

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

LIEF ERICKSON RECOGNIZED FOR
VOLUNTEER EFFORTS

—
HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 9, 2007

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, Mr. Lief Erickson, of Houston, TX, was recently recognized by the NAACP when he was given the ALEX award or Award for Legal Excellence. The award was named after Congressman Alexander Green who was president of the Houston branch of the NAACP for 10 years.

The award is presented to individuals who have made a significant contribution to the NAACP's Houston legal programs, people who have demonstrated a commitment to pro bono legal services within the community or to people whose legal contributions significantly impacted persons in the community served by the NAACP.

The path to being recognized with this prestigious award began a long time ago when Erickson was living in Houston in 1977 and working as a carpet layer. He met a young up-and-coming lawyer who recognized his potential and encouraged him to become a lawyer to make a difference in the community.

With only a 10th grade education and rugged determination, Erickson decided to become an attorney. After obtaining his high school equivalency diploma, he enrolled in the University of St. Thomas and earned a Bachelor's Degree in psychology. He later entered and graduated from Texas Southern University's Thurgood Marshall Law School. I had the pleasure of swearing him in as an attorney marking this great accomplishment. It was a long journey in Erickson's life to go from high school dropout to attorney.

After completing law school, he worked for a private law firm for 2 years and then became a prosecutor for the Drug Task Force in Waller County, Texas. Two years later, Erickson realized that his heart and conscience were better suited for criminal defense to assist the downtrodden and disenfranchised. Since 2000, Erickson has defended more than 3,000 clients. He has also devoted his weekends over 13 months to give back to the community as a volunteer to help the NAACP with criminal defense cases in their pro bono legal redress clinic. From 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturdays he volunteers to assist walk-in clients with consultation and legal advice. By donating his weekends to serve others, he is a shining example of service above self.

It is for his generous volunteer efforts that the NAACP recognized Mr. Erickson with the ALEX Award. I salute Lief Erickson for his spirit of service and volunteerism.

And that's just the way it is.

HONORING MAJOR GENERAL
RONALD H. MARKARIAN

—
HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 9, 2007

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor MG (California Retired) Ronald Markarian for his dedicated service to the veterans of Fresno, California.

Major General Markarian was born and raised in the Fresno area and graduated from California State University, Fresno. While in college he joined the Army National Guard, where he served for 3 years with the Heavy Mortar Company of the 185th Infantry Regiment. He entered the Air Force upon graduating from college. While in the Air Force, Major General Markarian served in many positions, including a position at the Pentagon, as Chief of Air Reconnaissance Systems and as Director of the USAF Intelligence Reserve Forces. After 30 years of military service, he retired in August 1980 as a colonel.

Immediately after retirement, Major General Markarian became a member of the California State Military Reserve and was assigned to the headquarters, State Military Reserve at the California Military Department in Sacramento, where he was eventually appointed Commanding General of the State Military Reserve. In July 1990, he was promoted to Major General. After nearly 46 years of uniformed military service, Major General Markarian retired in October 1995. His service to his community and the veterans did not stop upon his retirement.

Major General Markarian has received many awards, including two Legion of Merit awards and the Bronze Star. He has received awards from many military organizations, including the Association of the U.S. Army's National Golden Eagle Award and National Distinguished Service Award, and he was the 2002 recipient of the organization's Anthony Drexel Biddle Award, President's Award. Major General Markarian has also graduated from several military schools and holds a master's degree in public administration from George Washington University.

Major General Markarian is active in community affairs and has served in a variety of leadership roles in military, veteran and public service organizations. He served on several State and Federal boards and has been the Director of the United States Selective Service System in California since his appointment in 1987. He was instrumental in founding the Association of the United States Army, AUSA, Chapter 6105 in 1982, and served as the first president of the chapter. He later served two additional terms. In total, he served 15 years as president. During his last presidency, the chapter was designated Best Chapter in AUSA for 7 consecutive years, from 2000 to 2006. He also served as the AUSA sixth region president and an AUSA national trustee.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of MG Ronald Markarian for his tireless service

to the military and veteran community. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Major General Markarian many years of continued success.

—
**PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION
OF H.R. 3043, DEPARTMENTS OF
LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN
SERVICES, AND EDUCATION, AND
RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS
ACT, 2008**

—
SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 6, 2007

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the Conference Report on the Labor, Health and Human Services and Education and Military Construction/Veterans Affairs Appropriations bills. This bill begins to correct key deficits in biomedical research, elementary and secondary education, job training, and health care for veterans and civilians alike, and sets out a clear, sustainable vision for the future. I want to thank and congratulate Chairman OBEY, Ranking Member WALSH, the Conferees and their staff for putting together such an excellent bill, one which will bring needed relief to so many of our constituents.

The President, of course, has vowed to veto this bill, because he believes it costs too much, that we can't afford to make these investments in cancer research, in Head Start, in economic development. Meanwhile, the President is asking us to spend an additional \$200 billion this year alone in his misguided war in Iraq. \$9.8 billion, the amount by which this bill exceeds the President's request, would pay for approximately 1 month of that war. Instead, this bill would use that money to help States provide health coverage to people with pre-existing conditions, help college-ready low-income students afford higher education, and help low-income individuals and their families keep their homes warm in the winter-time—a winter-time that could well feature oil at costs in excess of \$100 a barrel.

The President says we can't afford to make these investments; I believe we can't afford not to. These are investments which pay dividends over time, investments which will keep America strong, competitive and healthy.

While I strongly support this Conference Report, I would be remiss if I didn't express my concern that this bill includes a \$27.8 million increase for abstinence education programs, which research has shown to be ineffective, and worse, often medically inaccurate. Since 2001, we have spent more than \$1 billion on these programs, some of which tell our children that using condoms is "like Russian Roulette," and that HIV/AIDS can be transmitted through skin-to-skin contact.

• 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.

Madam Speaker, teen pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections are serious problems that demand serious solutions. Of course we should want to delay the onset of sexual activity in our children—what parent of a teenager wouldn't want that? But we cannot let that desire blind us to the very real fact that teenagers, despite our best intentions, will and do have sex, and that our wanting them not to does not absolve us of our obligation to protect them and keep them safe.

This money does not exist merely on paper—it is real money which we are borrowing from countries whose interests are inimical to our own, countries that have accumulated sovereign wealth funds at alarming rates over the past 6 years. And we are leaving this legacy of fiscal wreckage to our children, and our children's children, mortgaging away their future at a rate of more than \$15,000 per second.

Since 2001, China's accumulation of foreign reserves, mostly U.S. dollars, have increased from \$46.6 billion to \$1.066 trillion—that is, every new dollar we borrow adds leverage to China—which has profoundly different strategic aims than we do.

The idea that this is a preferable alternative to a bill that would help 95 percent of the people who felt any impact from its passage is unconscionable. The idea that we should sacrifice the futures of our children and our grandchildren in order to have our cake and eat it too, to continue giving enormous tax preferences to the richest of the rich in this country is morally bankrupt and fiscally unsound.

Madam Speaker, income is income. Even if we accept that there should be a distinction between the taxation of labor and capital income, income received as payment for the service of investing other people's money is not capital income under even the loosest of possible understandings. The idea that a hedge fund manager earning \$500 million a year should be taxed at a lower rate than his secretary, who earns \$40,000 a year is preposterous in both moral and economic terms and should embarrass us all. I know it embarrasses me, and that it embarrasses my constituents.

This bill is about making a choice between what is right and what is easy. I applaud Chairman RANGEL for standing firm in the face of overwhelming pressure to do the easy thing, for drawing a line in the sand and demanding that we pass a bill which is true to our principles. We were not elected to make easy choices—we were elected to do right by our constituents, their children, and their children's children. I am proud to support this bill today, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

HONORING WILLIE JAMES WHISENHUNT, RPH, AS THE 2007 TRIBUTE TO COMMUNITY HEALTH CHAMPIONS HONOREE BY THE WEST FRESNO HEALTHCARE COALITION

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 9, 2007

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Willie James Whisenhunt, RPH

for being named a 2007 honoree at the Tribute to Health Champions reception by the West Fresno Healthcare Coalition. A mere three days after arriving in our fair city, Mr. Whisenhunt opened the Westside Pharmacy. More than 30 years later his career and contributions to the area are impressive and most deserving of this honor.

Mr. Whisenhunt was born in Vredenburgh, AL, the eldest of three children. His father, a carpenter, died when Mr. Whisenhunt was 10, and he was raised by his grandparents, uncle and aunt. His family taught him the value of hard work, commitment, and unconditional love. He received his high school diploma from Escambia County Training School, later receiving his bachelor's of science in pharmaceuticals from Xavier University of Louisiana.

Community service has always been a focus in Mr. Whisenhunt's life, particularly his commitment to the youth of west Fresno. He has sponsored various athletic teams at Edison High School, including both the women's and men's baseball teams. He has helped southwest Fresno students by aiding speech teams and academic decathlons. He has been a mentor to our youth, promoting higher education in the community, encouraging students to pursue careers in science and funding trips to historically black colleges and our Nation's Capital. Outside the boundaries of west Fresno, he has served in various leadership positions, holding the distinction of being the only African American president of the Fresno-Madera Pharmacists Association.

Furthermore, Mr. Whisenhunt has been a lifelong supporter to the United Negro College Fund, the Southern Poverty Law Center, and the Silesian Society of Don Bosco. In 2006, he received the Health Care Professional of the Year Small Business Award from the Fresno Black Expo.

Willie James Whisenhunt is a great man and a true example of the American Dream. It is with great pride that I congratulate him for receiving this distinguished award and for all that he does on behalf of west Fresno.

TRIBUTE TO JACKSON HOLCOMB

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 9, 2007

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate a student from Gilbert Middle School in Ames, IA, for a recent academic accomplishment.

Jackson Holcomb received a distinguished award at the Belin-Blank Recognition Ceremony on October 6, 2007, at the University of Iowa. Jackson's award is in honor of his top one percent score on the Belin-Blank Exceptional Student Talent Search EXPLORE test. This test measures academic development in English, mathematics, reading, and science reasoning.

Jackson's parents, Todd and Jane Holcomb, and his teachers are also to be commended and congratulated for this great accomplishment. They have instilled the importance and value of education in Jackson that has helped him to excel in school and beyond.

I commend Jackson Holcomb for his hard work in the classroom. I consider it an honor

to represent Jackson and his family in Congress, and I wish him continued success in his academic studies.

TRIBUTE TO TOM COHEN

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 9, 2007

Mr. PASCRELL. Madam Speaker, I would like to call to your attention the deeds of an outstanding American, Mr. Tom Cohen, who was recognized October 30, 2007, for his great humanitarian efforts and tremendous support of the worthwhile work of Orphans International.

Mr. Cohen's work with Orphans International began after his family was struck with terrible tragedy. In 2004, he lost his beloved son-in-law, Cresenta Fernando, Ph.D., in the December tsunami, which devastated his native country of Sri Lanka. Out of this awful loss, Tom saw an opportunity to keep Cresenta's memory alive by helping to improve the lives of disadvantaged children throughout Sri Lanka.

Mr. Cohen began working with Jim Luce, the founder and executive director of the non-profit organization Orphans International, which had established projects that were helping to meet the needs of children in other parts of the world. Together, they created a branch of the organization that would serve the most vulnerable children of Sri Lanka in honor of Cresenta.

Orphans International Sri Lanka, or OI Sri Lanka, is a part of Orphans International Worldwide's network. This organization works to meet the physical, emotional, educational, and social needs of children who are victims of natural disasters, armed conflicts, and other crises that have taken away their parents, homes, and their chances for a better life.

Mr. Cohen is not only a compassionate philanthropist, but also an accomplished professional. As the head of compliance at Bear Stearns, he has helped contribute to that company's great success.

Mr. Cohen's work for Orphans International has been a family effort. Tom's wife Donna Cohen has worked tirelessly with him to raise funds for this worthwhile goal, and to support their daughter Ariele Cohen in her role as the president of the OI Sri Lanka Board of Directors and a member of the OI America Advisory Board.

The job of a United States Congressman involves much that is rewarding, yet nothing compares to working with and recognizing the efforts of dedicated humanitarians like Tom Cohen. I am proud to represent such a fine man in Congress.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, everyone involved in Orphans International, Tom's family and friends, and me in recognizing Tom Cohen's outstanding service to the global community.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION
OF H.R. 3685, EMPLOYMENT NON-
DISCRIMINATION ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 7, 2007

Mr. BACA. Madam Chairman, I rise today to ask for support of the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, ENDA, H.R. 3685.

People who do their jobs well, pay their taxes and contribute to their communities should not be singled out for unfair discrimination.

This notion lies at the core of American values. Yet, millions of Americans are fired from their jobs, refused work, or paid less because of their sexual orientation.

Sadly, this discrimination is legal in 39 States. This is why Federal protection is so important.

H.R. 3685 provides employment protections similar to those of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

This bill will provide judges with the tools necessary to end discrimination.

It will protect Americans, hard-working Americans who deserve the same freedoms and governmental support given to all working Americans.

Please support this important legislation.

WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT
ACT OF 2007—VETO MES-
SAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF
THE UNITED STATES

SPEECH OF

HON. ANDER CRENSHAW

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 6, 2007

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to question the new majority's earmark reform for the 110th Congress.

On July 31, 2007, I supported and the House of Representatives passed S. 1, the Honest Leadership and Open Government Act of 2007, which provides for greater transparency in the legislative process. It is with great disappointment that I take this time to recognize the lack of this same transparency in the conference report for H.R. 1495, the Water Resources Development Act of 2007. This legislation authorizes Federal funding for local water and civil works projects that are extremely important to the State of Florida, and the Nation as a whole.

At the start of the 110th Congress the new Democratic majority made repeated promises to the American public about their goals for this newly led Congress, ensuring "accountability, honesty, and openness at all levels of government." It is now November and the unfortunate reality is that these promises are not being kept.

In accordance with House Rules, I submitted a written request letter for the authorization of Federal funding for several local water and civil works projects in my district to the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. The intent of the new earmark disclosure rules was to make all earmark requests transparent and accessible to the

American public. In addition, these new rules require the committee to "identify, on a publicly accessible congressional Web site each congressionally directed spending request through lists, charts, or other similar means, including the name of each requesting Member or Senator."

In a recent review of the conference report for H.R. 1495, the Water Resources Development Act of 2007, it came to my attention that one of the projects authorized in the report, which I requested, Sec. 5158 (125) the Jacksonville Septic Tank Replacement, did not include my name with it, as required. I do not bring this to your attention today seeking recognition for doing the job I was sent here to do. However, I do bring it to your attention to express my disappointment that the new earmark disclosure rules are not being followed properly.

The American public deserves the accountability, honesty, and openness promised to them. Let's ensure that all of our bills conform to this standard.

IN TRIBUTE TO MRS. HELEN WIL-
LIS' RETIREMENT FROM CIVIL
SERVICE

HON. TERRY EVERETT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 9, 2007

Mr. EVERETT. Madam Speaker, on the occasion of her retirement from the Department of the Air Force, I want to take this opportunity to honor Mrs. Helen R. Willis for 32 years of dedicated service to our country.

Mrs. Willis, the daughter of an uneducated man who exuded a lot of wisdom inspired her to pursue her education and graduate from Tuskegee Institute, "the pride of the swift, growing south."

Since her arrival at Maxwell Air Force Base in 1975, Mrs. Willis has trained over 1,000 active duty military members to become Air Force Medical Laboratory Technicians. Her demonstrated technical expertise, proficiency and ceaseless dedication to her profession resulted in 16 "Superb" ratings, considered exceptional by the College of American Pathologists' standards. Mrs. Willis' determination and passion for the profession she believed in was always perfectly packaged by her charm and eloquence. She has been an inspiration to thousands and her legacy will never be forgotten.

Madam Speaker, I join my colleagues in expressing our sincere appreciation to Mrs. Willis for her outstanding service to Maxwell Air Force Base and our country. We wish her and her husband Dr. Edward Willis the best as Mrs. Willis transitions into a new life. Mrs. Willis is a true professional and a credit to herself and the United States Air Force.

TRIBUTE TO MR. HAROLD
MATZNER

HON. MARY BONO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 9, 2007

Mrs. BONO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and pay tribute to a dear friend and

constituent, Mr. Harold Matzner. On November 17 of this year, Mr. Matzner will be honored as the 2007 Good Samaritan of the Year by the Desert Samaritans of the Coachella Valley in our great State of California, and I am pleased to extend my sincere congratulations to Harold for this well-deserved recognition.

Mr. Matzner has been a resident of Palm Springs for over 25 years, and during this time he has established himself as one of the outstanding philanthropic and civic leaders in our community. Harold's generosity is legendary. His energy, passion, and tireless advocacy for numerous worthwhile causes benefit all those who live in and visit Palm Springs.

A close friend and neighbor, Harold was also an invaluable supporter of the Palm Springs International Film Festival. The festival was founded by my late husband, the Honorable Sonny Bono, when he served as mayor of the city of Palm Springs.

Harold is widely credited with revitalizing the festival and ensuring its continued success as a member of the festival board, board chairman, vice-chairman and, most recently, as chairman emeritus. Without his devotion to the festival and impressive business acumen, the festival would simply not have attained its current status as one of the premier celebrations of the art of cinema in the United States.

In addition to his efforts on behalf of the Film Festival, Harold serves as chairman of the McCallum Theater, is an executive committee member of the Palm Springs Art Museum, and chairman of the Palm Springs Tennis Club Members Association. But his contributions to the community are not limited to these leadership roles. Harold is also a driving force in support of the Stroke Recovery Center, Temple Isaiah, Desert Aids Project, and Animal Samaritans, along with many other charitable causes.

Harold has established a long and successful business career as CEO of a major branding, advertising, and marketing company, and as the owner of a local Palm Springs landmark restaurant, Spencer's at the Mountain. He brings the same commitment to success to both his business ventures and his philanthropic activities, and our community has been greatly enhanced by his generosity of spirit and hard work.

Countless community and civic leaders have benefitted from Harold's insightful guidance and counsel. He is truly one of our community's treasures, and I am greatly honored to pay tribute to him today for his achievements and contributions to the citizens of the desert.

I want to join with the rest of our community in extending my appreciation and congratulations to Harold for this most fitting honor. And I encourage my colleagues to join me in celebrating this remarkable man, my dear friend, Harold Matzner.

HONORING JOHN AND JUNE
ROGERS

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 9, 2007

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate John and June Rogers upon being named the 2007 Citizens of the Year. Mr. and Mrs. Rogers will be honored on

November 11, 2007, at the 59th annual Citizen of the Year dinner in Modesto, CA.

John Rogers was born in San Francisco, CA. He graduated from Willamette University in Oregon in 1963 with a bachelors degree in psychology and received his masters degree in counseling and guidance from the University of Colorado, Greeley in 1976. In 1963, Mr. Rogers was commissioned as a rated pilot in the Air Force and attended primary pilot training at Williams Air Force Base, receiving his wings in 1964. While in the Air Force he was stationed around the United States and spent 1 year in South Vietnam. He retired from the Air Force as colonel in 1989 from Travis Air Force Base in California.

June Rogers was born and raised in Modesto, CA, and attended Modesto Junior College. She and John met in Modesto and were married, turning her into an Air Force wife as she moved around with him for 26 years. While on base, she volunteered with many organizations; including Family Service Agency, the Red Cross and the military base thrift shop. Mrs. Rogers was also active in the Squadron Wives Organization, the Officer's Wives Club and the Catholic Women of the Chapel.

Mrs. Rogers was chosen as one of the Outstanding Women in the Community and honored by Catholic Charities as their Honoree of the Year at the Bishops Celebration of Charities Banquet. Mr. Rogers is the president of the United Samaritans Foundation in Turlock, CA. He continues to fly as a chartered pilot and owns an interest in Sky Trek Aviation in Modesto. He contributes and has been honored by numerous organizations; including the Boy and Girl Scouts, various art groups and the Gallo Art Center for the Arts.

Upon Mr. Rogers' retirement Mr. and Mrs. Rogers moved back to the Modesto area, and continued to serve their community. Mrs. Rogers serves her church as the communion minister's scheduler, she is active on the Liturgy Committee and has served on many Church committees. Also, she is a member of Catholic Social Services and Catholic Charities.

Also adding to their long list of contributions, they founded an organization to assist the needy in their community. The organization serves 45,000 lunches per month. The facility also has showers for the homeless, a clothes closet and a pantry for those in need. The homeless are allowed to use the address and phone number to stay in contact and receive mail. This facility also houses homeless women and children for up to 1 year. They help the family to get their lives back on track, learn employment skills, parenting skills, and budgeting skills.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate John and June Rogers upon being awarded with the 2007 Citizens of the Year Award. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Mr. and Mrs. Rogers many years of continued success.

RESOLUTION TO PRESERVE
STAFF-LED TOURS

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 9, 2007

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, today I, along with my colleagues JOHN DUN-

CAN Jr., DEBBIE WASSERMAN SHULTZ, MICHAEL CAPUANO, and JIM MATHESON are introducing a resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that staff-led tours of the United States Capitol should be preserved.

Staff-led tours are a long standing tradition and can be documented as far back as 40 years ago. I suspect they date back even earlier, and perhaps existed when the Capitol was first constructed when Congressmen had constituents or friends visit the Capitol and their staff would take them to view the magnificence of the Capitol when the Member was not available. Senate Historian Richard Baker asserts that staff-led tours have always existed. Regardless of exactly when staff-led tours began, it has become an honored and well-worn custom.

While there is no chronicle of when staff-led tours first began, tours given by professional staff, known as the Capitol Guide Service were established in 1876. Upon establishment of the Capitol Guide Service, there was a 25 cent fee for getting a guided tour of the Capitol. Tom Nottingham, a well known member of the Capitol Preservation Society was an outspoken activist against the fee and advocated for a free and open Capitol. Finally in 1971, through the Legislative Reorganization Act, tours of the Capitol were offered free of charge.

Since that date, visitors have been able to visit their Member offices prior to going to the Capitol. Members or someone from their personal staff often accompany these visitors to the Capitol. It is important to note that the Capitol Guide Service has existed for over 100 years now and they have co-existed with staff-led tours without any controversy or incident.

As a Representative of a congressional district in close proximity to the United States Capitol, not only do my constituents come and visit the Capitol, but also friends and family of my constituents often join in these special tours conducted by my staff. As most Members will affirm, it is a joy to have all these visitors come and see for the first time the U.S. Capitol.

Recently, a constituent contacted my office requesting a Capitol tour. On our way through the Cannon Tunnel to see the artwork on display from the Congressional Art Competition, it turned out that her nephew, whom she had never met, had his drawing on display at the Cannon Tunnel. She was able to connect with her nephew and family through the ability to receive a personalized tour through my office. Had this option not been available, she would have had a hard time getting a personalized tour, and would not have been able to stop and get a good look at her nephew's award-winning artwork.

Also, observing constituent's State statue has become one of the hallmarks of staff-led tours. Perhaps one of the greatest examples is the statue of King Kamehameha the Great, one of the most impressive statues in Statuary Hall and one that brings much pride to visiting Hawaiians. Tours conducted through the Capitol Guide Service average around 40 people per tour and it is very difficult for professional staff to accommodate personal requests. We have an obligation to provide constituent services here in the House of Representatives and at our respective districts. Anecdotes of memorable tours can be recalled by all Members and by staff who have led a tour of the Cap-

itol. The honor and privilege of providing this service to our constituents is not something that should be compromised.

I understand but disagree with the concerns of those that might want to do away with staff-led tours. Since the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing, the Capitol Police increased security. Since the attacks of September 11th, the security of the Capitol was increased further. Even with all these security improvements, we have managed to preserve the right of our constituents to continue touring the Capitol with congressional staff. We cannot and should not let fear of the uncertain end this time honored tradition.

The resolution we introduce today recognizes the sentiment of many of us in Congress that staff-led tours are a long established tradition in the Capitol and an important part of constituent services. Staff-led Capitol tours must continue and the opening of the Capitol Visitor's Center should not change this policy. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution calling for the preservation of staff-led tours.

HONORING DR. FITZALBERT
MICHAEL MARIUS, AS THE 2007
TRIBUTE TO COMMUNITY
HEALTH CHAMPIONS HONOREE
BY THE WEST FRESNO HEALTH-
CARE COALITION

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 9, 2007

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dr. Fitzalbert Michael Marius of Fresno, CA, for being named a 2007 Honoree at the Tribute to Health Champions reception, held by the West Fresno Healthcare Coalition. As an original member of the first open-heart surgery team at Valley Children's Hospital, his medical career is impressive and he is most deserving of this honor.

Born in Colón, Panama, to parents of West Indian decent, Dr. Marius moved to America as a young boy and chased the American dream of bettering himself by attending college. A true patriot, he left the university to serve in the United States Army in World War II, returning undeterred to not only finish his undergraduate education, but also complete medical school.

After receiving his M.D. from Howard University Medical School in Washington, DC, Dr. Marius spent a year in the cardiac surgery program at Stanford University's Lane Hospital in San Francisco. Throughout his career, Dr. Marius has performed general, vascular, and thoracic surgery in Fresno. In addition, Dr. Marius has been actively involved with the Sickle Cell Support Group in southwest Fresno and continues to work with the heart surgery teams of St. Agnes Hospital, the Fresno Heart Hospital and Community Hospital.

Dr. Fitzalbert Marius personifies the principles and integrity of our Valley. He is a role model for all of us, especially our Valley's upcoming generation of medical professionals. It is with great pride that I recognize him for all that he has done on behalf of our community and congratulate him for receiving this distinguished award.

TRIBUTE TO ED KNIGHT AND C.J.
BROWN

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 9, 2007

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the efforts of several individuals and groups in Boone, Iowa, for their contributions to the Muscular Dystrophy Association: Fire Chief Ed Knight and the Firefighters of Boone, and interim Wal-Mart manager C.J. Brown and Wal-Mart of Boone.

The Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA) is a national voluntary health agency which is dedicated to conquering neuromuscular diseases and is funded almost entirely by individual private contributors. MDA seeks no government grants or fees from those it serves. Muscular dystrophy is not a specific disease, but actually a term that encompasses a variety of hereditary muscle destroying disorders that vary in inheritance pattern, age of onset, initial muscles attacked, and rate of progression. These muscle debilitating diseases affect over one million Americans including 560 families in Central Iowa and 38 families in Boone County.

The Boone Firefighters recently raised money for MDA through their annual golf tournament, and Wal-Mart of Boone generously matched the first \$1000 raised. I admire all the hard work and contributions made during this fundraiser to aid those who are stricken with this disease. It truly is a sign of the great compassion Iowans show to those in need.

It is a great honor to represent the Boone Firefighters and all the employees of the Wal-Mart of Boone in the U.S. Congress, and I know my colleagues join me in recognizing them for yet another job well done.

REDUCING RECIDIVISM RATES TO
BETTER PROTECT OUR FAMILIES
AND CHILDREN

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 9, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to urge that more be done to reduce the rates of recidivism in our Nation's swelling prisons. We must work—intelligently and compassionately—to better reintegrate former prisoners into our society, and the Second Chance Act of 2007 is effective on both counts. It intelligently saves taxpayer dollars and works to bolster public safety, investing resources in a consortium of services proven to keep ex-offenders on the right path. It compassionately addresses the prevalence of substance abuse and poor mental health in that group, and strives to strengthen broken families so that children may stand to benefit.

Our prison system is a revolving door, leaving many without the ample skill or support necessary to become productive members of society. It's why a staggering majority of state prisoners are released only to find themselves back behind bars at least 3 years later. An increasing number of formerly incarcerated citizens are without suitable education, physical and mental health, employment, or mentoring services—the kind this measure would assist in providing.

A central tenet of our criminal justice system is rehabilitation. We must not abandon that fruitful and moral imperative. About 650,000 people are released from prison each year, and it is incumbent upon us to take preventive measures for the sake of our communities and our children. We owe it to them to do far, far more.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 3222,
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AP-
PROPRIATIONS ACT, 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 8, 2007

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this FY 2008 Defense Appropriations Conference Report because it ensures that our troops get the protection they need and the benefits they have earned. Additionally, as an opponent of the decision to go to war in Iraq, and an advocate of the responsible redeployment of our combat forces, I appreciate that the contentious question of how Congress will proceed with the President's pending funding request for the Iraq War will be addressed in another legislative vehicle, on another day.

H.R. 3222 fully funds the increased personnel, equipment, and training costs associated with growing the Army and Marines by 7000 and 5000 troops, respectively. Moreover, and importantly, it allocates \$11.6 billion in emergency funding for Mine Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) vehicles that are playing such an important role protecting our troops from deadly IEDs. And it responds to the historic strain on our National Guard and Reserves by providing an additional \$980 million to meet the equipment demands of their deployment overseas and first responder role at home.

In recognition of our military's service and sacrifice to country, this spending bill provides our military families with a 3.5 percent pay raise—.5 percent above the President's request. It rejects the President's proposed \$1.9 billion increase in premiums and fees in the TRICARE program and adds \$900 million to strengthen military health care for our servicemembers returning from Iraq and Afghanistan. And it provides critical support to our military families through an infusion of \$237 million for counseling and child care, as well as \$615.7 million for facility and infrastructure upgrades throughout our bases in the United States, Europe, and Korea.

Finally, H.R. 3222 affirms American values by banning the use of torture while including important accountability measures for military and security contractors. It asks the DoD to include the entirety of its war funding in the President's 2009 Budget Request. And it meets important emergency needs in Louisiana and elsewhere as our fellow citizens continue the hard work of rebuilding their lives in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

Mr. Speaker, this conference report is worthy of the broad, bipartisan support I expect it to receive.

HOMEOWNERS EXEMPTION
UPDATE ACT OF 2007

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 9, 2007

Mr. KIRK. Madam Speaker, 1997 brought a presidential crisis, Slobodan Milosevic, and Princess Diana's death. It wasn't the greatest year, but it was the last time Congress managed to update the homeowners' exemption for the sale of a residence. It should not take more than five Congresses and over a decade to update the homeowner's exemption.

Since that time, the average value of an American home is up 104 percent. A \$500,000 home in 1997 would now cost over \$1 million. A decade later, middle-class homeowners in high-cost areas are handed a tax bill when they sell their homes because the home ownership exemption is still stuck at \$250,000 for individuals and \$500,000 for a couple.

What does \$250,000 buy for a growing family in today's market? Less than they need.

It is time to update the exemption for homeowners so that they are not pushed into higher tax brackets because Congress failed to update the law. That is why I am introducing the Homeowners Exemption Update Act of 2007, which raises the exemption to \$500,000 per individual and \$1,000,000 per couple.

Local leaders in Illinois are proposing more than ten new taxes of over \$1 billion. Today, this body passed a \$72 billion tax increase. Taxpayers deserve relief as the economy begins to slow, not a smattering of new taxes. My legislation eases the growing burden facing American families today.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation and stand up for homeowners across the country.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LYNN A. WESTMORELAND

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 9, 2007

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Madam Speaker, I stayed at home due to an ongoing medical condition of a family member. As a result, I missed a number of votes. Had I been present, I would have voted the following:

"Aye" on Closing Portions of the Conference Report Making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008 (rollcall No. 1034)

"Aye" on a Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended National Heroes Credit Protection Act (rollcall No. 1035)

"Aye" on a Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree to Recognizing the contributions of Native American veterans and calling upon the President to issue a proclamation urging the people of the United States to observe a day in honor of Native American veterans. (rollcall No. 1036)

"Nay" on a Motion to Table a resolution raising a question of the privileges of the House. (rollcall No. 1037)

"Nay" on ordering the previous question on a resolution raising a question of the privileges of the House. (rollcall No. 1038)

"Nay" on a resolution raising a question of the privileges of the House. (rollcall No. 1039)

"Aye" on Passage, Objections of the President Not Withstanding, of the Water Resources Development Act (rollcall No. 1040)

"Aye" on Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree, as Amended, to Expressing the sense of Congress that Congress and the President should increase basic pay for members of the Armed Forces. (rollcall No. 1041)

"Aye" on Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree, as Amended, to Heroes Earnings Assistance and Relief Tax Act (rollcall No. 1042)

"Nay" on Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree, as Amended, to Kids in Disasters Wellbeing, Safety, and Health Act of 2007 (rollcall No. 1043)

"Nay" on Will the House now consider the resolution providing for consideration of the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 3043) making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education and related agencies. (rollcall No. 1044)

"Aye" on Motion to Instruct Conferees on the Improving Head Start Act (rollcall No. 1045)

"Aye" on motion to suspend the rules and agree, as amended, to Congratulating Nicolas Sarkozy on his election to the presidency of France. (rollcall No. 1046)

"Nay" on Ordering the Previous Question Providing for consideration of the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 3043) making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education and related agencies. (rollcall No. 1047)

"Nay" on Agreeing to the Resolution Providing for consideration of the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 3043) making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education and related agencies. (rollcall No. 1048)

"Aye" on Motion to Adjourn (rollcall No. 1049)

"Nay" on Agreeing to the Conference Report Making appropriations for the Department of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies for fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes (rollcall No. 1050)

"Aye" on Motion to Adjourn (rollcall No. 1051)

"Nay" on Ordering the Previous Question Providing for consideration of H.R. 3685, to prohibit employment discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. (rollcall No. 1052)

"Nay" on Agreeing to the Resolution providing for consideration of H.R. 3685, to prohibit employment discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. (rollcall No. 1053)

"Aye" on Agreeing to the Amendment of Rep. GEORGE MILLER (rollcall No. 1054)

"Aye" on Agreeing to the Amendment of Rep. MARK SOUDER (rollcall No. 1055)

"Aye" on Motion to Recommit with Instructions the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) (rollcall No. 1056)

"Nay" on Passage of the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) (rollcall No. 1057)

"Aye" on motion to suspend the rules and agree, as amended, to recognizing the close relationship between the United States and the Republic of San Marino. (rollcall No. 1058)

"Aye" on motion to Instruct Conferees on Departments of Commerce and Justice, and Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations for FY 2008 (rollcall No. 1076)

"Nay" on Ordering the Previous Question for Providing for the consideration of H.R.

3996, Temporary Tax Relief Act (rollcall No. 1077)

"Nay" on Agreeing to the Resolution providing for the consideration of H.R. 3996, Temporary Tax Relief Act (rollcall No. 1078)

"Nay" on Approving the Journal (rollcall No. 1079)

"Aye" on Motion to Adjourn (rollcall No. 1080)

"Nay" on Passage of the Temporary Tax Relief Act of 2007 (rollcall No. 1081)

IN MEMORIAL OF SHERIFF JOHN
HAYWOOD BAKER, JR.

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 9, 2007

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the life of Sheriff John Haywood Baker, Jr., who died October 31, 2007. In his passing I lost a good friend, and North Carolina lost one of its most outstanding citizens and a man who was instrumental in his community, county, and State.

A native son of Raleigh, North Carolina, Sheriff Baker was known for his larger-than-life, 6-foot-7 stature and booming voice. John became the first black sheriff in North Carolina since Reconstruction and held the office from 1978 until 2002. During his 24 years as Sheriff he helped create the John H. Baker Jr. Charter School. This school allows young jailed offenders to get an education. John wasn't the only law enforcement officer in the family as the son of the late Lousie S. Baker and John H. Baker, Sr. John, Sr. was the first African American police officer in the city of Raleigh. At an early age John was taught to have compassion, gentleness, sensitivity for others. These were life skills that he carried with him throughout his life.

John grew up in the Oberlin community of Raleigh and attended Ligon High School. He graduated from North Carolina Central University in 1958. That same year, he was drafted 56th overall by the Los Angeles Rams. Over the next 11 years, the defensive end/defensive tackle went on to play for the Philadelphia Eagles, Pittsburgh Steelers, and Detroit Lions. While playing in the NFL, John displayed his leadership abilities. He was named defensive captain of the Pittsburgh Steelers, MVP of the team, and selected as a NFL All-Star. He was inducted into the North Carolina Hall of Fame, in 1972, for one of the most defining moments of his career. While a Pittsburgh Steeler John tackled football legend Y.A. Tittle, quarterback of the New York Giants, leaving him bloody and battered in the end zone. The tackle is the subject of a famous picture that became part of sports history.

In the off season, John would work with the Raleigh Police Department as a youth counselor. When he retired from the NFL, he became the first black man appointed to the North Carolina State Parole Board, as the Associate Director for Training and Standards Council. He was also an Administrative Aide to U.S. Senator Robert Morgan. John was a member of several organizations; he was a life member of the NAACP, a member of the Board of Trustees of Shaw University, a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, just to name a few. John leaves to cherish his memory a

devoted wife of forty-eight years, Juanita H. Baker, his two children Jonnita B. Williams, John H. Baker, III, and his Goddaughter Ada H. Roach.

Madam Speaker, Sheriff John H. Baker had a commitment to excellence in everything he did, and he had a way of bringing out excellence in everyone around him. He was a respected and a successful dedicated public servant, and a great North Carolinian. It is fitting that we honor him and his family today.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 9, 2007

Mr. SHUSTER. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 1056, the Motion to Recommit with Instructions on H.R. 3685, I was not present. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

TRIBUTE TO WALTER M. DUZZNY

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 9, 2007

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Walter M. Duzzny. Walter, who has served as the Director of Mahoning County Emergency Management and Communications for 25 years, is retiring at the end of this month.

Walter Duzzny has dedicated over thirty-four years to public service. He began his career in Emergency Management and has made great contributions to the field ever since. As the first Director of the Disaster Services and Preparedness Agency, Walter influenced the Agency to adopt an "all-hazards" concept, which resulted in the development of a County HazMat team and Safety Service and Support Centers. Thanks to Walter's hard work and dedication toward the Agency, Mahoning County has the proper tools to implement preparatory, response, and recovery strategies in the event of an emergency.

Walter has contributed to Mahoning County in more ways than one. He has remained an active member of the community through his participation in several organizations. As a retired Army Reserve Colonel, Walter serves as the President of the local chapter of the National Reserve Officers Association. He also serves on the Board of St. Peter and Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church and remains a member of several other organizations.

Walter's accomplishments have positively impacted Emergency Management on local and national levels. His innovative drive and valuable contributions will be greatly missed.

I wish Walter all the best in his retirement.

HONORING CENTRAL VALLEY
SAFETY SOCIETY

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 9, 2007

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend the Central Valley Safety

Society for their commitment to serving the Central Valley.

The Central Valley Safety Society, CVSS, was created as a non-profit organization in 1996 to provide safety and human resource professionals with a place to exchange ideas and information, for the professional enhancement of members and to recognize those who excel in safety and health. CVSS is based in the Central Valley and is the only group of its kind from Los Angeles to Modesto. The long time organizational members include; Pelco, Rich Products, The Fresno bee, Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District, Fresno County EOC and Clovis Cemetery District.

CVSS holds nine monthly luncheon meetings in downtown Fresno. Typically, there are twenty to thirty members present to discuss topics that cover a range of issues from Heat Illness Protection, Hazardous Materials and Health and Wellness Programs. The speakers are typically volunteers from the community. Over the past eight years, the organization has partnered with similar organizations in the Fresno area, such as; Ag Safe, Human Resource Association of Central California, Fresno County Employer Advisory Council and California State University SHRM Student Chapter. CVSS has partnered with these and other organizations to plan and participate in a half-day human resource and safety seminar and it is held annually in October.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend the Central Valley Safety Society for their commitment to serving the Central Valley. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing the organization many years of continued success.

HONORING LA'VERA ETHRIDGE-WILLIAMS, AS THE 2007 TRIBUTE TO COMMUNITY HEALTH CHAMPIONS HONOREE BY THE WEST FRESNO HEALTHCARE COALITION

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 9, 2007

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate La'Vera Ethridge-Williams of Fresno, California, for being named a 2007 Honoree at the West Fresno Healthcare Coalition's Tribute to Health Champions reception. As a principal advocate for childcare in Fresno County, La'Vera is a woman of great vision, and is certainly most deserving of this honor.

Born in Boley, Oklahoma, La'Vera moved to Fresno, where she attended Fresno City College, and then California State University, Fresno. Recognizing the need for a child care facility in West Fresno she submitted a proposal to the California Department of Health and Welfare. After 4 long years, her dream became a reality when her first private child care center designed specifically for infants was inaugurated.

La'Vera opened a chain of daycare centers geared to the education of young children, providing not only a service to the community, but also employment opportunities for West Fresno residents. Mrs. Ethridge-Williams' emphasis has always been on the health, nutrition, and education of children. Her involve-

ment in the health arena has also led her to become one of the founding members of the Sickle Cell Support Group in Fresno, California.

La'Vera Ethridge Williams is a woman of great principle and integrity. She is a role model for all of us, especially those in the childcare industry. I have known La'Vera and her family for years and know they care deeply and contribute daily to make our Valley a better place to live. It is with great pride that I congratulate her for all that she does on behalf of the West Fresno community and for receiving this distinguished award.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 9, 2007

Mr. ROTHMAN. Madam Speaker, on Thursday, November 8, 2007, I was unable to be present in the Capitol due to the death of a family member and thus missed rollcall votes Nos. 1060 through 1067. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner:

On rollcall vote No. 1060, on H.R. 3688, the United States-Peru Trade Promotion Agreement Implementation Act, I would have voted "nay." I believe the Peru Free Trade Agreement, FTA, is another fundamentally flawed trade agreement. I oppose this FTA because it includes many of the same provisions from the original NAFTA that left workers terribly unprotected, led to the outsourcing of millions of U.S. jobs, and allowed companies to ignore environmental protections here and abroad that are vital to people's health and safety. It's going to hurt workers here and in Peru. I regret that I was unable to be here, due to the devastating loss of a beloved family member, to cast a vote against it.

On rollcall votes Nos. 1061, 1062, 1063, and 1064, the procedural votes on the Rule for Consideration of the Conference Report on H.R. 3222, the Fiscal Year 2008 Department of Defense Appropriations bill, as well as the Conference Report itself, I would have voted "aye." As a member of the House Appropriations Committee's Subcommittee on Defense and therefore, a Conferee on this bill, I voted for it in Conference and strongly support this critical bill that enhances America's security by providing our service men and women with the tools they need to protect our Nation today and giving them the resources and weapons systems they need to fight the threats of tomorrow. This measure also invests in our military personnel by affording them comprehensive health care and ensuring that our wounded warriors are treated with the dignity that they deserve. Had I been present during the consideration of this bill, I would have voted "aye" on both of these measures with great pleasure and pride.

On rollcall votes Nos. 1065 and 1066, which were procedural votes on the Rule for H.R. 3355, the Homeowners' Defense Act of 2007, I would have voted "aye." This bill will improve New Jersey citizens' ability to secure homeowners' insurance, as well as recover from flood or hurricane damage.

On rollcall vote No. 1067, the Motion to instruct Conferees for the Transportation, and

Housing and Urban Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill for Fiscal Year 2008, I would have voted "aye."

RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF 32 HONOREES OF THE WEST PALM BEACH URBAN LEAGUE DIVISION OF THE NATIONAL ACHIEVERS SOCIETY NOVEMBER 9, 2007

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 9, 2007

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements of 32 exceptional young people who will be honored tomorrow by the West Palm Beach National Urban League for their acceptance into the National Achievers Society. Their accomplishments are evidence that the will to succeed endures in spite of continued prejudice, discrimination, and a public education system that historically and presently places many young minorities at a disadvantage in the classroom and beyond.

The achievements of these young people and the establishment of the National Achievers Society Program are both worthy of Congressional recognition. It is with great pleasure that I recognize the following young men and women for their drive and for setting a hopeful and positive example for our country and their community:

Shauna-Kay Nation; Tatiana Virginia; Demetri Virginia; Reginald Walker; Valeana Andre; Rose D'Haiti; Ilesha Brutton; Mecarra Easley; Lucianne Gabriel; Chandra Fulwood; Miranda Renald; Regine Hill; Christina Taylor; Jasmine McGee; Brandon Coombs; Mariah Lewis; Thomas Coates III; Aikeyah Williams; Devondrea Edwards; Antonio Taylor; Marcus Sutton; Gabrielle Alexandre; Natasha Juggar; Seon Lewis; Devin Williamson; Khasara Lewis; Arrienne Morrison; Trevor Thomas; Briana Thomas; Charlene Vieira; Marissa Richards; and Regis Frazier.

The National Achievers Society was founded by community leaders who developed an aggressive national response to the educational and developmental crisis facing young people of color in our country. The authors of this program provided children in grades 3-12 with the opportunity to begin and continue their road to excellence by giving them the resources to achieve in the arts, humanities and sciences.

By supporting adults and young people in the development of the next generation of leaders, the National Young Achievers Society ensures that a child's dream to succeed is able to materialize through hard work and dedication. I have always believed that we must invest in young people if we want to be a strong force on the domestic and international stage in the future. These 32 young men and women are evidence of the remarkable reward that ensues when quality programs and dedicated individuals nurture the minds and spirits of our Nation's most precious resource. Indeed, they are worthy of the recognition and congratulation of the U.S. House of Representatives.

HONORING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF
THE WESTERN SPRINGS LITTLE
LEAGUE ALL-STARS OF 2007

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 9, 2007

Mr. LIPINSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the 12-year-olds of the Western Springs All-Star Little League team for their success in capturing the state championship title of 2007 as well as all of their other momentous achievements during the 2007 season. Their commitment and dedication, never giving up in the face of adversity, set them apart from their competitors and made their community proud.

The 2007 Western Springs All-Star team, featuring neighborhood standouts Jack Toner, Peter Swanson, Christopher O'Reilly, David Reed, Tim Goldrick, Jake Elliot, Bret Cunningham, Matt Aikens, Charlie Netzel, Andrew Hinds, Eddie Gengo, and Keith Lehmann, began their season with high expectations after winning a state title the year before. They did not disappoint. As they finished their season 15–1, they continued living by their motto: "Never Give Up, Never EVER Give Up."

This winning attitude brought the Western Springs team to another state championship and gave them the inspiration to persevere even in tough times. I would like to recognize the diligence and commitment which have characterized the Western Springs Little League, rising to a consistent high level of perennial success as district champions, and now State champions two years in a row.

I rise today, Madam Speaker, to commend the hard work and talent of the 2007 Western Springs All-Star team, their calm under pressure, and their sportsmanship even in defeat. The Western Springs Little League All-Stars of 2007 have made a great accomplishment of which they can all be proud. I send my congratulations to them and their families, as well as my thanks for their hard work and for the tradition of excellence, which they have established in the Third District of Illinois.

WELCOMING HOME STAFF
SERGEANT SCOTT LILLEY

HON. STEVAN PEARCE

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 9, 2007

Mr. PEARCE. Madam Speaker. I rise today to welcome a brave American soldier home to New Mexico. SSgt. Scott Lilley is returning to his family in Roswell, NM, after spending 7 months recovering from a serious wound in battle which left shrapnel lodged in his brain.

Staff Sergeant Lilley served his country bravely for 6 months before he was injured when his convoy in Iraq was attacked by small arms fire on April 15, 2007. In the face of enemy fire, he displayed the utmost courage while defending his fellow soldiers. Despite suffering a life threatening wound, Staff Sergeant Lilley continues to be an example of bravery and strength in his recovery.

Over the course of his career the medals and awards collected by Staff Sergeant Lilley

included: The Purple Heart, Army Commendation Medal, Air Force Combat Action Medal, Meritorious Unit Award, Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, Air Force Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, and the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal.

Staff Sergeant Lilley was treated by military doctors and transported to Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Landstuhl, Germany, where he received further medical treatment. Now, 7 months after what could have been a fatal injury, Staff Sergeant Lilley has returned home to be with his family and continue the healing process. Welcome home Scott and God bless you and your family.

RECOGNIZING MR. JOSEPH
CARINCI OF ONEIDA, NY FOR HIS
BRAVERY AND SERVICE

HON. MICHAEL A. ARCURI

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 9, 2007

Mr. ARCURI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Joseph Carinci of Oneida, NY. Mr. Carinci is a veteran of the U.S. Navy, Boatswain's Mate Second Class, who served bravely and honorably in World War II.

Joseph Carinci entered the Navy on March 11, 1943, and, at the age of 18, boarded the gun boat USS *Plymouth* for his first sea voyage. On August 4th, the USS *Plymouth* was struck by a German U-boat while escorting a convoy en route to Key West, FL. Mr. Carinci and his shipmates waited for rescue in choppy, shark-infested waters as the ship sank. Tragically, by the time a British rescue ship arrived, Mr. Carinci was among only 85 surviving crew members. Following this harrowing experience, Mr. Carinci served honorably on the destroyer escort USS *Hissem*.

Because of his exemplary service, Joseph Carinci was offered a promotion to the title of Boatswain's Mate First Class. Sadly, he was unable to re-enlist in the Navy and receive his promotion due to family tragedy: his father had recently lost a leg in a railroad accident. Because the Carinci family had already lost a son to the war in France and had another injured in Saipan, Mr. Carinci had no choice but to return home to support his family. He was honorably discharged on December 5, 1945.

Joseph Carinci was awarded the American Campaign Medal, the Asiatic Pacific Campaign Medal, the European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with Bronze Star Device, the World War II Victory Medal, the Navy Occupation Service Medal with Asia Clasp, and a Combat Action Ribbon.

Madam Speaker, since leaving the service, Mr. Carinci has been an active member of veterans groups in Upstate New York. I am honored to count him as one of my constituents, and I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Joseph Carinci and the countless other brave Americans who have served this country.

HONOR OUR NATION'S VETERANS

HON. RON KLEIN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 9, 2007

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor our Nation's veterans. This is a day to reflect and give thanks to those who have served the United States of America. Their dedication and courage to protect America's freedoms should never go unnoticed or unappreciated.

This week, I was proud to introduce the Military Service Tax Relief Act, which provides tax relief to members of the military and their families. This bill permanently extends a current provision that allows military members called to active duty to make withdrawals—penalty-free—from their retirement plans. It also continues to allow members of the military to include combat pay as earned income, thus allowing more military members to further capitalize on the Earned Income Tax Credit.

Furthermore, this year, I have been advocating for assured healthcare for veterans and I helped pass the largest budget increase in the 77-year history of the VA, which boosts funding for veterans' services by \$6.7 billion over last year's level. This funding will help cover the VA's increasing patient load and improve health care facilities and treatment for service members and veterans.

This money is increasingly important to Florida, where we have 1.8 million veterans. And, last year, over 50 veterans moved to Florida every day, making it the fastest growing veterans' population in the country.

Florida also has over 100,000 returning soldiers who served in Iraq or Afghanistan. In wartime, as our men and women come home, we need to realize that they have new needs, and we must find new solutions to help return them to productivity in the workforce and in our communities.

With the influx of many more disabled soldiers coming home, I supported legislation that includes \$62 million to hire new claims processors to address the 400,000 claim backlog and \$20 million to help speed up administering initial disability exams.

On this Veterans Day, and on every day, I honor America's veterans and soldiers and continuously express my sincere gratitude for their sacrifices.

POSTHUMOUSLY HONORING
GEORGE F. BAKER, D.D.S., AS
THE COMMUNITY HEALTH CHAM-
PION 2007 HONOREE AT THE
TRIBUTE TO COMMUNITY
HEALTH CHAMPIONS RECEPTION
BY THE WEST FRESNO
HEALTHCARE COALITION

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 9, 2007

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate George F. Baker, D.D.S. for being posthumously named a 2007 honoree at the Tribute to Health Champions reception by the West Fresno Healthcare Coalition. As a person who helped shape the dental profession and patient care throughout San Joaquin Valley, he is certainly deserving of this honor.

Dr. Baker is fondly remembered by the residents of Southwest Fresno as one of the few dentists who would not hesitate to care for those less fortunate who were served only by publicly funded dental programs. His goal was to ensure that people in rural areas had access to good, affordable dental care. It was this commitment to caring for the underserved which led Dr. Baker to author the initial grant request in the mid 1970's to establish the Firebaugh-Mendota Dental Clinic. Dr. Baker was also a strong supporter and advocate of the UCSF-Fresno Latino Center for Medical Education and Research, a program built to address the persistent shortage of Latino physicians in the community and amongst the medical school faculty. He helped create the dental clinic at the Valley Medical Center and was closely involved in managing and ensuring that indigent families had access to dental services there at all times.

The establishment of a scholarship in his name for entering students at the UCLA School of Dentistry demonstrates the high regard in which Dr. Baker is held. It recognizes the long and outstanding contributions he made to the dental profession and to education in the field of dentistry.

Dr. Baker was a man of great principle and integrity and continues to be a role model for our Valley's newest dental professionals. Along with the memory of his work, his scholarship will enable more dentists to help those in need, as Dr. Baker did for so long. George was my friend and a mentor during my early years in health care for our valley and the political process. His son Tim and daughter Bethany carry on this spirit of community service. It is with great pride that I posthumously honor him for all that he did on behalf of Western Fresno and congratulate him for receiving this distinguished award.

MARINE CORPS MARATHON
CONTINUED

HON. JEAN SCHMIDT

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 9, 2007

Mrs. SCHMIDT. Madam Speaker, I rose last week to share some of the heartwarming stories I heard while competing in the Marine Corps Marathon, and to pay tribute to some of the extraordinary people who participated in the Marathon. I rise today to recognize more brave souls who finished the Marine Corps Marathon and are affiliated with the Marine Corps' Congressional liaison office and the Capitol Hill Running Club: BG Michael Regner, MAJ Tom Wood, MAJ Gerald Thomas, MAJ Toby Patterson, Sgt Hector Rodriguez, Cpl Scott Caudill, 2nd Lt Ingrid Rivera, RADM Mark Ferguson III, CDR Audrey Monish, Dr. Mike Moses, Riley Scott, David Cleary, Tom Sheehy, Michael Hermann, Amy Porter, and Mark Smith.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 9, 2007

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, on November 7, I was unavoidably detained and

was not able to record my vote for Rollcall #1058.

Had I been present I would have voted: Rollcall #1058—"yea."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 9, 2007

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I would like to offer the reason I missed rollcall vote Nos. 1059 through 1072 on November 7 through 8, 2007. I was down in my district attending the funeral of Sgt. Daniel L. McCall.

If present, I would have voted:

Rollcall vote No. 1059, H. Res. 801—Providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3688) to implement the United States-Peru Trade Promotion Agreement "aye";

Rollcall vote No. 1060, final passage on H.R. 3688—United States-Peru Trade Promotion Agreement "aye";

Rollcall vote No. 1061, H. Res. 806—Providing for consideration of the conference report to accompany H.R. 3222, making appropriations for the Department of Defense "nay";

Rollcall vote No. 1062, Ordering the Previous Questions on H. Res 806 "nay";

Rollcall vote No. 1063, H. Res. 806—Rule for Department of Defense Conference "nay";

Rollcall vote No. 1064, final passage on H.R. 3222—Department of Defense Appropriations for FY 2008 "aye";

Rollcall vote No. 1065, Ordering the Previous Questions "nay";

Rollcall vote No. 1066, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3355) to ensure the availability and affordability of homeowners' insurance coverage for catastrophic events "nay";

Rollcall vote No. 1067, On Motion to Instruct Conferees to H.R. 3074 "aye";

Rollcall vote No. 1068, Klein Amdt. to H.R. 3355 "aye";

Rollcall vote No. 1069, Roskam Amdt. to H.R. 3355 "nay";

Rollcall vote No. 1070, Roskam Amdt. to H.R. 3355, "nay";

Rollcall vote No. 1071, Manzullo Amdt. to H.R. 3355, "nay";

Rollcall vote No. 1072, Shays Amdt. to H.R. 3355, "nay".

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 9, 2007

Mr. LEVIN. Madam Speaker, yesterday, I was unavoidably absent during rollcall votes 1061 through 1076. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall 1061, "yea" on rollcall 1062, "yea" on rollcall 1063, "yea" on rollcall 1064, "yea" on rollcall 1065, "yea" on rollcall 1066, "yea" on rollcall 1067, "yea" on rollcall 1068, "nay" on rollcall 1069, "nay" on rollcall 1070, "nay" on rollcall 1071, "nay" on rollcall 1072, "nay" on rollcall 1073, "yea" on rollcall 1074, "yea" on rollcall 1075, and "nay" on rollcall 1076.

I was also unavoidably absent on October 30 for rollcalls 1018, 1019 and 1020. Had I

been present, I would have voted "yea" on all three rollcalls.

COMMEMORATING THE 53RD
VETERANS DAY

HON. NICK J. RAHALL, II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 9, 2007

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Speaker, it was the 11th hour on the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918 when the guns fell silent on European battlefields, echoing the cease-fire agreement between the Allied Nations and German Forces and America's first victory in a battle for freedom in a world at war.

One year later, on November 11, 1919, President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed and commemorated the first Armistice Day. Thirty-five years later, this day would come to be known as Veterans Day—a day in which our Nation takes the time to recognize the service and sacrifice of the men and women who have heeded the call to service in defense of our Nation.

Over the years, our Nation has fought many battles, on many continents, amongst many enemies, and in defense of those who cannot defend themselves. Throughout these battles, our country has seen some of our best and brightest commit the ultimate sacrifice for a cause that they believe in, a cause called freedom.

To many across the world, freedom is a work in progress, a quest toward the ability to do and say what you feel, and live in a world of peace, to provide for your family, and to live without the fear of persecution for your beliefs and ideas. As Americans, we enjoy these freedoms many others do not, because of the unyielding sacrifice made by our brave men and women in uniform who have served our Nation over the course of history to defend our liberty.

Let us take this day to remember those who have served and those who have fallen, who selflessly gave of themselves, knowing that they were protecting and representing the greatest Nation on Earth. Let us remember that it is our duty to see that our veterans have access to quality and affordable healthcare. And let us remember to always honor and recognize all veterans with the respect and admiration that they have earned.

Our veterans, as our soldiers fighting today, remain foremost in the thoughts and minds of West Virginians, and will always remain one of my top Congressional priorities. May God continue to bless all those who have returned and those who have not on this Veterans Day.

EXPRESSING SYMPATHY FOR VICTIMS OF THE OCTOBER 28, 2007,
FIRE IN OCEAN ISLE BEACH, NC

SPEECH OF

HON. BOB INGLIS

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 6, 2007

Mr. INGLIS of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, our deepest sympathies go out to the families

and friends who lost loved ones in the fire that took seven young lives on October 28, 2008.

As parents, we grieve with the parents who grieve. As siblings, we mourn with those who mourn the loss of sisters and brothers. As friends, we weep with those friends who weep.

In the midst of grief, we point to hope. We hope that our words bring some comfort, and we pray that these everlasting words will bring peace to the family, friends and loved ones of Cassidy, Lauren, Justin, Travis, Allison, William, and Emily:

“Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed (Isaiah 53: 4-5).”

Thank you, Representative CLYBURN, for offering this resolution. South Carolina and the nation unite in our sympathy and support for those affected by this tragedy.

VETERANS DAY: A GRATEFUL
NATION REMEMBERS

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 9, 2007

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in tribute to this Nation's veterans, a distinguished group of Americans which I am so proud to be associated with.

Prior to my election to public office, it was my privilege to work on behalf of veterans for more than 15 years as a chief psychiatric nurse at the Dallas VA Hospital, Day Treatment Center, as well as the Day Hospital in Dallas, TX.

Our 25 million living veterans need Congress' continued support for health care and compensation for those with service-connected disabilities. Educational support, counseling, and employment-assistance programs for those readjusting to civilian life also must be sustained. These programs and others to assist the survivors of those who made the ultimate sacrifice, help acknowledge a debt we can never truly repay.

We cannot hide from the truth that close to 25 percent of our Nation's homeless are veterans, many of whom suffer from chronic mental illness. We also cannot ignore that unemployment rates among service-connected disabled and recently discharged veterans remain unacceptably high, and that it is estimated that over 10,000 Iraq and Afghan veterans suffer symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder.

I will proudly join millions of North Texans to honor our veterans on November 11th—many of those just returning from Iraq and Afghanistan, others who long ago returned from Europe, Korea, Vietnam, Desert Storm, and all those brave men and women who served elsewhere during the years between these conflicts.

TRIBUTE TO BG PAUL W. TIBBETTS,
JR.

HON. ZACH WAMP

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 9, 2007

Mr. WAMP. Madam Speaker, each Veterans Day we recognize and pay tribute to the extraordinary courage of those who have served in our nation's armed forces. The sacrificial service of these brave men and women committed to God, family, and country has preserved the freedom of this great Nation and granted freedom to millions around the world. Though, we must never forget that freedom is not free. The price of freedom is paid for with the lives and blood of the men and women of our Armed Forces.

Just 8 days ago on November 1, 2007, our Nation lost retired BG Paul W. Tibbetts when he died at the age of 92 surrounded by family and friends in Columbus, OH. At a time when our Nation witnessed the rape of Nanking, the Death March to Bataan, and the tragedy of Pearl Harbor, General Tibbetts fulfilled his call to duty and today we honor him for his service.

February 23, 1915, was a significant day in history as it marked the birth of Paul Warfield Tibbetts, Jr. to Mr. Paul and Enola Gay Tibbetts. Just 30 years later their son would command the most famous single military air strike in world history over Hiroshima, Japan, in a plane carrying his mother's namesake.

In one of his very rare interviews, General Tibbetts, offered his perspective on his role in the bombing of Hiroshima. “I'm not proud that I killed 80,000 people, but I'm proud I was able to start with nothing, plan it and have it work as perfectly as it did,” he said years later. “You've got to take stock and assess the situation at that time. We were at war, and you use anything at your disposal.”

This gives us great insight into the life and legacy of BG Paul W. Tibbetts, whose unwavering commitment epitomized the words of the 18th Century British philosopher John Stuart Mill, “War is an ugly thing, but not the ugliest of things. The decayed and degraded state of moral and patriotic feeling which thinks that nothing is worth war is much worse. The person who has nothing for which he is willing to fight, nothing which is more important than his own personal safety, is a miserable creature and has no chance of being free unless made and kept so by the exertions of better men than himself.”

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AP-
PROPRIATIONS ACT, 2008—CON-
FERENCE REPORT

SPEECH OF

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 8, 2007

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3222) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes:

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of this legislation.

The Defense Appropriations conference report for fiscal year 2008 provides \$459 billion in funding for our military operations, an increase of \$39 billion over this year's enacted levels. This report begins to address this country's military readiness crisis, modernizes our forces to meet future threats throughout the world, and ensures that our troops get the benefits they have earned.

This bipartisan bill invests in equipment, training, and weaponry—including body armor and armored vehicles to save the lives of our soldiers. It restores depleted equipment for our National Guard and Reserve, provides a 3.5 percent pay raise for all military personnel, and fully funds the \$1.9 billion TRICARE shortfall without cost to our troops. The bill provides an increase in funding for wounded warrior assistance and funds programs to improve coordination between the Defense Department, DOD, and the Department of Veterans Affairs, improve DOD's health record-keeping, and enhance preventative medicine programs.

The bill strengthens the Nunn-Lugar Cooperative Threat Reduction Program, which helps to secure loose nuclear materials in the former Soviet Union. It also provides accountability by increasing funding for additional Inspector General civilian personnel to oversee DOD's contract services, and establishes a clear set of rules-of-engagement for contracted security personnel serving in Iraq and Afghanistan. It also includes language that I advocated for prohibiting funding for permanent U.S. bases in Iraq.

The bill includes much that benefits Colorado. Section 8119 mandates that work to destroy chemical weapons stockpiles at Pueblo Chemical Depot be completed, preferably by the Chemical Weapons Convention treaty deadline of 2012, and in any event by no later than 2017. The bill also includes funding to help meet this deadline—\$142.4 million for chemical demilitarization activities. This funding will accelerate weapons destruction activities already underway and will supplement \$35.1 million for the construction of on-site chemical destruction facilities already provided in the fiscal year 2008 Military Construction spending bill.

I strongly support these provisions because I think we need to continue to do all we can to safely and expeditiously remove the mustard agent remaining at the Pueblo depot. The sooner we clean up these weapons, the sooner the surrounding communities will be safe—and a clean-up by the Chemical Weapons Convention treaty deadline of 2012 will come at a lower cost to taxpayers.

I am also pleased that the conference report includes provisions I fought for to help Colorado's educational institutions—\$3.2 million for the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs to help UCCS, working together with NORTHCOM, to offer the Nation's first federally funded Ph.D. program in homeland defense; \$1.6 million for UCCS, working with the national Space Education Consortium, to advance science, technology, engineering, and math education; and \$2 million for Colorado State University's DOD Center for Geosciences/Atmospheric Research to continue providing research on priority environmental problems to the U.S. Army, Navy, and Air Force.

As a co-chair of the Bi-Cameral Caucus on Parkinson's Disease, I am also pleased that

the conference report includes \$20 million for Parkinson's research in the Army's Neurotoxin Exposure Treatment Research Program, NETRP. This critical program was established over 10 years ago to investigate the causes, diagnosis, and treatments of Parkinson's disease to improve military readiness. American troops are routinely exposed to external stressors and toxins such as head injury, pesticides and herbicides, and scientists believe these exposures increase the risk of developing neurodegenerative conditions, particularly Parkinson's disease, that negatively impact the readiness of American military forces. Understanding how exposures occur and the incidence of disease afterwards will allow the Department of Defense to minimize the risk of future exposures, better protect military personnel, and improve military readiness.

The military is not the only recipient of NETRP's benefits. Any research breakthroughs in prevention, detection, and treatment of neurodegenerative conditions are immediately applicable to civilians—particularly the more than 1 million Americans with Parkinson's disease, including nearly 79,000 veterans and 60,000 newly diagnosed Americans each year.

The Defense Appropriations conference report also includes a continuing resolution to fund the Federal Government for another month at fiscal year 2007 spending levels, and adds additional funding for the Department of Veterans Affairs, grants a temporary extension of the children's health, S—CHIP, program, and provides \$500 million to bolster funding for federal firefighting programs following the California wildfires.

I remain concerned about rising costs of weapons systems that have yet to be fully funded, and by budget projections that tell us that we'll need to increase defense budgets annually simply to sustain the current force structure and weapons programs. Because operations and maintenance and personnel costs—as well as training and recruiting costs—are also rising, we will need to do a better job balancing spending on current and future military priorities, and consider whether to fully fund all these weapons systems.

Mr. Chairman, this is not a perfect bill. It does not solve or attempt to solve some of these looming budget problems. But overall, the bill deserves to pass and I urge its approval.

THE WHITE RIBBON CAMPAIGN

HON. ADRIAN SMITH

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 9, 2007

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Madam Speaker, I rise today to bring attention to the White Ribbon Campaign and call on men everywhere to help stop violence against women.

The White Ribbon Campaign is the largest effort in the world organized by men and aimed at men to say that all forms of violence against women must stop now.

I applaud this grassroots effort of men from all walks of life working together to contribute to this important goal.

One in every four women will experience domestic violence in her life, and an estimated 1.3 million women are victims of physical assault by a partner each year.

I am proud that my home State of Nebraska has long been concerned for women living in fear of violence, and in 1976 was the first State to abolish the marital rape exemption.

We owe our thanks for the important work the men of the White Ribbon Campaign are doing as they work toward the goal of stopping violence against women.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2008—CONFERENCE REPORT

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 8, 2007

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3222) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes:

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of this measure, which will give our men and women in uniform the resources they need to help protect our Nation and its people.

Taking care of our military families is a vital responsibility, and this bill meets that obligation. It provides a 3.5 percent pay raise for all military personnel, rejects the President's proposed increases in TRICARE co-pays by fully funding the \$1.9 billion TRICARE shortfall without cost to our troops, and allocates \$2.6 billion to provide more counselors, teachers, and child care providers to reinforce the support network serving military families. The bill also provides \$615.7 million for Army facilities to upgrade barracks, improve child care facilities and enhance community services at bases throughout the U.S., Europe and Korea. All of these things will improve the quality of life of our military families, and I appreciate what Chairman MURTHA has done on their behalf.

Providing our deployed troops with the equipment they need is our other vital responsibility. This bill provides \$11.6 billion for Mine Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) vehicles and for body armor and other protective equipment. Earlier this year, I joined a number of my colleagues in a letter to Defense Secretary Gates urging him to make the acquisition of MRAP vehicles a priority, and I'm pleased he has worked with the Congress to expedite the acquisition of these life-saving vehicles.

Our Guard and Reserve units will also benefit from a \$980 million appropriation in this bill for new equipment. I think just about all of us in this House have Guard and Reserve units in our districts that have been short of key equipment, a situation that not only has compromised the deployability of those units overseas but has also made it harder for Guard units to provide disaster support to communities in the wake of floods, hurricanes, and other natural disasters. I'm glad these equipment shortages are being addressed in this bill, and I hope we'll continue working this problem until all Guard and Reserve units have their full allocation of needed equipment.

Finally, to help those who return from war wounded, this bill provides \$70 million for the Dignified Treatment of Wounded Warriors Act (H.R. 1538), which passed the Congress in

July 2007. That legislation mandated improvements in the care of wounded service members and in the services provided to them, including improving the system of case managers for wounded service members, creating a system of patient advocates, and the creation of a formal transition process from the Armed Forces to the VA for service members who are being retired or separated for health reasons. I'm pleased we're finally funding this important bill, which was passed in the wake of the Walter Reed Medical Center scandal in January. However, I view this as just the first step in properly funding these programs, and I hope we can do even more in next year's budget.

Mr. Chairman, this bill will help us give our men and women in uniform and their families the support and resources they need, and I urge my colleagues to join me in voting for it.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3043, DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 6, 2007

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of this conference report, which keeps our commitments to our veterans and invests in critical domestic priorities to strengthen our Nation. By putting the needs of the American people first, we are moving in a new direction to make overdue investments in education, health care, and jobs. We're doing this in a bipartisan way: both pieces of the bill originally passed the House with strong bipartisan support.

I would like to thank Chairman OBEY again for working with Representative WELDON to secure an important provision that Representative WELDON put forward in today's LHHS conference report that will ban the use of funds from being used to administer a mercury-containing flu vaccine to children under the age of three. This provision implements the policy advocated by the American Academy of Pediatrics, the U.S. Public Health Service, and vaccine manufacturers. Providing our children with safe vaccines is long overdue.

In addition to making vaccines safer, helping families pay for college, funding job training and providing for groundbreaking medical research, this bill helps the heroes of 9/11 who have become sick because of their work at Ground Zero. These are police officers, fire fighters, cleanup workers and others who risked their lives in the hours after the planes hit and risked their health in the weeks and months that followed, laboring in the toxic dust and fumes. For the first time, funding for 9/11 health needs is being included in regular spending. The \$52.5 million included in the conference report will go a long way in providing medical monitoring and treatment for everyone exposed to the toxins of Ground Zero.

I have to emphasize again the "everyone." I have always said that it shouldn't matter

what hat you were wearing after 9/11, because everyone was exposed to the same toxins. Provisions in the bill recognize that reality; for the first time residents, area workers and school children who were exposed to the deadly toxins will move toward having the same high quality care that responders have. We've been fighting for residents for a long time, and this is a giant first step in taking care of them. I want to sincerely thank Chairman OBEY and his outstanding subcommittee staff for their hard work.

It is critical that the Federal Government step up to the plate and fulfill its responsibility to all the victims of the attacks of September 11. New Yorkers know it, people from everywhere else in the Nation know it, and this spending measure shows that Congress knows it, as well. The President should sign this bill to keep our commitment to our veterans and invest in crucial domestic priorities, so that we can show all Americans we're serious about putting the people's priorities first and ensuring that the heroes and heroines of 9/11 get the care they need and deserve. It is the least we can do as a grateful Nation.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE OLD HOMESTEAD SUBDIVISION

HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 9, 2007

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Madam Speaker, I want to recognize the historic Old Homestead Subdivision at Eleven Mile and Drake Roads in Farmington Hills, Michigan as they celebrate their 50th Anniversary on November 10, 2007.

The Old Homestead Subdivision takes its name from the original 240-acre tract taken out in 1824 by Mr. Edward Steele. The deed, which was signed by President John Quincy Adams, was granted to the first "homesteader," who was required to clear the wilderness and establish a home while paying \$1.25 an acre. It was on this land that Mr. Steele built a home, a farm, and a mill for his family.

It was Edward Steele's grandson, Frank Steele, who would leave the largest mark on this community. After a fire destroyed his grandfather's farmhouse, Frank and his wife, the former Bertha Crosby, the daughter of the first soldier to enlist in the Civil War from Michigan, commissioned a stone house to be built on Eleven Mile Road. They were both active members of the community, where Frank served on the Township Board and as a Justice of the Peace, while Bertha was active in all the local women's organizations. The house stayed within the Steele family until 1989 when it was made part of the Farmington Hills Historic District by Frank's nephew, Robert Bohme.

Throughout the years, the farm land originally purchased by Edward Steele has been sold and developed into country homes for folks seeking solace from the busy city life of Detroit. Stores, cider mills, and inns began to dot the pastoral landscape, bringing commerce to the community. Road development allowed more families to settle into suburban life in Farmington Hills, and like many subdivisions that formed after World War II, the

homestead was established on November 10, 1957.

Even with all of the new construction and development that came over the years, the Old Homestead kept hold of the unique features that made it what it is. The Old Homestead remains home to historic Elliot Sprague House, which was built in 1880, and the Erie Prince Sawmill, which now is a cider mill. These mainstays keep the Old Homestead as the quaint neighborhood it was when formed.

Madam Speaker, today I pay tribute to the rich history of the Old Homestead Subdivision. Its contribution to the character of the city of Farmington Hills is beyond measure, and I congratulate the residents on the 50th anniversary of its founding.

HOUSTON CRIME STOPPERS

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 9, 2007

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, the safety and security of American communities is a vital ingredient in the preservation of liberties we as a nation hold dear. Nonetheless, individuals occasionally attempt to upset our sense of wellbeing. Holding these criminals accountable for their actions is thus of the utmost importance. Since 1981, Houston Crime Stoppers has tirelessly worked towards keeping our neighborhoods protected through helping law enforcement solve numerous cases.

Imported, from a similar program in Albuquerque, New Mexico, by members of the Exchange Club of Houston, the organization quickly grew into a world leader, assisting to solve felony offences. The success achieved by this group is made possible through the ease of reporting information to the Tip Line. As a result of assigning callers with code numbers, anonymity is easily maintained, while encouraging informants to continue to contact Crime Stoppers. If the information provided leads to an arrest, a financial reward is then given to the appropriate citizens. From 1981 to 2006 over 6.5 million dollars have been paid in cash rewards, a testament towards the large response to Crime Stoppers throughout the Houston community.

Prevention is also a key aspect of Houston Crime Stoppers mission. Serving over 200 area middle and high schools, the Safe School Program works to educate students and administrators about how to recognize dangers. Their focus in particular concerns gang activity, terrorist threats, and possession of dangerous weapons. Students can report serious crimes to officers, through the anonymous tip line before they escalate into perilous situations. These informed campuses are better protected as a result, illustrated alone by the 52 gun related arrests in just the past decade.

A similar initiative sponsored by Crime Stoppers is the Safe Apartment Program. Like preventative programs in area schools, the identifying crime is a major concentration. Complex managers and staff are taught how to recognize and report criminal activity. Residents also can inform officers of offenders in their community, through the Tip Line. This has proven to effectively reduce crime, making the affected neighborhoods increasingly safer.

Operating in partnership with citizens, media, law enforcement, and the criminal jus-

tice system, Houston Crime Stoppers is now the number one community based organization dedicated to deciphering and preventing serious crime. Since their 1981 inception, 26,593 cases have been closed as a result of these dedicated citizens. Of these many servings of justice, they solved 817 homicides, 832 murders, and apprehended 8917 felony fugitives. Still, these statistics make up only a portion of the many other transgressions resolved as a result of Houston Crime Stoppers.

And that's just the way it is.

HONORING GEORGE BARRETT'S 50 YEARS IN THE LEGAL PROFESSION

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 9, 2007

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor George E. Barrett for his 50 years of service in Nashville's legal profession. A long-time champion of civil rights, George has gained a reputation as one of Tennessee's foremost judicial consciences.

During the 1950s and 1960s, Nashville was the backdrop for many powerful demonstrations during the Civil Rights Movement, including the famous lunch counter sit-ins. In the midst of that movement, George Barrett earned his law degree blocks away at Vanderbilt University and decided to practice law right there in the city where he grew up.

George made a name for himself as a defender of the underdog. His work on Tennessee's Geier case is a remarkable example of a civil rights issue that George tenaciously took on and saw through its duration of more than three decades.

George has been a friend for many years, and I congratulate him on his 50 years as a fearless attorney. As one of the partners at his law firm wisely suggested, we doubt he will ever actually retire. I wish George many more years of success and happiness in his career and in his personal life.

IN RECOGNITION OF NAVSYS CORPORATION, 2007 TIBBETTS AWARD WINNER FOR THE TALON NAMATH PROGRAM

HON. DOUG LAMBORN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 9, 2007

Mr. LAMBORN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate NAVSYS Corporation for receiving the 2007 Tibbetts Award given in recognition of the successful Talon NAMATH Program. The Tibbetts Award, named for Roland Tibbetts, honors organizations, individuals, and small businesses who demonstrate achievement in the area of Small Business Innovation Research.

Located in my hometown of Colorado Springs, NAVSYS Corporation was founded in 1986 by Dr. Allison Brown. Since its inception, this company has sought to promote the use of Global Positioning System in a variety of applications, both commercial and military. The Talon NAMATH Program for which

NAVSYS received the Tibbetts Award has provided crucial support to our military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

I am proud to represent such an accomplished business and hope that this achievement by NAVSYS inspires other businesses in my district. Today, I offer my congratulations to NAVSYS and all those who worked so diligently on the Talon NAMATH Program. It is innovations by companies like this that will keep our country secure.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO WENDY
DARWELL

HON. MAURICE D. HINCHEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 9, 2007

Mr. HINCHEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my longtime staff member and dear friend, Wendy Darwell as she prepares to embark on the next adventure in her life. Wendy has served the people of New York's 26th and now 22nd congressional district with great distinction for the past 13 years, holding several positions of responsibility in my office, most importantly as my chief of staff. Wendy's tenure in my office has been defined by a deep commitment to serving the people of New York and a dedication to the operation of our organization, working to ensure efficient and effective service to the residents of my congressional district and the people of our country.

Wendy Darwell originally hailed from the Village of Tivoli in Dutchess County, New York. She attended American University here in Washington and began working in my office as an intern while taking undergraduate courses in 1995. Wendy quickly established herself as an effective member of my staff and quickly worked her way through many positions in my office; first as a legislative correspondent, then as a legislative assistant, press secretary and finally, for the past seven years, as my chief of staff. She is well-known for her grace under pressure, her leadership,

and her professionalism and courtesy. Wendy has overseen many significant projects and initiatives that have benefited the country as a whole. But most importantly, she embraced every opportunity to improve the lives of the constituents I represent and did so with compassion and energy. I would not have been able to serve the people of the New York congressional districts I have represented as effectively without the extraordinary leadership and skill contributed by Wendy Darwell.

Madam Speaker, it is with a deep sense of gratitude that I rise today to thank Wendy Darwell for her many years of dedicated service to me, to the people of New York's 26th and 22nd congressional districts, and to this country. She leaves behind a long list of accomplishments and a staff and a congressman who will miss her deeply. I wish her well in her new endeavors and look forward to staying in close contact with her.

THE MOST REVEREND CURTIS
JOHN GUILLORY

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 9, 2007

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, today I am proud to recognize the Most Reverend Curtis John Guillory, Bishop of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Beaumont. Bishop Guillory was born in Mallet, Louisiana to a family of cotton sharecroppers as the oldest of sixteen children.

He graduated from St. Augustine Seminary in 1964 and was ordained to priesthood in 1972. He holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree and two Master's Degrees, one in Divinity and one in Christian Spirituality. He was ordained as auxiliary Bishop in 1988, and installed as the fifth Bishop of Beaumont in July of 2000. He is the first African-American to be Bishop of Beaumont, and the first African-American ordinary (Bishop with full jurisdiction) of any Diocese in Texas.

His first assignment was to St. Augustine Parish in New Orleans, Louisiana, which was

the home parish of Mr. Plessy of Plessy vs. Ferguson—the case that decided, “separate but equal” was constitutional (later overturned by Brown vs. Board of Education).

The Bishop's Episcopal motto is Romans 8:28, which says, “For those who love God, all things work together for good.” His hobbies include reading, exercising, and traveling; the latter two came in handy when he carried the Olympic torch in 1996, as it traveled across the country!

As the Vicar of Christ in the Diocese of Beaumont, which includes St. Anthony Cathedral, one of only four Minor Basilicas in Texas, the Bishop carries out his threefold ministry as teacher of doctrine, a priest of sacred worship, and a minister of governance.

Bishop Guillory is known for his frequent visits to parishes and schools. He gives his time freely throughout the community and across the country, and has served on a host of boards, including the USCCB African American Catholics in Washington, DC; Julie Rogers Gift of Life Program in Beaumont, TX; IEA—Inspire, Encourage, Achieve; NCCB Committee on World Missions, Washington, DC; Apostleship of the Sea USA in Washington, DC; Gulf Coast Epilepsy Association; Houston Area Urban League; Housing Opportunities, Inc.; Downtown Houston YMCA; Mental Health Association of Greater Houston; Child Advocates, Inc.

He was also a 2006 recipient of the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Award for Catholic Education, from the National Catholic Educational Association for the successes of the Catholic schools in the Diocese of Beaumont. This honor is awarded to those whose personal or professional philanthropy of volunteer service has impacted Catholic education in the U.S., and our country's youth in general.

I am proud to recognize the Most Reverend Bishop Curtis Guillory for his distinguished ministry and service. He has helped make our world a better place to live, and I applaud his unwavering compassion dedication to the community and all of humanity.

That's just the way it is.