECOME NON-PERMANENT MEMBER OF U.N. COUNCIL

HON. DANA ROHRBACHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 25, 2007

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Madam Speaker, it was very disturbing to learn that the Vietnamese dictatorship is seeking to become a nonpermanent member of the U.N. Council when the 62nd session of the U.N. begins to meet this week. Vietnam's Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung is scheduled to address the General Assembly on Thursday.

It is great shame that in 2006 the Bush administration's State Department removed Vietnam from the list of Countries of Particular

Concern and gave Vietnam PNTR status, which led to its membership in the WTO. As a result of the Vietnamese dictators achieving everything that they wanted, it was predictable that in early 2007 they would revert to their old tactics. They have again begun broad-scale detention and physical abuse of religious and human rights leaders and the destruction and confiscation of private property.

What role can the United States play to align ourselves with the Vietnamese people who are struggling for their freedom? I agree with Ngai Xuan Nguyen, the overseas representative of the Vietnam Democratic Movement, that our Nation must condition its approval for Vietnam's bid to sit on the Security Council on three requirements:

(1) A definitive improvement in human rights with the release of all political and religious prisoners.

(2) A dramatic show of progress for freedom of speech, freedom of assembly and freedom of the press.

(3) Allowing multiparties as part of the political process.

Last week when I met with Ngai Xuan Nguyen he gave me a list of over 100 names of political and religious prisoners. I wish to submit these names to be printed at this point in the RECORD.

I strongly urge the administration to vigorously pursue these cases. Our country should be a beacon of hope for people who struggle for freedom, democracy and rule of law. Access to cheap Vietnamese labor that will only benefit big business should not be the foundation of our Vietnam policy. The benefits of open markets and free trade will follow free systems. Economic deals with dictators will not lead to the long-term security that we seek from our relations with Asian nations. I am honored to work with people like Ngai Xuan Nguyen and I wish success for all Vietnamese who are struggling for freedom in Vietnam.

LIST OF POLITICAL AND RELIGIOUS PRISONERS STILL DETAINED

1. Le Van Tinh, People Action Party of Vietnam (PAP), Advisory Board member to Unified Buddhist Church, arrested 25/01/95, sentenced to 20 years in Xuan Loc prison, Dong Nai.
2. Nguyen Tuan Nam, PAP, sentenced to 19 years, Xuan Loc prison, Dong Nai Province.
3. Nguyen Van Trai, PAP, sentenced to 16 years, Xuan Loc prison, Dong Nai.
4. Tran Cong Minh, PAP, sentenced to 13 years, Xuan Loc prison, Dong Nai.
5. Le Dong Phuong, PAP, sentenced to 12 years, Xuan Loc prison, Dong Nai.
6. Bui Dang Thuy, PAP, sentenced to 18 years, Xuan Loc prison, Dong Nai.
7. Nguyen Anh Hao, PAP, sentenced to 13 years, Xuan Loc prison, Dong Nai.
8. Nguyen Huu Phu, PAP, sentenced to 10 years, Xuan Loc prison, Dong Nai.
9. Nguyen Van Hau, PAP, sentenced 8 years, Xuan Loc prison, Dong Nai.
10. Vu thi Ngoc An, PAP, sentenced to 8 years, Z30 D prison, Ham Tan.
11. Tran Thi Le Hang, arrested 12/04/07, founder to United Workers and Farmers Association, (UWFA) prison camp B5, Dong Nai.
12. Lawyer Tran Quoc Hien, spokesman to UWFA arrested 12/01/07, sentenced to 5 years, Bo La prison camp, Binh Duong Province.
13. Doan Van Dien, arrested 12/04/07 UWFA, prison camp B5, Dong Nai.
14. Doan Huu Chuong, arrested 12/04/07, UWFA, prison camp B5, Dong Nai.
15. Nguyen Tan Hoanh, arrested 12/04/07, chief to UWFA, prison camp B5 Dong Nai, reportedly missing.

16. Tran Khai Thanh Thuy, temporarily detained, not yet tried.

17. Tran Thi Thuy Trang, temporarily detained, not yet tried.

18. Vu Hoang Hai, temporarily detained, not yet tried

19. Nguyen Ngoc Quang, temporarily detained, not yet tried.

20. Pham Ba Hai, temporarily detained, not yet tried.

21. Rev. Nguyen Van Ly, Catholic priest, sentenced to 8 years (Founder of the Bloc 8406).

22. Nguyen Phong, sentenced to 6 years, Thang Tien Party Progressive Party of Vietnam, PPV), prison camp of Thanh Hoa.

23. Nguyen Binh Thanh, sentenced to 5 years (PPV), prison camp Xuan Loc, Dong Nai.

24. Lawyer Le Thi Cong Nhan, sentenced 4 nam years (member of the Bloc 8406, spokeswoman to the PPV).

25. Lawyer Nguyen Van Dai sentenced to 5 years (member of the Bloc 8406).

26. Dr. Le Nguyen Sang, sentenced 5 years (Chairman of the People's Democratic Party PDP).

27. Lawyer Nguyen Bac Truyen, sentenced 4 years (PDP).

28. Huynh Nguyen Dao, sentenced to 3 years (PDP).

29. Hoang Thi Anh Dao (PPV), probation of 2 years.

30. Luu Van Si, fugitive (UWFA).

31. Truong Quoc Huy, born 22/09/80, arrested 19/6/2005.

32. Ngo Van Ninh 87 years of age, president to Buu Son Ky Huong Buddhist Church, prison camp Xuan Loc, Dong Nai province.

33. Nguyen Si Bang, life sentenced in the Campaign the Red Jacaranda of Hoang Viet Cuong, prison camp Xuan Loc, Dong Nai province.

34. Pham Xuan Than, life sentenced in the Campaign the Red Jacaranda of Hoang Viet Cuong, prison camp Xuan Loc, Dong Nai province.

35. Truong Van Duy, life sentenced, the Campaign the Red Jacaranda of Hoang Viet Cuong, prison camp Xuan Loc, Dong Nai province.

36. Le Kim Hung, the Free Vietnam Organization (FVO), prison camp Xuan Loc, Dong Nai.

37. Ho Long Duc, FVO, sentenced to 20 years, prison camp Xuan Loc, Dong Nai.

38. Nguyen Thanh Van, FVO, prison camp Xuan Loc, Dong Nai province.

39. Nguyen Van Phuong, FVO, prison camp Xuan Loc, Dong Nai province.

40. Nguyen Ngoc Phuong, FVO, prison camp Xuan Loc, Dong Nai province.

41. Nguyen Hoang Giang, FVO, prison camp Xuan Loc, Dong Nai.

42. Nguyen Van Huong, FVO, prison camp Xuan Loc, Dong Nai.

43. Son Nguyen Thanh Dien, FVO, prison camp Xuan Loc, Dong Nai.

44. Nguyen Minh Man, FVO, prison camp Xuan Loc, Dong Nai.

45. Nguyen Van Minh, FVO, prison camp Xuan Loc, Dong Nai.

46. Huynh Buu Chau, FVO, prison camp Xuan Loc, Dong Nai.

47. Huynh Anh Tu, FVO, prison camp Xuan Loc, Dong Nai.

48. Huynh Anh Tri, FVO, prison camp Xuan Loc, Dong Nai.

49. Nguyen Van Than, FVO, prison camp Xuan Loc, Dong Nai.

50. Tran Van Duc, FVO, prison camp Xuan Loc, Dong Nai.

51. Vo Si Cuong, FVO, prison camp Xuan Loc, Dong Nai.

52. Ngo Thanh Son, FVO, prison camp Xuan Loc, Dong Nai.

53. Tran Van Thai, Viet Nam Tu Do, trai giam Xuan Loc, tinh Dong Nai.

54. Do Thanh Van (tu Nhan), Viet Nam Tu Do, trai giam Xuan Loc, tinh Dong Nai.

55. Dinh Quang Hai, Viet Nam Tu Do, trai giam Xuan Loc, tinh Dong Nai.

56. Lam Quang Hai, Viet Nam Tu Do, trai giam Xuan Loc, tinh Dong Nai.

57. Nguyen Anh Hao, trai giam Xuan Loc, tinh Dong Nai.

58. To Thanh Hong, Viet Nam Tu Do, trai giam Xuan Loc, tinh Dong Nai.

59. Mai Xuan Khanh, trai giam Xuan Loc, tinh Dong Nai.

60. Tran Van Thieng, trai giam Xuan Loc, tinh Dong Nai.

61. Phan Quoc Dung, trai giam Xuan Loc, tinh Dong Nai.

62. Nguyen Van Hoa, trai giam Xuan Loc, tinh Dong Nai.

63. Nguyen Van Chung, trai giam Xuan Loc, tinh Dong Nai.

64. Nguyen Sinh Nhat, trai giam Xuan Loc, tinh Dong Nai.

65. Bui Re, trai giam Xuan Loc, tinh Dong Nai.

66. Nguyen Huu Cau, trai giam Xuan Loc, tinh Dong Nai.

67. Le Thi Hang (Dang Thang Tien Party) sentenced to 18 months of probation.

68. Nguyen van Ngoc, Dong Nai, temporarily detained, not yet tried.

69. Ho Thi Bich Khuong, arrested in Nam Dan district, Nghe an province.

70. Hang Tan Phat, arrested 20/10/06 in Nha Trang.

71. Le Trung Hieu, temporarily detained, not yet tried.

72. Ngo Luot, victim of unjustly expropriated properties, Phan Thiet, Binh Thuan province, arrested 03/08/07.

THE LIST OF MEMBERS OF HOA HAO BUDDHIST CHURCH IN PRISON

1. Bui Tan Nha, executive member of Hoa Hao Buddhist Church, arrested 13/07/97, life sentenced, Xuan Loc prison camp.

2. Nguyen Van Dien, Resident Monk, Vice Chief to UWFA, arrested 05/08/05 sentenced to 7 years, Xuan Loc prison camp.

3. Vo Van Buu, chief to Youth of Hoa Hao Buddhist Church, arrested 05/08/05 sentenced to 6 years, Xuan Loc prison camp.

4. Mai thi Dung, chief of Women Association of Cho Moi district, An Giang province, arrested 05/08/05, sentenced to 5 years, Vinh Long prison camp.

5. Vo Van Thanh Liem, resident monk to Quang Minh Tu, An Giang, arrested 05/08/05, sentenced to 7 years, Xuan Loc prison camp.

6. Nguyen Thanh Phong, Young Men's Association to Hoa Hao Buddhist Church, Cho Moi District, Giang Province, arrested 05/08/05, sentenced to 6 years, Vinh Long prison camp.

7. Nguyen Thi Ha, Member of Women's Association of Hoa Hao Buddhist Church, Cho Moi district, An Giang province, arrested 05/08/07, sentenced to 5 years, Vinh Long prison camp.

8. To Van Manh, resident believer practising at home to Hoa Hao Buddhist Church, arrested 05/08/07, sentenced to 6 years, Xuan Loc prison camp.

9. Vo Van Thanh Long, resident believer practising at home to Hoa Hao Buddhist Church, arrested 05/08/07, sentenced 5 years, Xuan Loc prison camp.

10. Nguyen Van Thuy, resident Monk, chief of Youth of Hoa Hao Buddhist Church, Vinh Long province, arrested 22/04/06, sentenced to 5 years in prison.

11. Nguyen Van Tho, president to executive board of Hoa Hao Buddhist Church, Dong Thap province, arrested 02/10/06, sentenced 6 years, Dong Thap prison camp.

12. Duong Thi Tron, resident believer of Hoa Hao Buddhist Church (HHBC), arrested 13/10/2006, sentenced to 4 years, Cao Lanh prison camp.

14. Le van Soc, vice chief exec board to HHBC, Vinh Long province, arrested 04/11/2006, sentenced 6 years.

15. Nguyen Van Tho, sentenced to 4 years in prison.

16. Nguyen Thi Thanh, Tuy Hoa, Phu Yen province, arrested 05/08/06, prison camp Vinh Long.

17. Le Minh Triet, resident Monk of Hoa Hao Buddhist Church, after kept in prison 8 years ago, now continues under house arrest 24 months by the people's committee of An Giang Province.

THE LIST OF PERSECUTED MEMBERS OF THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE'S EVANGELICAL FELLOWSHIP (VPEF)

Hiep Hoi Thong Cong Tin Lanh Cac Dan Toc Vietnam

THE LIST OF THE DEAD PRISONERS WITHIN 2 YEARS TO NOW IN THE PRISON CAMP OF XUAN LOC, DONG NAI PROVINCE; TOTAL: 11 DEAD PEOPLE

1. Ly Nhurt Thanh, Dang Nhan Dan Hanh Dong, People Action Party of Vietnam (PAP).

2. Ngo Minh Tuan, Dang Nhan Dan Hanh Dong (PAP).

3. Ho Quoc Dung, Dang Nhan Dan Hanh Dong (PAP).

4. Hoa Van Xuan, Dang Nhan Dan Hanh Dong (PAP).

5. Nguyen Van Binh, Dang Nhan Dan Hanh Dong (PAP).

6. Son Tam, To chuc Viet Nam Tu Do, The Free Vietnam Organization (FVO).

7. Nguyen-Van-Ha, To chuc Viet Nam Tu Do (FVO).

8. Pham Minh Tuan, To chuc Viet Nam Tu Do (FVO).

9. Nguyen Van Chien, To chuc trong nuoc, Domestic Organization (DO).

10. Nguyen Minh Tan, To chuc trong nuoc (DO).

11. Phan Van Truoc, To chuc trong nuoc (DO).

LIST OF MENNONITE MEMBERS/CHRISTIANS JAILED UNTIL NOW (17/08/07)

1. Pastor K'soTiNo arrested 14/05/2005 sentenced to 7 jail term, prison camp Nam Ha Bac Viet. Alleged of "undoing national unity." Tribal of Ja ra (Pleiku).

2. Evangelist A Ka, tribal of H'lang, Kon Tum, arrested 04/01/2007 detained in Binh Dinh, sentenced to 2 years, alleged of "undoing national unity" (PHCSDKDT).

3. Evangelist: Y Brek, tribal of Ja Rai, Gia Lai. Arrested 04/2004. Sentenced to 7 years; alleged of "undoing national unity." Prison camp Nam Ha.

4. Evangelist A aoh, tribal of Ja Rai, Kon Tum, arrested 04/2005, sentenced to 7 years, jailed in Nam ha prison camp, alleged of "undoing national unity."

5. Pastor Ra Lan Chel, tribal of Ja Rai, Gia Lai province, arrested 07/2006, alleged of "disturbing security"; being jailed in Ma drak, Daklak. No trial, no sentence according to VN's Resolution 31/ND-CP.

6. Evangelist A chu, tribal of Ja Rai, Kon Tum province, arrested 04/2004; sentenced to 3 years; prison camp Phui Yen.

7. Evangelist A Ja roong tribal Ja Rai, Kon Tum; arrested in 2001; deranged, in 2003; released then re-arrested for arson; and De Gar connection; sentenced to 4 years in prison.

8. Evangelist A Phucong, tribal of Ja Rai, province Kon Tum; arrested 04/2005; sentenced to 3 years in prison camp T20, Gia Lai. Alleged of "undoing national unity."

9. Evangelist Doan van Dien, village Phu Ngoc, Dong Nai, arrested 10/2006; prison camp B5, Dong Nai. Not yet tried. Alleged of "against the socialist regime."

10. Assistant Doan Huy Chuong arrested 10/2006, not yet tried, jailed in prison camp B5 Dong Nai province, alleged of "against the socialist regime."

11. Assistant Nguyen Thi le Hang, of Phuoc Son, Ninh Thuan, arrested 10/2006, alleged of "against the socialist regime"; not yet tried; being jailed in prison camp B5, Dong Nai.

12. Pastor Nguyen Van Dai, legal commissioner of the church, arrested 03/2007; alleged of "propaganda of against the socialist regime"; sentenced to 5 years.

All of the above so-called allegations are of forced depositions, or fabrications; there are some missing or who died after being released from the prison camps; or were interrogated by the police; released, after that died of unknown sudden deaths, no known causes, no examinations; or were killed and fabricated as suicides!

Mennonite Office, 17/8/2007, (President) Pastor: Nguyen Hong Quang.

Note: In this list, some persons to be Religion while participate Democracy Movement were kept in Prison. So, having the same name as follows: 1. Ong Doan Van Dien. 2. Doan Huy Chuong. 3. Nguyen Thi Le Hang. 4. Nguyen Van Dai.

CONGRATULATING THE DENTON ACME BRICK PLANT FOR THE CREATION OF THE WORLD'S LARGEST BRICK

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 25, 2007

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Denton Acme Brick plant for creating what could be the world's largest brick.

The 6,400-pound brick was created in honor of the company's 116th anniversary. Crews began creating a replica 3,000 times larger than an original brick on December 12, 2005. The process took 18 months from start to finish.

The brick was built using 99 percent Denton-area clay and 1 percent combination of other materials. The employees have lovingly named the brick "Baby Clay". The brick will be transported to several Acme locations throughout the company to be on display for employees. It will then return to Denton and be put on public display.

Acme Brick hopes to obtain the "world's largest" brick recognition from the Guinness World Records. Currently, there is no recognition for such a record. It will take 4 to 6 weeks for the Guinness employees to validate or reject Acme's claim.

I extend my sincere congratulations to the Denton Acme Brick Plant and the creation of "Baby Clay". Also congratulations to the Acme Company in celebrating 116 years of service.

TAINTED IMPORTS

HON. JOHN BARROW

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 25, 2007

Mr. BARROW. Madam Speaker, I rise today because I haven't been able to open up a newspaper in the last few months without reading about another product coming into this country from overseas that is tainted, poisonous, or dangerous in some major way.

Tainted pet food, counterfeit alcohol, poisonous toothpaste, children's toys with lead paint . . . the list goes on and on.

Frankly, I'm tired of hearing about these dangers only when it's too late to do anything about them without spending valuable time and resources to fix the problem. We need to do a better job of ensuring the safety of these imported products across the board.

As a father and a consumer, I hope that in the coming weeks we'll devote the time necessary to figuring out how to identify these problems. We need to act before we read about more recalls or worse—when someone gets physically ill because of lax regulations or enforcement. We have a duty to ensure that the stream of commerce isn't polluted.

COMMEMORATING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL

SPEECH OF

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 18, 2007

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 326, the resolution that commemorates the 25th anniversary of the dedication of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in our Nation's Capital.

As a Vietnam-era Veteran myself, I want to thank my colleague, Representative HOOLEY from Oregon, for introducing this resolution that celebrates the dedication of a special Memorial that has come to be such a physical reminder of what this Nation went through as a whole.

The Memorial takes me back to a time when my friends and I left our families behind. I was fortunate to come back home, some of my friends were not.

The beautiful black granite memorial contains 58,256 names of soldiers who died or remain missing. We honor those soldiers. To their families we pay our respects and cannot say thank you enough.

Each time I look upon the etched names on the memorial, I am reminded of the deep rooted sacrifice of Americans so many years ago. I wish to have my great, great grandchildren be able to visit the memorial and be able to sense the same thing.

It is easy for me to remember, I lived it. However, our future generations must not forget that America would be very different had it not been for the sacrifice of these honorable soldiers.

I am glad to be able to be a part of this special recognition. I urge my colleagues to support H. Con. Res. 5 and reflect the great sacrifices of true American heroes.

TAX FREE TIPS ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 25, 2007

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, I rise to help millions of working Americans by introducing the Tax Free Tips Act. As the title suggests, this legislation makes tips exempt from federal income and payroll taxes. Tips often compose a substantial portion of the earnings of waiters, waitresses, and other service-sector employees. However, unlike regular wages, a

service-sector employee usually has no guarantee of, or legal right to, a tip. Instead, the amount of a tip usually depends on how well an employee satisfies a client. Since the amount of taxes one pays increases along with the size of tip, taxing tips punishes workers for doing a superior job!

Many service-sector employers are young people trying to make money to pay for their education, or single parents struggling to provide for their children. Oftentimes, these workers work two jobs in hopes of making a better life for themselves and their families. The Tax Free Tips Act gives these hard-working Americans an immediate pay raise. People may use this pay raise to devote more resources to their children's, or their own, education, or to save for a home, retirement, or to start their own businesses.

Helping Americans improve themselves by reducing their taxes will make our country stronger. I, therefore, hope all my colleagues will join me in cosponsoring the Tax Free Tips Act.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF
THE 65TH INFANTRY
BORINQUENEERS

SPEECH OF

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 18, 2007

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I ask for unanimous consent to revise and extend my remarks. I rise in support of H. Res. 443, which recognizes the service of the 65th Infantry Borinqueneers during the Korean War and the continued service of Puerto Ricans in the Armed Services.

The Korean War was fought with the sweat and tears of many Americans.

The 65th Infantry Regiment was the only Hispanic-segregated unit in United States military history. Mandated by Congress, the unit was compromised by a majority of Puerto Ricans.

These honorable soldiers fought at the front of the Korean lines like any other American soldiers. The unit received a Presidential Unit Citation, a Meritorious Unit Commendation, and two Republic of Korea Unit Citations.

In addition, we continue to be fortunate enough to count on the service of Puerto Ricans today.

This July, Captain Maria Ortiz, a Puerto Rican, was killed by a mortar attack in the Green Zone in Baghdad. She was the first army nurse to be killed in combat since the Vietnam War.

Today I stand proud with my colleagues and thank our Puerto Rican soldiers who have fought and will continue to fight so bravely for the great democracy that we enjoy. As a fellow Vietnam-era veteran, I salute you.

I urge my colleagues to support and pass H. Res. 443 and recognize the great work of our Puerto Rican soldiers.