

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING AARON PAUL
GOTZON FOR ACHIEVING THE
RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 9, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Aaron Paul Gotzon, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 260, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Aaron has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Aaron has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Aaron Paul Gotzon for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

IN HONOR OF MELVIN BELL LANE

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 9, 2007

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of a remarkable citizen, Mr. Melvin Bell Lane, who passed away in July at the age of 85. Mel and his brother Bill helped define Western living with their publications "Sunset" magazine and Sunset books. Mel was also well known as a philanthropist and was one of California's most prominent conservation leaders.

Mel Lane was born in Iowa, where his father sold advertising for "Better Homes and Gardens" magazine. When Mel was 6 years old, his family moved to California, where his father bought the 30-year-old "Sunset" magazine. It was then the on-board tourist magazine for the Southern Pacific Railroad's Sunset Limited.

During World War II, Mel and Bill both served in the Navy. After the war, the brothers went to work for the magazine, eventually becoming co-owners. Under their direction, "Sunset" magazine and its books on food, gardening, travel, and do-it-yourself became standards of the industry. It was said that "Sunset's Western Garden Book" was the most revered of its many publications, with well-thumbed copies found in nearly every nursery in the State.

In 1965, California Governor Pat Brown appointed Mel to be the first chairman of the newly created San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission. This agency was successful in stopping developers from filling in the bay and paving over the wet-

lands. Later, Governor Ronald Reagan named him to be the first chairman of the California Coastal Commission, and Governor Jerry Brown re-appointed him. His attitude was that a healthy environment was crucial to a healthy economy. "As soon as business tightens up, not only do we drop environmental controls but as a shot to the economy we drill for more oil and cut down trees," he said. "These are a rip-off of the environment that can't be done indefinitely, so it's poor business."

When Ronald Reagan was elected President, he asked Mel to come to Washington to direct the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, but Mel was not one who enjoyed being in the public eye, and he declined. Mel also co-founded the Peninsula Open Space Trust, preserving nearly 60,000 acres to expand State and local parks.

Mel graduated from Stanford University in 1944, and as a trustee from 1981 to 1991, he was a strong supporter of the humanities and creative writing, and of course for environmental research and teaching. Following the Loma Prieta earthquake of 1989, he worked to restore the damage that had been done to the campus, especially to the Memorial Church.

He is survived by his wife of 54 years, Joan Fletcher Lane; daughters Whitney Miller and Julie Lane Gay; his brother, L.W. "Bill" Lane; and four grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, I had the great pleasure of knowing Melvin Lane when he and my father worked together on the California Coastal Commission. He was a smart businessman, a dedicated environmentalist, well known yet humble; a man who always said "Make my speech shorter." He had that unique ability to inspire confidence and loyalty from people with opposite points of view. He will be sorely missed.

CONGRATULATING WILLIAM
BRUCE ORR

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 9, 2007

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to extend congratulations to William Bruce Orr, who recently accomplished the highest rank in Boy Scouting, becoming an Eagle Scout on October 14, 2007. He is a member of Boy Scout Troop 142, Mannhoac District, located in Leetown, West Virginia.

William helped improve one of America's recreational treasures, the Appalachian Trail. He constructed a tent pad along the trail at the Rod Hollow site in northern Virginia. He and others carried lumber and tools from the base of the trail to the top of the mountain where the site is located. His tent pad structure will provide hikers with shelter for years to come.

Jeremiah was home schooled in Jefferson County and was a 2007 recipient of the Promise Scholarship. He is currently a freshman at Shepherd University.

I am proud to recognize William Bruce Orr for achieving the high honor of the Eagle Scout. Jefferson County and the State of West Virginia are fortunate to have him as a leader and a volunteer in his community.

CELEBRATING THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF PRIDE—PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY IN A DESIRABLE ENVIRONMENT

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 9, 2007

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, the Appalachian Mountains, the Cumberland Lake and River, and red bud trees are just some of the natural assets that make southern and eastern Kentucky one of the most special places in the world. For many years, however, people who visited here could not say it was very special because what they saw were dumps, trash, litter, and filthy water.

These problems, which emerged over decades, were largely due to inadequate infrastructure for handling ever-growing amounts of solid waste and wastewater. And we had to do something about this problem, or else there would be no hope of ever having a clean environment or growing the economy.

In the summer of 1997, the region's elected officials gathered to face these problems including a key State official—the late General James E. Bickford, the former secretary of Kentucky's environmental department. They presented a battle plan for declaring "war against pollution" in the region. Their vision was to encourage citizens to take responsibility for protecting their environment and provide the education and resources needed to do so. Their campaign would promote PRIDE, or "Personal Responsibility in a Desirable Environment."

PRIDE has 10 years under its belt and now is a good time to remember why this initiative is essential to moving our region forward. People understand these days that a clean environment goes hand-in-hand with a healthy, vibrant economy.

Our region's religious, civic and elected leaders look for ways to leverage what makes us special—whether that is our mountain heritage, red-bud trees, scenic highways, or our pristine rivers. Our region will sell itself as long as we continue to show the world what makes us special. There is nothing special about trash and pollution. No matter how nice a place is, nobody wants to visit places that are polluted and littered.

First impressions count. When people see a natural area or town square for the first time, what makes a real impact is how clean a place is. For too long, the first impression people had in our area was empty bottles and fast food wrappers strewn along the highway, or in some cases—abandoned appliances, automobiles, and junk in an otherwise pristine natural setting.

• 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.

For those of us who live here, we don't want to live among trash and pollution. Our region has turned the corner. We left behind the southern and eastern Kentucky of the past—one with stagnant economic growth and net outflow of people. We turned it into a region for the future—one where business opens its doors and people move in. Simply cleaning up a place invites people to stay.

PRIDE has produced great benefits to the environment. With modern wastewater treatment systems, there is no excuse anymore to dump raw sewage into our creeks and rivers. PRIDE's sweeping efforts to install modern treatment systems enabled our waterways to thrive with plant and animal life again. No longer do we have open sewers moving through our mountains.

What I like best about PRIDE is the spirit of volunteerism behind it. People caused this litter and pollution problem and now people are fixing it. It is an amazing thing to watch what happens when a community pulls together towards a common purpose. Ten years ago there were skeptics and doubters. Today, many statistics clearly show PRIDE's progress over the last 10 years.

Theodore Roosevelt understood the need to protect our natural resources and a short sentence he once said sums up so well the spirit of PRIDE today: "Believe you can and you're halfway there."

What a legacy we have built. There are now 27,907 homes with access to sanitary wastewater treatment. Nearly 2,500 illegal dumps have been eliminated and 500,000 bags of trash have been collected. And the hard work of 238,000 volunteers made this happen.

When we look back 10 years hence, we will see even more progress—a region of the country that is free of the pollution and trash that held it back. On this 10-year anniversary, we remember the PRIDE volunteers and community leaders who believed we could.

IN HONOR OF JOAN AND BOB
RECHNITZ

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 9, 2007

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Joan and Bob Rechnitz's contributions to the arts. This generous couple founded the Two River Theater Company providing the New Jersey community a place to experience the joys of theater.

Bob and Joan Rechnitz share a love for the theater. In 1994, the couple saw the opportunity to provide a home for Monmouth County's first professional regional theater in 30 years. After performing in different venues, in 2005, the Two River Theater Company opened a new, state of the art play house. The theater today provides an intimate space for 350 people to enjoy many fine performances.

Mr. Rechnitz serves as executive producer of the Two River Theater Company. He directs numerous plays including *True West*, *A View from a Bridge*, and *The Glass Menagerie*. Mr. Rechnitz was also nominated Best Director of a Comedy for the *Curse of the Starving Class* by Newark, New Jersey's *Star Ledger* newspaper.

After 13 seasons, New Jersey residents have benefited from the theater's diverse and stimulating array of performances and educational programs. In 2006, the Two River Theater was named Theater of the Year by the *Star Ledger* newspaper. From producing plays by George Bernard Shaw to providing a venue for Bruce Springsteen performances, the Two River Theater has achieved Mr. and Mrs. Rechnitz's vision of a thriving and dynamic community theater company.

Madam Speaker, I sincerely hope that my colleagues will join me in celebrating Joan and Bob Rechnitz. Through their cultural and artistic contributions, the Two River Theater Company has become an integral part of the New Jersey community.

RECOGNIZING LEE MICHAEL CARPENTER FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 9, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Lee Michael Carpenter, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 260, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Lee has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Lee has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Lee Michael Carpenter for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

IN HONOR OF SAN BENITO COUNTY COUNCIL #2890

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 9, 2007

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate San Benito County Council #2890 of the League of United Latin American Citizens, or LULAC, on its 20th anniversary. LULAC is the largest and oldest Latino national membership organization in the United States. This chapter was formed on October 17, 1987, and was the first Latino civil rights organization in San Benito County.

Since its formation, San Benito County LULAC has encouraged its membership to uphold and defend the rights of the Latino community, and serves as a circle of community influence and support. It promotes voter participation by encouraging the Latino community to register to vote, to participate in the electoral process, and to defend their voting rights against violations. The chapter encourages and supports San Benito County agencies and government bodies, ensuring that the Latino population has a voice that represents their needs and concerns.

San Benito County LULAC formed a Youth Council on October 5, 1989. It encourages youth participation in community and educational opportunities and has provided scholarship grants to over 140 students totaling \$136,000. They also formed a young adult council on February 10, 2000, whose local members attend colleges and universities throughout California. The chapter also served as the home State council for the local State director and State youth president.

LULAC believes that education is the foundation for the cultural growth and development of every community member. It organizes student conferences and retreats for youth development and leadership training. For the past eight years, this chapter has sponsored the after school Young Readers Program at the former Fremont School and Ladd Lane School, enabling over 240 first through third grade students and their parents to develop strong reading habits.

Madam Speaker, I commend San Benito County LULAC on its many accomplishments. Its exemplary record of civic involvement and extended support to the residents of this community personifies the very best of community involvement. I congratulate them on the 20th anniversary of their chapter's founding and invite all citizens of the county to celebrate their accomplishments.

HONORING ENERGY CORPORATION OF AMERICA

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 9, 2007

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Energy Corporation of America for implementing one of the Nation's most successful employee health and wellness programs.

Energy Corporation of America, with operations in the Kanawha Valley, is being honored by the Wellness Council of America as the recipient of the Platinum Well Workplace Award. Already an honoree of the Gold Well Workplace award, the company had to undergo rigorous requirements and an extensive application process to be considered. Since its inception in 2001, only 21 organizations in the Nation have received the Platinum Well Workplace Award.

The corporation's unique approach to its employees and their well-being serves as a model for other organizations to follow. Compared to the national average, only 30 percent of wellness initiatives are met by employees and the ECA has 95 percent participation from both employees and their spouses. They participate in an annual health screening and health risk appraisal, and then meet with a health coach who outlines an annual regimen with many resources to guide them with their yearly health and wellness goals. Employees and their spouses receive an annual bonus as an extra incentive to meet their fitness goals.

The success of this program is most evident in the health and well-being of Energy Corporation of America's employees and the unprecedented success of the company's ability to contain its healthcare cost since the early 1990's. In a state and in a nation where the health of its citizens is constantly under criticism, it is my privilege to recognize the Energy

Corporation of America, which serves as a model of success for the implementation of a health and wellness program for its employees.

I am honored to recognize the Energy Corporation of America for the Platinum Well Workplace Award. It is an honor to serve a company in West Virginia's Second Congressional District whose health and well-being of its employees is its top priority.

CELEBRATING THE 35TH ANNIVERSARY OF OUTDOOR VENTURES CORPORATION

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 9, 2007

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I want to pay tribute to a company helping our people here at home, our troops at war, and the community in which they are based.

For decades, companies in my Fifth Congressional District were primarily logging and coal mining. Many still are, and their employees are very hard workers, and these are worthy industries on which our Nation relies. However, after the trees are harvested and the coal is mined, these companies go elsewhere and with them our employment opportunities. So it's not surprising that people over the years packed up and moved to places like Michigan, Ohio, and Indiana in search of a career and a future. I was one of those people.

One of the things we're trying to do in our district is attract companies that don't depend on our natural resources, but rather employ our hard workers and innovate and improve their products so that they can compete anywhere in the world. We could fix all of mankind's problems, and it won't mean a thing if people don't have a place to work. Good companies make good communities.

I want to recognize one such company, Outdoor Ventures Corporation, which this year celebrates its 35th anniversary and is located in Steams, KY.

Outdoor Ventures Corporation's 180 employees make specialized tents for the military. For our troops overseas, those tents are home. Like most products these days, what sounds simple is not. These tents require precision engineering and manufacturing techniques perfected over three decades.

Company President J.C. Egnew's dedication to civic life goes far beyond business, however. In his hometown community he was instrumental in creating its first public park, the first library and expanding our local community college. And, he keeps a tourist attraction going strong—the Big South Fork Scenic Railway, where visitors can take a 16-mile round trip ride on the 100-year-old Kentucky and Tennessee Railway.

I am proud to have this company in my district. And, I'm proud to know, Mr. J.C. Egnew who runs it. His company is built to last and our community is a better place to live as a result.

IN HONOR OF THE DRIFTERS, INC.

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 9, 2007

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize the services of The Drifters, Inc.

This organization was founded in Texas in 1954 to enhance the universal image of womanhood and serve as role models to women everywhere. The Drifters have chapters in 31 States in the United States. They have continued to provide for the youth and senior citizens within our society.

The Drifters reach out to educational institutions by awarding scholarships to local area high school students. Every year the Drifters choose one university to give scholarship money to promising students. They devote their time and energy during the holidays by delivering gift baskets to the underserved. Amongst the numerous charitable events, the women of the Drifters are actively involved with aiding the homeless and battered women.

Madam Speaker, I hope my colleagues will join me in expressing sincere appreciation to the Drifters. These women work hard to provide for future generations and empower individuals throughout the United States.

RECOGNIZING MATTHEW McEWEN FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 9, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Matthew McEwen, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1220, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Matthew has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Matthew has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Matthew McEwen for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

IN HONOR OF THE SPORTS CAR RACING ASSOCIATION OF THE MONTEREY PENINSULA

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 9, 2007

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Sports Car Racing Association of the Monterey Peninsula, or SCRAMP. SCRAMP held its inaugural race on November 10, 1957. For 50 years, the Sports Car Racing Association of

the Monterey Peninsula has worked to establish Laguna Seca as one of the premier road racing venues in the world. Unlike the operators at other tracks, SCRAMP is a non-profit volunteer organization. As such, they can make donations to the community, but cannot accept donations. Consequently, the Laguna Seca Raceway Fund was established as a 501(c)(3) to be the fundraising arm of the track. SCRAMP has invested more than \$20 million in the Monterey County-owned facility over the last five years, part of an ongoing effort to keep the track positioned as one of the world's finest road courses.

SCRAMP presents five world class motor-sports events each year: the U.S. Sports Car Invitational, the Red Bull U.S. Grand Prix, the Monterey Historic Automobile Races, the AMA Superbike Race, and the Monterey Sports Car Championship. These events bring hundreds of thousands of visitors to Monterey County. The financial impact on the community is significant, estimated at one million dollars annually. SCRAMP itself donates hundreds of thousands of dollars of its proceeds each year to civic and charitable organizations that volunteer at events held at the track, a major source of revenue for these organizations.

Mazda became the title sponsor of the venue in 2001 and it was renamed Mazda Raceway Laguna Seca. The new sponsorship is a major contributor in realizing the continuing vision for improving the raceway, making it more beautiful, functional, and safe.

Madam Speaker, I know my colleagues will all join me in offering congratulations and encouragement for this fine organization on their golden anniversary.

HONORING BURKE FEASTER

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 9, 2007

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Burke Feaster for his 30 years of service and leadership to the Boy Scouts of America.

Burke has been active as a troop master and scoutmaster since the fall of 1977. Over the past three decades, Burke has been involved as a leader of Pack 33 sponsored by New Street United Methodist Church in Shepherdstown, WV. Through his guidance, many Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts have gone on to make the rank of Eagle Scout. During his years of service, Burke has seen 24 young men make the rank of Eagle Scout, which is three times the national average for Scout troops.

For his years of dedicated service, Burke has received numerous awards including the prestigious Silver Beaver Award by the Shenandoah Council, the District Award of Merit, Scout Master and Cub Master of the year of the Potomac District, and the Mannahoac Award. His church which sponsors Pack 33 awarded him the United Methodist Cross and Flame Award.

Burke lives in Shepherdstown with his wife, Carole who has also volunteered for many years with the Boy Scouts of America. They have two sons, Burke, Jr., and Shawn who were both former Scouts and later volunteers. Burke and his wife currently reside in Shepherdstown, WV.

It is an honor to recognize Burke Feaster for his 30 years of involvement in one of America's proudest traditions for our youth, the Boy Scouts of America. The Mountain State is proud to call Burke one of our own.

INTRODUCTION OF NATIONAL
CYBERSECURITY AWARENESS
MONTH

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 9, 2007

Mr. LANGEVIN. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to introduce this resolution supporting the goals and ideals of National Cybersecurity Awareness Month.

Each year, the National Cyber Security Division, NCSA, of the Department of Homeland Security, DHS, joins with the National Cyber Security Alliance, NCSA, the Multi-State Information Sharing and Analysis Center, MS-ISAC, and other partners to support National Cyber Security Awareness Month. The goal of National Cyber Security Awareness Month is to show everyday Internet users that by taking simple steps, they can safeguard themselves from the latest online threats and respond to potential cyber-crime incidents.

It would be dangerous to believe, however, that simple steps by end users will sufficiently combat the larger threats associated with a growing networked society. As Chairman of the Homeland Security Subcommittee on Emerging Threats, Cybersecurity and Science and Technology, I have held a number of hearings this year on our Nation's cybersecurity posture and the various vulnerabilities in our critical information infrastructure. Cybersecurity vulnerabilities can significantly impact our national and economic security. This issue has been largely ignored and misunderstood for too long. The oversight that the Homeland Security Committee is undertaking will help change that, but much work remains to be done.

I thank my colleagues for cosponsoring this resolution, and look forward to working with them on these critical issues in the future.

WELCOMING THE TROOPS BACK
HOME

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 9, 2007

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the aviators and sailors from Strike Fighter Squadron VFA 14 and VFA 41 along with the Fleet Readiness Center West Sea Detachment Personnel and the staff of the Carrier Air Wing 11, all of Naval Air Station, Lemoore in my district in California who returned home safely this past weekend after a 6-month deployment aboard the USS *Nimitz* in Afghanistan and Iraq. In addition to combat operations in Afghanistan and Iraq, these units participated in Exercises Valiant Shield and Malabar. In all, a total of over 550 sailors from Naval Air Station Lemoore deployed.

Successful deployments depend not only on military skills, but also on support from three

important groups; families, employers and the community. The community of Lemoore is extremely proud of its servicemembers and hosted a grand welcome home celebration on base to greet the pilots and sailors. Anxiously, children, spouses, parents, aunts, uncles, and friends all waited for their loved ones to arrive.

It is happy homecomings like this that remind me of how proud I am to represent the 20th Congressional District and remind all of us why we live in a free country. These men and women have made great sacrifices in defending our freedom. Therefore, I am pleased to extend a warm welcome home to these fine men and women from NAS Lemoore and very proud to recognize their dedicated service.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE
RESTORE ACT

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 9, 2007

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I'm proud, to join with Intelligence Committee Chairman REYES today in introducing legislation that will give our intelligence community needed tools to combat foreign threats while preserving civil liberties. Making sure that surveillance activities protect freedom as well as security is critical to waging an effective fight against terrorism.

The RESTORE Act extends the ability of the Government to acquire communications of persons abroad for the purpose of terrorism and other national security threats. Earlier this year, in the Protect America Act, PAA, amendments were made to the long-standing consensus approach set forth in the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, FISA. Responding to what the administration characterized as pressing concerns, the PAA gave the Government enhanced flexibility to collect foreign intelligence information. But the broad scope of the authority and procedures that allowed the Government to collect this information without up-front court approval raised grave concerns about the need for more safeguards of innocent Americans' communications. The RESTORE Act improves upon the PAA by providing a series of checks and balances while still allowing maximum flexibility. It limits the Government's authority to what the Director of National Intelligence told us he needed—a means to acquire information from telecommunications companies about physical threats to the Nation in which the target is overseas. The RESTORE Act does not require individual warrants when persons reasonably believed to be abroad, but it is firm that a FISA warrant is required to obtain communications of people in the United States. The RESTORE Act settles that FISA is the exclusive means of electronic surveillance, and that no modifications can be made without express statutory authorization. The RESTORE Act will also provide additional resources for the National Security Agency and Department of Justice to ensure that there are no backlogs of critical intelligence gathering.

Congressional oversight and full knowledge about surveillance activities is critical in ensuring the Nation's safety. Both the Judiciary and Intelligence Committees need access to court orders, Presidential authorizations, and details

of and legal justifications for past wiretapping efforts. The RESTORE Act provides for audits and congressional reports of surveillance programs past, present, and future. Through these reports and audits, with nonclassified aspects where appropriate, Members of Congress and the public will have the opportunity to assess whether the program works as designed. Chairman REYES and I are committed to vigorous oversight, constant dialogue, and statutory improvements as needed to meet our duty to ensure safety and liberty for all.

The administration has continued to deny us the information that Congress is entitled to and which is necessary for a full understanding of the issues at stake. Nevertheless, I believe this legislation will allow us to move forward and respond to the concerns of the administration. This bill will require that information be made available to us and give the Congress the opportunity to assess these procedures and the program on the basis of a complete record. The RESTORE Act's important audit and reporting provisions are essential for when the program will sunset in 2009. At that time, with a new Congress, a new President, and the results of these provisions, we will again strive to provide additional protections for the rights of Americans. For this is an ongoing responsibility that all of us in Congress are working toward—a foreign intelligence gathering system that is effective and flexible, yet bound by procedure and law.

CONGRATULATING REV. LOUIS S. GARBACIK FOR BEING NAMED "GUEST OF HONOR" BY THE GREATER HAZLETON AREA POLONAISE SOCIETY

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 9, 2007

Mr. KANJORSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Rev. Louis S. Garbacik, pastor emeritus of St. Stanislaus Roman Catholic Church in Hazleton, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania, who will be the guest of honor at a celebration hosted by the Greater Hazleton Area Polonaise Society on Sunday, October 14, 2007.

Father Garbacik is being honored for his dedication and support of Polish tradition, heritage, and culture during his 53 years in the priesthood.

A son of Polish immigrants, Father Garbacik grew up in a loving home where his mother cared for the family while his father labored in the anthracite mines of northeastern Pennsylvania and also worked as a talented carpenter making and repairing violins.

Throughout his years as a parish priest, Father Garbacik has endeavored to educate his parishioners in the customs and traditions of Poland.

From numerous trips to the country of his ancestors, Father Garbacik has collected a variety of Polish artwork which he proudly displays in his church rectory and shares with all who express an interest.

Father Garbacik was honored when he met with the late Pope John Paul II, himself a native of Poland and the only non-Italian to hold the position of Pope since the 1520s.

Committed to teaching members of his parish about Polish spiritual traditions, Father

Garbacik routinely shares with his flock information about Polish worship services rooted in his ancestral homeland.

A humble man who enjoys the love and devotion of his parishioners, Father Garbacik demonstrates through his own life the true meaning of Christian love which leaves those whose lives he touches inspired and comforted.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Father Louis Garbacik and the Greater Hazleton Area Polonaise Society which has recognized the value of Father Garbacik's ministry.

**SUPPORTING THE CARIBBEAN AS
ITS WORKFORCE BOOMS**

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 9, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the article, "Caribbean Call Centers Booming," published in New York CARIB News on September 19, 2007. The piece notes that American corporations are increasingly setting up centers in the Caribbean, breathing new life into the region's workforce and diversifying its economy.

A drop in communication costs has ushered in newfound competition, willing the area's island nations to extend tax incentives in search of business—and it's working. For those economies with the smallest populations, it's made a world of positive difference, injecting droves of new workers and reducing rampant unemployment.

CARIBBEAN CALL CENTERS BOOMING

CASTRIES.—In a global search for low-cost customer service, AOL considered call centers in India and other hotspots—then settled on the tiny island of St. Lucia.

In choosing the Caribbean island, AOL, a unit of Time Warner Inc., joined other U.S. companies that have made the region a new global hub for call centers.

Plunging communication costs, workers who relate easily to American customers and the region's famed hospitality are attracting American corporations, boosting the work force in the "nearshore" service industry in the Caribbean.

Jamaica is one of the leaders with about 14,000 employees in the sector. In the Dominican Republic, 18,000 agents, many of them bilingual, are handling calls in English and Spanish. Call centers dedicated to customer service have also opened in Barbados, Trinidad, and Dominica.

According to Robert Goodwin, the AOL manager who chose a call centre in St. Lucia, the islands all seem to be really positive as opposed to the surly attitudes you have in some of the other places. AOL still uses call centers in India and elsewhere for technical support and other services—taking advantage of that country's large numbers of workers with technical and advanced degrees.

But the Caribbean is becoming increasingly competitive in the call centre industry, with island governments offering tax and other incentives to lure companies to their shores.

Jamaica, for example, granted call centers "free zone" status that allows owners to repatriate 100 percent of their earnings tax-free. The Caribbean has taken only a tiny share of the market from still-hot India and

the Philippines, but the impact is huge on islands with tiny populations. In Montego Bay, a resort area on Jamaica's north coast that accounts for about half the island's call centre jobs, developers have rapidly built thousands of concrete, single-family homes to accommodate the workers.

The industry owes much of its success to a telecommunications liberalization that began sweeping former British colonies in the Caribbean about six years ago. As new suppliers have challenged the monopoly of Britain-based Cable & Wireless PLC, lower prices allowed the region to compete.

The collections and call-centre firm KM2, which holds the AOL contract in St. Lucia, has opened a site in Barbados and, according to owner David Kreiss, the firm is looking to expand again as new telecoms install fiber optic cable.

The number of people working at Caribbean call centers has increased from 11,300 in 2002 to a current total of 55,000, with an annual economic impact of US\$2.5 billion. Large American companies including Verizon, AT&T, Delta Air Lines, AIG and Nortel have used Caribbean call centers, while often keeping operations in Asia or elsewhere. While much of the profits go to U.S.-owned operators, the islands welcome the business to diversify their economies and counter high unemployment.

**RECOGNIZING EMERGENCY
NURSES WEEK**

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 9, 2007

Mrs. CAPPS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize October 7 through October 13 as Emergency Nurses Week.

As a nurse for over 40 years and the co-chair of the House Nursing Caucus, I have a longstanding commitment to the work nurses do and to highlight the impact they have on other important issues, such as homeland security preparedness efforts.

There are approximately 100,000 emergency nurses in the United States. Emergency nurses make a difference each day in peoples' lives, both within and beyond the traditional boundaries of the hospital emergency department. Working in areas such as critical care, research, technology, flight and ground transport and injury prevention, emergency nurses combine state-of-the-art skills with heartfelt compassion for those they serve.

Since 1989, the Emergency Nurses Association has celebrated the second Wednesday in October as Emergency Nurses Day, a day set aside to honor emergency nurses for their commitment to patient care. Starting in 2001, because 1 day is simply not enough to recognize all contributions made by emergency nurses, the Emergency Nurses Association expanded the celebration to devote an entire week to honoring emergency nursing.

This week is particularly important as evidenced by a survey conducted by the Emergency Nurses Association last year showing that 86 percent of emergency nurses had been victims of assault on the job at least once in the past 3 years. Nonetheless, a vast majority say they will continue to be emergency nurses in the years to come. This is a noble profession practiced by noble women and men and they deserve our recognition and thanks.

Emergency Nurses Day is Wednesday, October 10, and this year's theme, "Stepping into their lives when they need you the most" reflects the dedication of emergency nurses in the United States and around the world.

I would like to take this opportunity to commend the Emergency Nurses Association for its work to define the future of emergency nursing and emergency care. Founded in 1970, the Emergency Nurses Association serves as the voice of nearly 33,000 members and their patients.

Finally, Madam Speaker, I encourage all of our colleagues to help spread the word about the critical importance of nursing to our Nation's health care system. Also, I ask that my fellow colleagues join me and my cochair, Congressman STEVE LATOURETTE, in the work of the House Nursing Caucus.

I thank my colleagues for their attention to this important public health issue and again am pleased to recognize October 10 as Emergency Nurses Day and this week, October 7 through October 13, as Emergency Nurses Week.

**SENIOR EXECUTIVE SERVICE
DIVERSITY ASSURANCE ACT**

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 9, 2007

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I am pleased that Senator DANIEL AKAKA will be joining me today in introducing the Senior Executive Service Diversity Assurance Act. The act addresses the extremely important issue of diversity in the Senior Executive Service, SES. Senator AKAKA and I plan to continue our collaboration in the future, introducing additional legislation that will make a difference in the lives of Federal employees.

Our introduction of the Senior Executive Service Diversity Assurance Act would not have been possible without the hard work of the African American Federal Executives Association, the National Association of Hispanic Federal Executives, the Asian American Government Executives Network, Federally Employed Women, Blacks in Government, and the Senior Executive Association. I applaud them for not only raising the lack of diversity in the SES as an issue but for devoting their time and energy to work with our subcommittees to rectify it.

The lack of diversity in the SES has been a longstanding concern of mine. As a first step toward doing something about it, I asked the Government Accountability Office, GAO, to investigate the situation. GAO subsequently issued two reports—in 2001 and 2003. Both reports documented a poorly diversified SES. The 2003 report was entitled "Senior Executive Service: Enhanced Agency Efforts Needed To Improve Diversity as the Senior Corps Turns Over" (GAO-03-34). As the title suggests, this report revealed that while there will be a large amount of turnover in the SES in the years ahead due to retirements and attrition, it will not result in greater racial diversity. While there are numerous minorities in the pipeline ready to be promoted, to few are being given the opportunity to advance. Well, you might ask, why not, and what can be done about it?

In 2003, I joined then Office of Personnel Management, OPM, Director Kay Cole James in announcing the creation of OPM's SES Candidate Development Program. This program was created to address the lack of minority representation in the SES. Yet last July, when I attended the program's first graduation ceremony and saw few minority graduates, I realized that much more had to be done to effectively change the racial and the gender make up of the SES.

Diversity is valuable because it can bring a wider variety of perspectives and approaches to policy development and implementation. Minorities and women need to be at the table contributing when strategic planning, problem solving and decision making is taking place. Our ideas and talents can help strengthen an organization and lead to the achievement of results. That is not really happening today. What I see as I visit Federal agencies is a senior level workforce that is not reflective of the diverse people we serve.

As chairman of the House Subcommittee on Federal Workforce, Postal Service, and the District of Columbia, I held a hearing in May of this year on diversity in the SES. It was after that hearing that I began to meet with the Federal minority groups represented here to effect change that would help diversify the SES. The subcommittee met extensively with these groups and what we heard was that it was not a lack of training, experience, or minorities in the feeder pool that caused the lack of diversity in the SES. What we heard was that there are flaws in the selection process, and that there is a lack of oversight and accountability when it comes to promoting and hiring minorities in the SES. The Senior Executive Service Diversity Assurance Act aims to fix all of that.

The act establishes SES evaluation panels that are charged with reviewing the qualifications of all candidates for career reserve vacancies. The evaluation panels must be a diverse group consisting of three members. One must be a member of a racial or ethnic group and one member must be a woman. The panel will forward the names of the most qualified candidates to the Executive Resource Board.

In addition, the act establishes the Senior Executive Service Resources Office, SESRO, within OPM. The purpose of the SESRO is to ensure that the Senior Executive Service is reflective of the Nation's diversity and to establish and maintain records, to the extent possible, on the race, ethnicity, gender and disabilities of employees in the SES. This bill aims to create an environment where diversity will flourish. And where it does not, Congress will have the tools and information to hold agencies accountable.

Diversity of gender, ethnicity, age and disability, as well as diversity of education, thinking, and experience are crucial if the Federal workforce is to mirror the communities we live in and serve. To stay competitive in an increasingly global economy and recruit the best and brightest workforce, diversity is an issue that we must pay close attention to. All Americans want to work for organizations where they have the opportunity to use their knowledge and skills, develop their careers and be promoted to the highest levels. The Senior Executive Service Diversity Assurance Act is

going to give ethnic minorities and women that opportunity; an opportunity that does not broadly exist today.

Please see the attached Washington Post article dated October 5, 2007, entitled, "Bill Pushes Diversity Among Senior Executives."

(By Stephen Barr)

Legislation to promote diversity in the government's career executive ranks was introduced yesterday by the chairmen of the House and Senate federal workplace subcommittees.

Rep. Danny K. Davis (D-Ill.) and Sen. Daniel K. Akaka (D-Hawaii) said their bill would address the lack of diversity in the Senior Executive Service, the group of about 6,300 career executives who manage the day-to-day operations of the government.

The bill would establish a Senior Executive Service program office in the Office of Personnel Management. The proposed office would collect and maintain data on the race, ethnicity, gender and any disabilities of people who have been certified as qualified to serve in the SES.

The bill also would require federal agencies to establish SES evaluation panels to review the qualifications of applicants for SES jobs. Each panel would have three members. One must be a woman and one other a member of a racial or ethnic minority group.

"We are doing this really to try to bring about some improvement in the management of the Senior Executive Service and to enhance diversity," Akaka said.

Davis said "diversity is valuable because it can bring a wider variety of perspectives and approaches to policy development and implementation. Minorities and women need to be at the table to contribute when strategic planning, problem solving and decision making take place."

Davis added, "What I see as I visit federal agencies is a senior-level workforce that is not reflective of the diverse people we serve."

Reports by the Government Accountability Office show that "the numbers of women and minorities are low in the SES," Akaka said. Davis said the reports "documented a poorly diversified SES."

Of the 6,349 career SES members, the most recent GAO tally counted 325 African American men, 221 African American women, 164 Hispanic men and 65 Hispanic women.

That demographic profile of the SES, which was released in May, also showed there were 90 Asian-Pacific Islander men, 56 Asian-Pacific Islander women, 59 American Indian/Alaska native men and 27 American Indian/Alaska Native women.

The overwhelming majority of SES members were white—3,900 white men and 1,436 white women.

The GAO tally also included six as "unspecified."

Davis, an African American who represents a Chicago district, and Akaka, a Native Hawaiian, said they want the OPM to track the racial, ethnic and gender diversity of the SES because a significant number of federal executives will soon retire. The OPM estimates that 90 percent of federal executives will be eligible to retire over the next 10 years.

However, a GAO analysis in 2003 suggested that the projected turnover in the SES "will not result in greater racial diversity," Davis said. "While there are numerous minorities in the pipeline ready to be promoted, too few are being given the opportunity to advance."

Leaders of employee groups were on hand for yesterday's announcement to show support for the legislation.

They included William A. Brown Sr., president of the African American Federal Executives Association; Jose Osegueda, president of the National Association of Hispanic Federal Executives; Carson K. Eoyang, executive director of the Asian American Government Executives Network; Rhonda Trent, president of Federally Employed Women; and Darlene H. Young, president of Blacks in Government.

Carol A. Bonosaro, president of the Senior Executives Association, issued a statement in support of increasing diversity in the SES. Bonosaro, who was attending the funeral of a SES member, said her group was pleased to see the bill consolidates policy and program management of the SES at OPM.

An OPM spokeswoman said the administration is reviewing the Davis-Akaka proposal.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF JEANIE BELL WINSLOW

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 9, 2007

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Jeanie Bell Winslow on the occasion of her retirement after 40 years of dedicated public service to the Federal Government.

Mrs. Winslow began her career in federal service as a travel agent for the United States Army Audit Agency, where she was responsible for arranging official passenger travel, both domestic and international. In 1981, she spent 2 years at the Military Traffic Management Command (MTMC) learning about all modes of transportation as an intern for the Department of Army. After her internship, she was assigned to the Directorate of Personal Property at the MTMC for whom she managed military/industry symposiums and councils, and played a key role in responding to White House and congressional inquiries. While at the MTMC, Mrs. Winslow was also responsible for managing standard agreements with airline, air taxi and rental car companies who provide service to the Department of Defense. She managed the Federal Government's rental car program and represented the MTMS on various General Services Administration panels that sought to evaluate bids for the city-pair contract.

Since joining the Surface Deployment and Distribution Command (SDDC), Mrs. Winslow has managed their annual training symposium and Quality Award and Excellence in Transportation Awards Program, as well as legislative affairs and trade publications. As a result of her efforts, the SDDC's award-winning Translog magazine has doubled in issue size to 44 pages. Mrs. Winslow will retire as the Acting Director of the Command Affairs Office at the SDDC.

Madam Speaker, in closing, I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to Jeanie Bell Winslow for her years of service and dedication to the Federal Government. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mrs. Winslow on her retirement and wishing her the best of luck in all future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING ANNE ARUNDEL
COMMUNITY COLLEGE FOR ITS
ASSISTANCE TO MILITARY FAMILIES

HON. JOHN P. SARBANES

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 9, 2007

Mr. SARBANES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Anne Arundel Community College and its efforts to assist the men and women of the United States Armed Forces and their families as they return from combat overseas.

Anne Arundel Community College is now offering free counseling for military families in a four week course entitled "Reunited: Family Life After Deployment." The purpose of this course is to assist the men and women returning from service overseas reintegrate into their family and civilian life. These four, two-hour classes, which will be offered free to all service personnel thanks to the Friends of The Parenting Center scholarship program, will help participants identify the signs and symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). It will also help returnees learn how to deal with the emotional responses that arise from separation during service, how to adjust parenting styles, and to balance disciplinary roles within the family.

This course is the most recent example of how Anne Arundel Community College, and its President, Dr. Smith, continually strive to embrace the community that surrounds the campus. Outreach like this does not just happen by itself; it takes the time and energy of concerned individuals who hear of a community need and take the initiative to make a difference. Individuals like Dr. Lou Aymard and his staff at the Parenting Center who made this course a reality, as well as Bruce Turnquist, Psy.D., a clinical psychologist who will be leading the class discussion, are to be commended. To these individuals, and those at Fort Meade and the United States Naval Academy who shared their insight, I offer my sincere gratitude on behalf of all the returning men and women in the U.S. Armed Forces.

Since 2001, over 1.5 million soldiers have been deployed in Iraq or Afghanistan. A 2004 Army survey found that nearly 20 percent of soldiers returning home suffered from clinical anxiety, depression, or PTSD. More recent surveys show that 27 percent of those who serve longer deployments or multiple deployments have some form of mental illness or PTSD. I have heard first hand during hearings in the Oversight and Government Reform Committee and meetings with veterans' groups about how these conditions can often lead to alcohol and drug abuse, divorce, and financial and legal problems. It is tragic and wrong that these treatable conditions continue to have such a devastating impact upon the families of these veterans.

The sad fact is that almost 80 percent of these returning veterans who need assistance to deal with these mental illnesses are not referred to treatment. Because of this phenomenon, I have joined as a cosponsor of the Lane Evans Veterans Health and Benefits Improvement Act of 2007, which would require that all veterans who serve on active duty during a period of war receive mental health screening and, when necessary, mental health

treatment and family counseling. We have already passed significant legislation during this Congress to improve the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs health care delivery system and I hope that we will soon be able to take up and pass this legislation as well. This initiative by AACC represents how much can be done if we simply take advantage of the resources and opportunities within our communities to address this problem and to assist a population that has sacrificed so much.

Madam Speaker, I want to again thank all those at Anne Arundel Community College involved in the "Reunited: Family Life After Deployment" program. Anne Arundel Community College is a first-class institution and they have truly stepped up to support our Nation's veterans.

HONORING THE LIFE OF FELIX
SPARKS

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 9, 2007

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and mourn the passing of a great Coloradan, Brigadier General and Supreme Court Associate Justice, Felix Sparks, who passed away on Monday, September 24th, 2007.

Although Felix Sparks was not originally from Colorado, his roots in the West and his commitment to public service in make him an indelible part of Colorado history. Born in Texas and raised in Arizona during the Great Depression, Felix Sparks epitomizes the "Greatest Generation." Felix joined the service before the World War II, and assigned to the 157th Infantry Regiment of the 45th Division, where he attained the rank of Lieutenant Colonel, leading soldiers in the European Theater.

In addition to his brave service in combat, Felix also bore witness to the Holocaust. Lt. Col. Sparks was in command of the unit dispatched to liberate and secure the Nazi concentration camp at Dachau. In the aftermath of that experience, Felix Sparks struggled to contain the outrage of his men, some of whom took it upon themselves to execute German soldiers in an episode that remains controversial to this day. After the war, Felix Sparks often spoke about the Holocaust and reminded younger generations that we have a moral obligation to prevent such offenses in the future. His service during the war also earned him many commendations, including a Silver Star and a Purple Heart.

Returning to the United States, Felix Sparks moved to Colorado and joined the Colorado National Guard in 1947. This began a long and distinguished career in the Guard, ending thirty years later after Felix had risen through the ranks to become Brigadier General and commanding officer of the Colorado National Guard. His legacy was so important to the Colorado Guard that the Guard's Centennial Armory is named in his honor.

In addition to his numerous achievements in the military, Felix Sparks will be well regarded for his work as a lawyer. He earned his degree from the University of Colorado law school in 1948 and moved to Delta, serving there as District Attorney. He was appointed

as the youngest-ever associate justice of the Colorado Supreme Court in 1956. Unfortunately, he left the court at the end of the year because Colorado then elected our judges and he lost his campaign to keep the seat.

Poor luck at the polls inured to the benefit of Colorado's environment, however, because in 1958 Felix accepted a position as the director of the Colorado Water Conservation Board, where he was instrumental in crafting an environmentally sustainable and sensible water policy. For his work on the board he was awarded the Outstanding Civilian Service Medal by Governor Lamm in 1979.

As both a civilian and a soldier, Felix Sparks became an icon to all Coloradans. He was not only committed to the ideal of public service, he excelled at it.

I can think of no higher tribute than to simply say that Felix Sparks was a great American.

Colorado has lost a favorite son. America and the ideals we cherish were embodied in his life of public service.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 9, 2007

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I missed several rollcall votes on Monday, October 1, 2007, Tuesday October 2, 2007 and Wednesday October 3, 2007, to attend funeral services for a dear family friend. I would like to enter into the record how I intended to vote on these rollcall votes:

On Roll No. 924, to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution H. Con. Res. 185, I would have voted "yes."

On Roll No. 925, to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 2276, I would have voted "yes."

On Roll No. 926, to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 3325, I would have voted "yes."

On Roll No. 927, to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 3087, I would have voted "yes."

On Roll No. 928, to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 635, I would have voted "yes."

On Roll No. 929, to suspend the rules and agree to H. Con. Res. 203, I would have voted "yes."

On Roll No. 930, to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 2828, I would have voted "yes."

On Roll No. 931, to suspend the rules and agree to H. Con. Res. 200, I would have voted "yes."

On Roll No. 932, to order the previous question on H. Res. 701, I would have voted "yes."

On Roll No. 933, to order the previous question on H. Res. 702, I would have voted "yes."

On Roll No. 934, agreeing to the resolution H. Res. 702, I would have voted "yes."

On Roll No. 935, the Conyers amendment H.R. 928, I would have voted "yes."

On Roll No. 936, to recommit with instructions H.R. 928, I would have voted "no."

On Roll No. 937, passage H.R. 928, I would have voted "yes."

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3246, REGIONAL ECONOMIC AND INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 4, 2007

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 3246, the Regional Economic and Infrastructure Development Act of 2007, which will help spur economic development in my district of El Paso, Texas. I would like to thank Chairman OBERSTAR for his vision regarding the need and importance of regional authorities for development in areas of the country with huge economic need. For the past three Congresses, I have introduced my bill, the Southwest Regional Border Authority Act, in an attempt to bring some relief to the U.S.-Mexico border and my district of El Paso, Texas. This year, under the leadership of Chairman OBERSTAR, my bill has been included into his overall legislation. I would also like to thank many of my colleagues who represent districts along the U.S.-Mexico border for their support in the creation of the Southwest Regional Border Authority.

The Chairman's bill would authorize \$1.25 billion over the period of FY 2008 through FY 2012 for five regional commissions one of which will be created in the U.S.-Mexico border region. The Authorities would be Federal-State partnerships for providing assistance to economically distressed and underdeveloped areas that have experienced high levels of unemployment, poverty, or out-migration. Three of the commissions would be new and would assist areas in the Southeastern United States and areas along the Mexican and Canadian borders; two of the commissions would replace existing authorities in the Delta and Northern Great Plains regions. The bill would establish uniform administrative structures and responsibilities for the commissions, and authorize the commissions to provide financial assistance for projects and programs in their respective regions to develop transportation and infrastructure, provide job skills training and support business development.

The Southwest border region, as defined in the bill, includes all counties within 150 miles of the U.S.-Mexico border. This region contains 11 counties in New Mexico, 65 counties in Texas, 10 counties in Arizona, and 7 counties in California, with a combined population of approximately 29 million.

According to research compiled by the Interagency Task Force on the Economic Development of the Southwest Border, 20 percent of the residents in my region live below the poverty level, unemployment rates often reach as high as five times the national average, and a lack of adequate access to capital has created economic disparities making it difficult for businesses to start up in the region. Border communities have long endured a depressed economy and low-paying jobs. Our economic challenges partly stem from our position as a border community.

Economic development in border communities is difficult to stimulate without assistance from the Government, private sector, and community organizations. H.R. 3246 would

help foster planning to encourage infrastructure improvements, technology deployment, education and workforce training, and community development through entrepreneurship.

Modeled in part after the Appalachian Regional Commission, the Southwest Border Regional Authority and other Authorities would follow four guiding principles:

First, the Authorities would fund proposals designed at the local level followed by approval at the state level in order to meet regional economic development goals;

Second, projects leading to the creation of a diversified regional economy would be prioritized. Currently, states and counties often are forced to compete against each other for limited funding;

Third, the Authorities would be independent agencies. This would prevent them from having to attempt to satisfy another Federal agency's mission requirements when determining which projects to fund; and

Finally, the Authorities would be comprised of one Senate-confirmed Federal representative and the governors of the States of jurisdiction.

For too long, many areas of our country including the southwest border region have been ignored, overlooked, and underfunded. We need to recognize the challenges facing these under-served areas and help them make the most of their many assets. I believe the authorities created in the Regional Economic and Infrastructure Development Act of 2007 would go a long way toward achieving the goal of economic prosperity in some of the poorest regions of our county.

Again, I would like to thank Chairman OBERSTAR for his leadership on this issue and look forward to the implementation of this important legislation. I ask my colleagues to support this important measure.

RECOGNIZING THE CAREER AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF RICK DIEGEL

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 9, 2007

Mr. ACKERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the tremendous service to the working man and woman of America by a true friend, Rick Diegel. Rick recently retired after working for the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) in a distinguished career that spanned 38 years.

After a stint in the U.S. Air Force, Rick's IBEW career began in 1969 when he joined Corpus Christi Local 278 in his native Texas. Always active in politics, Rick also served three terms as mayor protem in the city of Ingleside in the early and mid-1970's. Rick was elected business manager for Local 278 in 1977, and he arrived upon the Washington political scene in 1983 when he was appointed IBEW's Political Director, the same year I was elected to Congress. Then, in 1998, he became director of the IBEW's combined Political/Legislative Department, the position he held until his retirement October 1st, 2007.

Upon Rick's arrival in Washington, Rick Diegel immediately made an impact on public policy on behalf of the IBEW and its members. Through the support given to IBEW-endorsed candidates in local, state, and federal elec-

tions, the IBEW has been able to influence the agenda on vital kitchen-table issues such as job security, the minimum wage, healthcare, working conditions and safety, retirement, and trade. Rick became a major figure in the modern labor movement and helped lead the transformation of the IBEW into the 21st Century.

Madam Speaker, I want to commend Rick's tireless dedication to the members of the IBEW and the labor movement as a whole over his almost four-decade career. He will be truly missed by me and the IBEW.

Rick will be returning to Texas, where he will be able to have more time with his wife Theresa, his seven children, and four grandchildren. Fortunately, Rick isn't completely leaving the political arena though—he has promised to be available to aid HILLARY CLINTON's Presidential campaign, so we won't be losing him entirely.

Madam Speaker, I ask all my colleagues to join me in thanking Rick Diegel for all of his hard work and dedication as IBEW's lead political architect for over 20 years and in wishing him and his family the best of luck in his retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 9, 2007

Mr. KIND. Madam Speaker, on Monday, October 1, 2007, I was detained in my district and was unable to have my votes recorded on the House floor for H. Con. Res. 185 (Roll No. 924), H.R. 2276 (Roll No. 925), and H.R. 3325 (Roll No. 926). Had I been present, I would have voted in favor of these measures.

COMMEMORATING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF GRAPEVINE OPRY

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 9, 2007

Mr. MARCHANT. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize Grapevine Opry in Grapevine, Texas on the occasion of its 20th Anniversary of continuous family entertainment.

Originally built as Grapevine's Palace Theatre in November 21, 1940, this historic building was reopened in 1974 by a Grapevine dance instructor, Chisai Childs, for dance recitals. Its use evolved into a musical revue stage show and was dubbed "Grapevine Opry".

After many failed business partnerships, Grapevine Opry doors closed in 1984 and its fate seemed doomed forever. However, one year later, a new owner began renovation of the theater only to see the stage, roof and building partially destroyed by fire due to contractor negligence. But renovations began anew and on November 14, 1987, Grapevine Opry reopened with Mr. Rocky Gribble as the new producer and bandleader. In 1990, ownership sold the property to a local attorney's company, Grapevine Opry, Inc.

Bad times almost fell again on the Opry when in 1991, the Grapevine Opry, Inc. filed

for bankruptcy. The show was in danger of closing and the future of the theater was in doubt, even to the point of demolition. However, the City Council of Grapevine, along with the overwhelming support of the Grapevine Opry Association members, voted to acquire the property if the anchor tenant, the Grapevine Opry, would continue to operate in the theater. A long-term agreement was forged with the city and Yellow Rose Productions, Inc. to operate the Grapevine Opry and the Grapevine Heritage Foundation was formed to manage the property. Due to the foresight of Yellow Rose Productions, Inc., Grapevine civic leaders and residents, the future of the Palace Theatre was preserved.

In 1999, the Grapevine Opry underwent its most recent renovation and celebrated a grand reopening/homecoming show on June 2, 2001. The show continues to be a mainstay of family entertainment not only in North Texas but across the region and beyond. Many music industry performers attribute their success to experience gained on this landmark stage. Some of the best up-and-coming performers in country music can be found performing each weekend at Grapevine Opry.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to commemorate the 20th Anniversary of Grapevine Opry's on November 10, 2007. This beautiful and historic building, whose preservation is secure, is an important local landmark in Grapevine, Texas and surrounding areas. I sincerely wish the Grapevine Opry many more successful years of continuous family entertainment.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 9, 2007

Mr. PICKERING. Madam Speaker, I was unable to be present for Rollcall vote 948 to H.R. 3648. I would have voted "yes." My vote would not have changed the result, but I want this record to reflect my intention.

ENTERGY

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 9, 2007

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, on September 13, 2007 the first hurricane to make landfall in the United States since 2005 hit Southeast Texas. Hurricane Humberto took only 16 hours to form, making it the fastest growing storm on record and leaving area residents and businesses little time to prepare. Entergy Texas, our local electricity provider was ready and quickly took action

Hurricane Humberto left 118,000 without electricity as they waited for the water to recede to begin cleaning up debris left in the storms wake, Thursday morning. While local residents were busy taking care of their family and property Joe Domino, President and CEO of Entergy Texas, and his employees began "turning the lights on" across our area. The utility company, which serves parts of Texas, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Arkansas, brought

in around 3,000 employees and additional contractors, to relieve their customers from the smoldering Texas heat that is very much a part of our Septembers. The streets of Jefferson County were bustling with Entergy trucks throughout the weekend as workers effectively traveled from project to project. Though the initial estimates warned that power would not be restored for six days, dedicated employees working into the night and through the weekend were able to restore all 118,000 consumers in just four days.

I would like to commend all Entergy Texas employees for their hard work and dedication during the aftermath of Hurricane Humberto. Companies like Entergy Texas that care about the community they serve make Southeast Texas such a special place.

And that's just the way it is.

AWARDING A CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL TO MICHAEL ELLIS DEBAKEY, M.D.

SPEECH OF

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 2, 2007

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the National Association for Biomedical Research, NABR and Foundation for Biomedical Research, FBR, are the Nation's oldest and largest organizations dedicated to improving human and veterinary health by promoting public understanding and support for humane and responsible animal research. I would like to submit their following comments for the record on the passing of legislation to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Dr. Michael E. DeBakey:

The National Association for Biomedical Research, NABR and Foundation for Biomedical Research, FBR, salute you and your colleagues in the House of Representatives for recognizing Dr. Michael Ellis DeBakey and his unparalleled contributions to cardiovascular medicine. Dr. DeBakey's work has improved the health of millions of American citizens and people around the world. His extraordinary talents as a surgeon, inventor, educator and medical statesman make him a true medical legend.

Dr. DeBakey richly deserves his reputation as one of this country's most innovative and pioneering physicians and the most famous cardiovascular surgeon in the world. A former president of the International Cardiology Foundation referred to him as ". . . the genius . . . the father of open heart surgery." Upon receiving the prestigious Lasker Award, Dr. DeBakey was cited for: "His pioneer contributions in cardiovascular surgery . . . His laboratory investigations, translated with extraordinary courage and unprecedented skill to the patient, have resulted in the correction and cure of previously incurable cardiovascular disease, replacing what would have been lingering chronic disease and disability, or sudden death, by vigorous, happy, and productive life."

Among his many inventions and innovations was the Dacron tube. Using his wife's sewing machine and fabric purchased from a local store in Houston, Dr. DeBakey created the first artificial artery. These Dacron tubes yield-

ed remarkable advancements in vascular surgery. Dr. DeBakey continued to perfect new vascular surgical techniques, which spawned the modern era of the surgical treatment for stroke. His innovative work didn't end there, as he continued to develop new pioneering surgical techniques for the treatment of aneurysms, again leading to new, effective treatments and the saving of thousands of lives.

In 1964, Dr. DeBakey triggered the most explosive era in modern cardiac surgery when he performed the first successful coronary bypass. Two years later, he made medical history again by becoming the first person to successfully use a partial artificial heart (left ventricular bypass pump) to help patients who could not be weaned from a heart-lung machine following open-heart surgery. Later in that decade, Dr. DeBakey again became part of medical history, supervising the first successful multi-organ transplant, in which a heart, both kidneys, and lung were transplanted from a single donor to 4 separate recipients. Also during that decade, Dr. DeBakey pioneered the field of telemedicine with the first demonstration of open-heart surgery to be transmitted overseas by satellite. Medical staff in Geneva, Switzerland were able to watch aortic valve replacement surgery being performed at The Methodist Hospital in Houston.

In 1942, still early in his career, Dr. DeBakey had achieved a national reputation as an authority on vascular disease. Rather than returning to his university employer and working to enhance his career, Dr. DeBakey felt morally bound to serve his country during World War II. He volunteered for military service, joining the Surgeon General's staff and rising to the rank of colonel and Chief of the Surgical Consultants Division. His work, inspecting field hospitals and actively caring for the wounded, led to his proposal for the proper staged management of war wounds. These recommendations made possible the development of mobile army surgical hospitals, or MASH units. Dr. DeBakey's experience during the war also caused him to recommend the creation of specialized medical centers in different areas of the U.S. to treat wounded military personnel returning from war. That recommendation evolved into the establishment of the Veterans Affairs Medical Center, VAMC, System.

As a scholar and man of letters, Dr. DeBakey would later initiate the concept and spearhead the movement to establish a national facility for historical medical papers and artifacts. His idea and leadership brought about the establishment of the National Library of Medicine in 1959, housed at the National Institutes of Health.

Dr. DeBakey has also made enormous contributions to the city of Houston and what is now known as the Baylor College of Medicine. In 1948, Baylor University College of Medicine was a small, virtually unknown institution recently moved from Dallas to be the cornerstone of the new Texas Medical Center. At the time, it was the only medical school in Houston and lacked most of the facilities and programs essential to a viable medical and teaching institution. Dr. DeBakey reluctantly accepted a faculty position, but once on board, he worked quickly to set the standard that would allow the College to become one of the most respected health science centers in the Nation and the world. In 1969, after working for 2 decades to build the institution into a world-

class health science center, Dr. DeBakey was elected the first President of the newly named Baylor College of Medicine. Under his leadership, the College would experience an unprecedented era of growth and renowned reputation.

In recognition of his life-saving achievements, Dr. DeBakey has been honored numerous times with hundreds of awards, including the Legion of Merit from the United States Army, the Presidential Medal of Freedom with Distinction, the Eleanor Roosevelt Humanities Award, and the Presidential National Medal of Science. He has been honored by kings and queens, and virtually every U.S. President since Harry Truman has sought the wisdom of "the maestro."

ON THE OCCASION OF TAIWAN'S
NATIONAL DAY

HON. G. K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 9, 2007

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Madam Speaker, on the occasion of Taiwan's National Day, I would like to join my colleagues in wishing Taiwan and its people many happy returns and especially an early return to the United Nations.

In recent decades, Taiwan has impressed the world with its economic development and progress in the areas of human rights and political freedom. Taiwan has also been a partner with the United States in our global war against terror.

Best wishes to Taiwan President Chen Shui-bian and Taiwan Representative in Washington, Dr. Joseph Wu. Representative Wu has impressed everyone on the Hill with his knowledge, industry and professional demeanor.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 9, 2007

Mr. PICKERING. Madam Speaker, I was unable to be present for rollcall vote 946 to H.R. 3246. I would have voted "yes." My vote would not have changed the result, but I want this record to reflect my intention.

KEVIN EVERETT

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 9, 2007

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, southeast Texas has a rich and proud tradition when it comes to football. There have been numerous State championships won from the neighboring high school teams who play to capacity crowds on Friday night. The area has produced superstars that have gone on to Hall of Fame careers in both the college and professional game. But for all the championships and awards, the greatest victory a southeast

Texan has achieved might be against a doctor's prognosis.

Kevin Everett was an All State tight end at Port Arthur's Thomas Jefferson High School. He moved on to Kilgore Junior College, where he twice received first-team All-Southwest Conference honors. Due to his exceptional speed and size, he was rated the second-best junior college player in the Nation. He then transferred to college football national powerhouse the University of Miami. After 2 solid years as a Hurricane, he was selected 86th overall in the 2005 NFL Draft by the Buffalo Bills.

Despite being so far away from home, Kevin Everett had a mountain of support from his hometown fans. He never could have imagined how much he would need that support until September 9 of this year. Kevin's Bills were playing in week 1 when he went to make a tackle and went down with a severe spinal injury. Doctors originally believed that Kevin would sustain permanent neurological damage and used words like "bleak" and "dismal" to describe his chances of walking again. Then, only 2 short days later, Kevin was voluntarily moving his arms and legs. Over the next few weeks, Kevin made vast improvements in his physical condition, leading doctors to believe that he will eventually walk again and possibly make a full recovery.

Kevin is now home in Houston with his family, beginning a long rehabilitation period. The grim prognosis once given to him is now but a distant memory. Thanks to his positive attitude, mental toughness, and motivation to work hard, Kevin has shown that anything is possible. He has earned his place amongst other southeast Texas football greats and always be remembered as a champion of the human spirit.

And that's just the way it is.

COMMENDING SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF THE MARIANAS AND SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF GUAM FOR THEIR EFFORTS ON BEHALF OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 9, 2007

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend the work of Soroptimist International of the Marianas and Soroptimist International of Guam, for their service to our community and thank them for various projects to assist and improve the lives of women and children in Guam and the Northern Marianas.

Soroptimist International of Guam, which was chartered on March 8, 1978, produces a weekly hour-long show, "Women Making a Difference," on Guam's public radio station, KPRG. The show addresses issues of importance to women. SIG also sponsors health fairs and, in conjunction with the Superior Court of Guam, the annual Silent Witness program, which focuses public attention on domestic violence, as well as an annual women's art show, "A Mosaic of Culture, Uniting Women and Girls Through Art, Friendship and Service."

Soroptimist International of the Marianas, chartered on February 9, 1986, sponsors a

scholarship program to the University of Guam and Guam Community College, as well as Grandparent's Day at St. Dominic's Senior Care Home, Mother's Day with Alee Shelter, the Women in Business Conference, the University of Guam Sigma Club, and the John F. Kennedy High School S Club; and in 1997, Soroptimist International of the Marianas and Soroptimist International of Guam co-founded and adopted as their long term project "Erica's House—A Family Visitation Center," a support service for parents and children in need of visitation and exchange services. Both chapters also jointly participate in the Women's Opportunity Awards, the Violet Richardson Awards, and Women of Distinction project, as well as in the activities and projects of the Guam Council of Women's Clubs, Women United Against Cancer and the Relay for Life.

Soroptimist International is the world's largest volunteer service organization for women in business, management, and in various professions. On October 27 and 28, 2007, SIM and SIG will jointly host the Soroptimist International of the Americas Founder Region District VI Annual Meeting on Guam with the theme, "Share the Passion, Share the Magic." And on behalf of all the women of Guam and the Marianas, I would like to take this opportunity to welcome SIA Regional Governor Sue Finch; Governor-elect Amelia Benko; Secretary Linda Sue Hansen; Fellowship President Dion C. Weaver, and District VI Director Judy Lee, and to offer my best wishes for a fruitful and productive meeting.

TRIBUTE TO DR. JAKE LIPPERT

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 9, 2007

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, let me take this moment to recognize the career of Dr. Jake Lippert. Dr. Lippert has served as the Executive Director for the Missouri Dental Association since 1998, who now ends his tenure.

Dr. Lippert earned an undergraduate degree from St. Louis University before completing its Dental School program in 1959. He then honorably served as a Lieutenant in the U.S. Navy until 1961. Dr. Lippert has been a member of the American Dental Association since 1959 and a member of the Missouri Dental Association since 1961. During his career, Dr. Lippert has been awarded numerous professional honors, including being named the Missouri Dental Association's Dentist of the Year in 1998.

Beyond his private practice, Jake Lippert has been extremely involved in his community. He has served as an Instructor for East Central College, the President of the Union School Board, an assistant scout master for a local Boy Scout troop, and a certified high school football referee. Dr. Lippert is highly regarded for his generosity and hard work.

As Executive Director of the Missouri Dental Association, Dr. Lippert was instrumental in increasing legislative involvement, creating additional continuing education programs, and shaping a vision for the future of the organization. I'm certain that Members of the House will join me in thanking Jake Lippert for his exceptional leadership and dedication.

PHILADELPHIA'S RENAISSANCE
MAN, FORGOTTEN NO LONGER

HON. CHAKA FATTAH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 9, 2007

Mr. FATTAH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to share the good news that a great Philadelphian of another time, whose life, accomplishments and even his burial site have been lost in obscurity for too long, is finally being restored to prominence.

Octavius Valentine Catto, a champion of African American empowerment, civil rights and civil disobedience before those terms were even in use, was assassinated by a political thug on October 10, 1871, during a Philadelphia municipal election. Catto was walking between his South Street home and a nearby polling place on a riot-torn day during which he had been organizing African Americans to exercise their newfound franchise and throw out a corrupt local political machine.

Catto has been called a renaissance man for all that he undertook and accomplished in his short life (1839–1871). He was a classically trained student and then professor at the Institute for Colored Youth in Philadelphia, the forerunner of Cheyney University; an officer in an all-black unit of the Pennsylvania National Guard during the Civil War who insisted on a meaningful role for his soldiers; and even manager-second baseman for the Pythian Baseball Club, a renowned and pioneering all-black team. In the 1860s Catto, along with another prominent Philadelphian, the black abolitionist William Still, organized a civil disobedience campaign that led to laws desegregating Philadelphia's trolley car system.

Catto's assassination led to a massive public funeral and an outcry for justice. But gradually his deeds and memory faded from view. His remains were relocated from Lebanon Cemetery in Southwest Philadelphia to Eden Cemetery in Delaware County in 1903, but contemporary admirers haven't even known where to find his resting place.

On the anniversary of O.V. Catto's assassination, October 10, 1871, a group of Philadelphians led by Philadelphia City Council member Jim Kenney are changing all that. At a ceremony that includes representatives of the Philadelphia Union League, to which Catto belonged, Cheyney University; the O.V. Catto Elks Lodge and others, a temporary marker is being installed and dedicated at Eden Cemetery, 1434 Springfield Road, Collingdale, Pennsylvania. Significantly, his modest burial site is not far from the tomb of William Still. A permanent and appropriate headstone for Catto soon will follow.

That's not all. A site has been designated on the plaza outside Philadelphia City Hall for the construction of a statue of Catto. A design competition and fundraising effort are being launched by the O.V. Catto Memorial Fund under the leadership of Carol Clark Lawrence, the Fund's Chair, and Jim Straw, the Co-Chair. The Fund will also develop an educational program to assure that future generations will be well aware of the contributions of this outstanding Philadelphian.

Octavius V. Catto is an inspiration to Philadelphians of all races. The telling of his story is long overdue. And now it begins.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF
WILLIAM E. "SONNY" MOTTERN

HON. DAVID DAVIS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 9, 2007

Mr. DAVID DAVIS of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute William E. "Sonny" Mottern who was a true patriot and friend of the First District of Tennessee. He passed away recently at the age of 87.

He was born June 24, 1920 and married his high school sweetheart, Eulah "Sweetie" Shepherd on October 17, 1941. From December 1943 thru December 1945, "Sonny" served on active duty with the 15th Infantry—3rd Division in France where he received a battle field promotion to S/Sgt. He was captured December 19, 1944, near the Rhine River in France and was held in four German prisoner camps, being moved by box car and forced marches. He was liberated on April 29, 1945 by General George Patton.

"Sonny" was discharged December 7, 1945 and awarded the Bronze Star, One Bronze Star Cluster, Purple Heart, Good Conduct Medal, American European-African Campaign Medal, World War II Victory Medal, Combat Infantry's Badge, Honorable Service Medal and the POW Medal. He was called again to serve his country as Chairman of the Carter County Draft Board during the Vietnam Conflict.

On April 19, 1996 he was named by the Governor of Tennessee as a Colonel, Aid-Camp for Valor and Dedication in the Performance of his duties in service to the ExPOWs and all Veterans of the state of Tennessee. He also served on the Military and Veterans Advisory Board for Tennessee. On April 19, 1997 he was appointed by the Governor of Tennessee as Tennessee Ambassador of Goodwill. He was a National Service Organization Representative for the Department of Veteran Affairs and was currently serving as Treasurer of the Military Ex-Prisoners of War Foundation.

Mr. Mottern's community involvement and leadership included: Elder in the Brick Christian Church; member of the Chamber of Commerce; past Master of the Masonic Lodge, and Life Member of the VFW, DAV, Purple Heart, the American Legion and the American Ex-Prisoners of War. He was a previous owner of the Dixie Battery Company in Elizabethton and was a member of the Board of Directors of the Watauga Volunteer Fire Department.

Madam Speaker, I ask you and my fellow members to join me in honoring Sonny Mottern, a true servant of his country, whose commitment and unwavering determination continue to make a lasting impact all throughout East Tennessee. He will be missed greatly throughout our region as we have lost a true American hero.

INTRODUCTION OF THE LAND-IN-
TRUST PUBLIC HEARING ACT

HON. JOHN M. McHUGH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 9, 2007

Mr. McHUGH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Land-In-Trust Public Hearing

Act, which would require the Secretary of the U.S. Department of the Interior to conduct at least one public hearing in the surrounding community before taking land into trust for an Indian tribe.

In April 2005, the Oneida Indian Nation (OIN) applied to the U.S. Department of the Interior's Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) to have 17,310 acres in Central New York taken into trust. These lands are located in Madison and Oneida counties, which I represent together with the gentleman from New York, Mr. ARCURI. In fact, I originally introduced similar legislation in the 109th Congress as H.R. 4634 with Mr. ARCURI's predecessor, Mr. Boehlert.

The land-in-trust process is complex and time-consuming. Moreover, its potential impacts on regulatory jurisdiction, property taxes, and special assessments are immense. However, current regulations do not require that the Department of the Interior conduct a public hearing in the area that would be most impacted by the loss of the jurisdiction over the land in question.

This is unfortunate, particularly given the potential consequences of a decision to take land into trust. Thus, very simply, this bill is designed to ensure that the hard-working men and women of areas, like my constituents in Madison and Oneida counties that are the subject to land-in-trust applications have an opportunity and forum to directly and personally provide their comments. It also would require the Department of the Interior to consider the input and statements received at that hearing in its decision-making process. While providing such an opportunity would certainly further the interests of justice and equity, it also would enhance the quality of the Department's decisions on land-in-trust applications.

RECOGNIZING KARL GSCHNEIDNER

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 9, 2007

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a distinguished professor of materials science and engineering, a senior metallurgist at Ames Lab, Karl Gschneidner.

It was just recently announced that Karl will be awarded the prestigious Acta Materialia Gold Medal in March of 2008 based on his demonstrated ability and leadership in materials research.

Karl has been working with rare earth metals including research into their magnetic and electrical properties for over 50 years. Karl's most noble work has been in magnetic refrigeration. Magnetic refrigeration is a cooling method that uses considerably less energy than the majority of common cooling methods used today. The new knowledge Karl is developing will advance existing materials and will lead to new and better materials, which will ensure the success of magnetic refrigeration as a viable energy-saving and environmentally safe technology in the next century.

Karl's research is vital in this period of our country. Our Nation's dependence on foreign

oil and demands for energy has potential for great strain on our economy, security and supply of natural resources.

I commend Karl Gschneidner for his dedication to science and to materials engineering research. And, I know that all of my col-

leagues in the United States Congress will join me in congratulating him on his gold medal recognition.