

And, of course, we are taking the long overdue step to increase vehicle efficiency standards to 35 miles per gallon by 2020—Providing the automobile industry the certainty it needs, while offering flexibility to automakers and ensuring that we keep American manufacturing jobs and continue domestic production of fuel efficient vehicles.

The Union of Concerned Scientists, UCS, reports that these higher standards will cut oil imports by 1.1 million barrels per day in 2020. That is about half the amount we currently import from the entire Persian Gulf. If these standards had already been in place this year, the average driver would have used 160 fewer gallons of gas, and saved \$500. But let's not look back, when we can move forward and embrace tomorrow's great challenges.

This is an investment in the generations to come. But we also have it responsibility to working and middle class families today. A 2006 study from the National Renewable Energy Lab, NREL, identified the shortage of skills and training as a leading non-technical barrier to renewable energy and energy efficiency growth. The NREL study identified a number of critical unmet training needs, including lack of reliable installation, maintenance, and inspection services, the shortage of key technical and manufacturing skills, and failure of the educational system to provide adequate training in new technologies.

That is why this bill authorizes \$125 million to establish national and state job training programs in the renewable energy and energy efficiency fields, training a quality workforce for "green" collar jobs—such as solar panel manufacturer and green building construction worker.

In Connecticut we have already seen the local job growth that comes with investment and innovation in biofuel and fuel cell technology. Now, for example, this bill provides an 8-year extension of a tax credit for investments in fuel-cell properties with a credit of \$3,000 per kilowatt capacity—expressed in the tax code as \$1,500 per half kilowatt capacity—or 30 percent, whichever is less. Looking forward, we know that major investments in renewable energy could create 3 million green jobs nationally over 10 years.

And we are doing it responsibly. This legislation does not add to the deficit and all revenue offsets resulted from bipartisan negotiations.

It is time to stop talking about energy independence and start moving toward it. The American people get that and they want us to act today. It is no wonder this bill has won the support and praise from such a broad coalition of environmental, business and labor organizations—from farm groups to faith groups, from the United Auto Workers to the U.S. Conference of Mayors. For years, President Bush has talked about breaking our addiction to fossil fuel, State of the Union after State of the Union. But now that he actually has an opportunity to make good on that promise, it seems he would rather make a hollow political gesture with his veto pen.

We deserve better. This bill represents a critical turning point and bold statement: On the path toward energy independence, the status quo is not an option. There is nothing America cannot achieve if we put our minds to it, harnessing our future to our own spirit of ingenuity and innovation.

A TRIBUTE TO PEARLINE LOUNDS

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 10, 2007

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Pearlina Lounds. Pearlina was born on the island of Jamaica in the West Indies, where she has six brothers and sisters. It was there she received a formal education in home economics. Pearlina later relocated to England, working at South Mead Hospital as a nurse's assistant, which gave her an opportunity to help support her family in Jamaica until her return. However, she decided instead to relocate to New York.

Pearlina continued her education, attending New York City Technical College where she graduated with an associate's degree in applied science. She furthered her studies at York College of the City University of New York, earning a bachelor's degree of science and graduating with a 4.0 grade point average. Pearlina later went to work at Sephardic Nursing Home as a nurse's aide. She left there for an opportunity as a social worker for Project Chance and as a social worker for Bushwick Community Services as well as Safe Horizon.

Pearlina is a champion for peace. She is a member of the Interreligious and International Federation for World Peace, and in 2001, the United Nations honored her with the title of Ambassador for Peace. Pearlina is a board member of New York's Family Center and is known as "Mama P" in the community, consistently encouraging young people to be themselves. She is a mother, friend, counselor, leader and guide.

Pearlina is married with 7 children; 24 grandchildren; and 9 great-grandchildren, 2 of whom have been in her care for the past 7 years.

Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize this wonderful and caring woman who has always put the needs of her family and her community before her own.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Pearlina Lounds.

HONORING THE WILLIAM FLOYD VARSITY FOOTBALL TEAM

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 10, 2007

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Madam Speaker. I rise to congratulate the extraordinary efforts of the William Floyd High School Varsity Football Team, for yet another flawless and record-setting season.

It was around this time last year that I rose to recognize the William Floyd High School team for an undefeated season and for winning the Long Island High School Championship, along with the coveted Rutgers Trophy. One full season later, and the Colonials are enjoying a winning streak of 33 consecutive games. This is a historic and unprecedented achievement in the 126-year history of Long Island high school football.

The William Floyd Colonials have been a dominating force for 3 consecutive years of

perfect 11–0 seasons. Their exploits have garnered even national recognition, as a recent Sports Illustrated poll ranks the powerhouse team 25th in the entire country.

I am honored to represent William Floyd High School athletes who not only display great athletic prowess, but also a commitment to winning with class and sportsmanship. Competitive athletics teaches our students a host of valuable life lessons and I have long been an advocate of sports and extracurricular activities, as they complement, and contribute to academic excellence.

It is an honor to read the names of Coach Paul Longo's team into the RECORD.

First his coaching staff: Gil DeCicco, Pete Friedman, Robert Jackolski, Pete Lesiewicz, Brian Babst, Ernie Villatore and Mike Agostino.

Now the players who make up one of the most feared lineups in Long Island football history: Mat Golden, John Amato, Jarel Johnson, Krys Valentin, Nick Sidaras, Ricky Kruger, Joe Sidaras, Luke Miller, Matthew Vigliotta, Rey Marcano, Brian Zippel, Steven Murphy, Nick Verderosa, Keith McCormack, Rahmel Cook, Marcus Muelthaler, Kevin Lacey, Tom Antinucci, Vaughn Magee, Jonathan Romeo, Brandon Walsh, Jon Hernandez, Brock Jackolski, Fernando Vasquez, Malik Green, Tom Penney, Jonathan Elbedawy, Jon D'Amico, Billy Keane, Chris Mocera, Pablo Ortiz, William Melin, Nick Astore, Wayne Magee, Dom Buffa, Anthony Hernandez, Sam Feerer, Tom Mocera, JJ Santiago, Joe Johnson, Calvin Forbes, Chris Cordovano, Brendon Turril, Brandon Clark, Andrew Giovine, Andrew Incantalupo, Dan Bayer, Nick DiGiorgi, Brandon Fardella, Guy Loomis, Matt Seib, Andrew Lingg, Mike Presseison, Alex Winters, Tom Lindley, Stephen Diaz, Donald Strand, Joe Miranda, Jon Korn, Eric Koenigsdorf, Nico Gonzalez, Jesse Kelley, Orion Folborg, Joe Mensch, Ricky Stoner, Robert DeSilva, Tim Cork.

The entire William Floyd community is justifiably excited and proud of the achievements of this team. These young student athletes represent what is good about high school sports, and it is my privilege to serve as their Congressman.

Go Floyd.

TRIBUTE TO BROOKLYN'S FIDELITY CHAPTER NO. 54 ORDER OF EASTERN STAR

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 10, 2007

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Brooklyn's Fidelity Chapter No. 54, Order of Eastern Star. The Fidelity Chapter has been outstanding in its service to the Brooklyn community for nearly 70 years. I am privileged to have such a dedicated group of individuals in my district.

On the Seventh day of November, 1938, Roland R. Johnson, Worthy Grand Patron of Eureka Grand Chapter of the Order of Eastern Star of the State of New York, Prince Hall Affiliation, by virtue of the authority vested in him, did grant and issue a warrant to Fidelity Chapter No. 54 to be held in Brooklyn, New York; Samantha Taylor, Worthy Grand Matron,