

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING TERENCE ALLEN KLOS FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 17, 2007

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

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

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

RECOGNIZING MONTY SLOUGH AND THE DENTON COUNTY VETERANS MEMORIAL

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 17, 2007

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to thank Mr. Monty Slough of Little Elm, Texas for his years of service in the United States Armed Forces and for his continued service to our country by building a memorial to veterans from Denton County, Texas.

After checking records at the Department of Veterans Affairs, Monty identified the names of nine fallen service members and created a personal way to memorialize their service. Without prompting or financial support, Mr. Slough began building a granite tiled memorial to Denton County soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines who died in service in Iraq or Afghanistan.

Mr. Slough has taken up the honorable but unfortunate task of paying respect to fellow veterans who pay the ultimate price while serving our country. In his own eloquent words, Monty said, "This isn't going to bring them back, but they sure as hell are not going to be forgotten."

The mobile memorial built by veterans Monty Slough and Dee Cork is an example of why we hold our Nation's veterans in such high esteem. I believe the character displayed by Mr. Slough and Mr. Cork should be highlighted as an example of American civic duty and community support; I rise here today to show them that courtesy.

It is with great honor that I recognize Mr. Monty Slough of Little Elm, TX for his dedica-

tion to veterans and their families. I thank him for his work, I support his mission, and I am honored to represent him in the 26th District of Texas.

H.R. 6

HON. WALLY HERGER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 17, 2007

Mr. HERGER. Madam Speaker, today the House considered H.R. 6, new tax and energy legislation. I strongly opposed the bill because I believe it will contribute to higher gasoline and diesel prices. Though there are a few worthwhile provisions in the legislation, its failure to effectively address the fact that families and small businesses are spending more and more of their hard-earned income on gasoline, diesel, and other energy costs warrants its defeat. Unfortunately this bill is a case of one step forward and many steps back.

H.R. 6 would extend tax credits for renewable electricity production from wind, solar, biomass, and geothermal. Increasing the diversity of our energy supply is important to meeting our Nation's future energy needs and is something I've long supported. But any benefits America would gain from new renewable production would be seemingly lost because of the bill's steep tax increases on petroleum and natural gas production. Petroleum and natural gas currently supply roughly 63 percent of America's energy needs. Renewable sources account for only 7 percent. A truly balanced bill would provide incentives for environmentally responsible production of all energy sources, including fossil fuels, which energy forecasters predict will continue to provide for the vast majority of energy uses in our country. Not only does H.R. 6 not provide incentives for new American oil and gas production, the bill could actually make the cost of producing these important energy resources more expensive because of the new multibillion dollar tax increase that is the centerpiece of this legislation. These tax increases will likely be passed on to consumers in the form of higher gasoline and diesel and home heating and cooling costs.

Singling out American energy companies for new taxes also runs directly counter to our goal of reducing the Nation's reliance on foreign sources of oil by encouraging more domestic production. At the time of America's first "energy crisis" in the 1970s, approximately 30 percent of our petroleum needs were met by oil imported from foreign countries. Today that number is over 62 percent. With petroleum use expected to increase over the next several decades, this number will only continue to grow unless steps are taken to reverse the trend. Continued reliance on hostile regions of the world for our energy needs threatens America's national and economic security. Such a serious problem is deserving of an equally serious response rather

than the hollow gestures of energy independence within H.R. 6. While it's reasonable to expect that some percentage of our oil supply will continue to come from overseas, America can increase her energy independence through environmentally responsible oil and gas production here at home. We have resources in Alaska and deep ocean areas and, importantly, the state-of-the-art technology needed to develop these resources while preserving a healthy environment.

This legislation's completely unbalanced approach to energy policy could not come at a worse time for northern California. Gasoline and diesel prices in our area are hovering around record levels despite the fact we are now in the driving "off-season"—a time when fuel demand, and consequently fuel prices, are historically at their lowest levels of the year. One can only imagine how high prices will rise in the spring, when driving season begins and the state's fuel refiners take facilities offline to prepare them for production of California's special summertime boutique fuel blends.

H.R. 6 would also increase the Nation's "CAFE" or fuel efficiency standards for cars, light trucks, and SUVs. Fuel efficiency is an important attribute in any car. The emergence of new "hybrid" vehicles is an example of consumer preference in the free marketplace forcing automakers to produce more fuel-efficient vehicles. But developing the know-how to build a car with better gas mileage takes time. I'm concerned that when faced with a federal mandate to meet such high efficiency standards in a relatively short amount of time, automakers may be forced to choose the path of least resistance by simply reducing vehicle size and weight, thereby making the cars people drive less safe in collisions. The National Academy of Sciences concluded in a 2002 study that smaller vehicle sizes have caused traffic fatalities to increase anywhere from 1,300 to 2,600 lives per year.

An increase in the Nation's ethanol mandate is also in the bill. While striving to develop new sources of fuel should remain a significant goal, it is important to point out the unintended consequences that have come with mandating ethanol use throughout the Nation. For instance, the ethanol mandate has contributed to higher gasoline prices for California motorists. Ethanol cannot be shipped by pipeline. Instead, it must be transported from the Midwest by rail or truck. This process not only adds to the fuel's cost, it can, in some cases, contribute to California's notorious refining bottleneck if there are delays in its delivery to our State.

The current ethanol mandate has also caused corn prices to roughly double over the last 2 years. While this has been good news for corn farmers, the result has had a slightly different outcome for everyone else. Prices for food products dependent upon corn and other grains, such as beef and dairy, have increased along with the price of corn. H.R. 6 seeks to raise the current ethanol requirement by a factor of five. Such a dramatic increase,

• 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.

combined with growing demand for corn-fed meat products the world over, will likely result in even higher food prices for U.S. consumers.

Some have suggested that the shipping problems and price inflation associated with corn ethanol can be overcome if biofuels are made locally with material native to our area. Cellulosic forest residue left over from thinning or restorative forestry projects has been at the top of this list. Although the technology to make this fuel in a cost-effective manner is still being developed, California's 18 National Forests could serve as a ready supply of material to meet future biofuel needs. But this legislation expressly forbids any forest materials from our National Forests—not even a single pine needle—to be used as feedstock for biofuels manufacturing. The vast majority of the National Forest land in our congressional district has been rated as "Condition Class III" by forest researchers and scientists, meaning that the forests face an extraordinarily high risk of catastrophic fire. There is no scientific dispute of the fact that forest materials must be removed in order to protect communities and wildlife from severe fire and to generally restore forest health. Using forest residue for biofuels would arguably contribute both to forest recovery and to the Nation's fuel supply. But for reasons that can only be explained by environmental politics, the Democrat leadership has again labeled California's National Forests "off-limits" to commonsense forest management and a new and important source of a future renewable fuels supply.

Finally, H.R. 6 seeks to mandate a new national "Renewable Portfolio Standard" or "RPS." The RPS would require all private electricity supply companies to generate 15 percent of the electricity they produce with renewable sources, such as wind, solar power, or biomass. California already has such a mandate so the proposed federal standard is not new policy for our State's electricity providers. But other States, particularly those that lack the abundant natural resources we have, will likely struggle to meet the requirements of the RPS. Energy companies in these areas will have to purchase high cost power or renewable energy "credits" from other regions of the country. These costs will also be passed on to families and small businesses. Higher energy costs, no matter where they occur, harm U.S. economic competitiveness and will likely serve as a drag on an already uneasy economy.

But even California, with its own renewable electricity requirement, would not come out ahead if the proposed federal RPS mandate in H.R. 6 becomes law. Just as the bill inexplicably limits the use of National Forest materials for cellulosic ethanol production, it also places unworkable limits on the use of forest resources for electricity production. Again, one step forward and several steps back.

A truly balanced energy bill would begin with the serious problem of record gas prices and reducing America's dependence on foreign sources of energy and then proceed with creating incentives that would unleash the power of American inventiveness and creativity in order to develop the next generation of energy technology and supplies. H.R. 6 relies on an outdated and failed belief that Washington knows best. Over 1,000 pages of legislative text contains little in the way of broad-based incentives, but is chock-full of

new regulations and a higher tax burden, which will do little, if anything, for consumers. A better approach would get Washington out of the way and allow market-oriented solutions to provide for an affordable, diverse, and secure energy supply for America.

SALUTING ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA
SORORITY ON ITS CENTENNIAL

HON. CHAKA FATTAH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 17, 2007

Mr. FATTAH. Madam Speaker, January 15, 2008, is a special day for more than 200,000 college educated African-American women throughout the world but especially here in our Nation's Capitol.

It is the Centennial Founders' Day for Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc., the first and the oldest sorority for African Americans. On this date in 1908, nine women at Howard University in Washington, DC joined through real sisterhood and service founded Alpha Kappa Alpha. They soon added seven honor students from Howard's Class of 1910 to ensure the continuity and growth of the organization.

Their names are enshrined in the stunningly beautiful "Alpha of Alpha Kappa Alpha" Founders Window in the Rankin Chapel on that campus.

From its proud beginning at Howard University, AKA has grown to more than 200,000 strong, including undergraduate members and graduate members—affiliated with 975 chapters all over the globe and on every continent.

From the beginning, the women of Alpha Kappa Alpha have lived up to their calling as "A Legacy of Sisterhood and Service." They have responded to the world's increasing complexity in a manner that continues to empower communities through exemplary service initiatives and progressive programs.

Centennial International President Barbara A. McKinzie is leading the membership during some of the most turbulent times in our history. Economics education is the foundation of the program platforms with special emphasis on Black families and youth, mental, physical and emotional health, encouraging entrepreneurs and other business opportunities and proving technology advancement for our seasoned seniors. This president has championed breast cancer awareness and vigilance among the membership and all African-American women. Her educational program has included advocacy for Sister Study, a long-term research project to determine the causes of breast cancer among African-American women.

Alpha Kappa Alpha has partnered with "Coaches Versus Cancer" to raise money for and promote cancer prevention. The sorority has partnered with State Farm Insurance Co. and Dr. Ian Smith, author of "Fat Smash Diet" on the 50 Million Pound Weight Loss Challenge. It is also partnering with African Ancestry to use the power of DNA to help find genealogical answers about African Americans.

These community service activities are ongoing as Alpha Kappa Alpha proceeds with a nationwide one hundred year celebration.

Alpha Kappa Alpha launched its Centennial during 2007 with regional celebrations. The Centennial will kick off with the 100th Birthday

Celebration at Howard University from January 12 to 15, 2008, culminating with the Centennial Boule in July that will bring over 20,000 women and their families to Washington, DC to mark "100 Years of Service."

As a proud member of Alpha Phi Alpha, the first African-American fraternity, I can attest to the pride and tradition and value that the Greek-letter organizations have brought to African Americans all across our land. I congratulate the women of Alpha Kappa Alpha and their families as they pause and celebrate their legacy of good works and Sisterhood.

CELEBRATING THE RETURN OF
ARMY SPECIALIST JOEL MORERA

HON. TIM MAHONEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 17, 2007

Mr. MAHONEY of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and welcome home Army SPC Joel Morera. Specialist Morera was wounded in Iraq on July 28, 2007, when an explosive device hit his vehicle.

Specialist Joel Morera received a Purple Heart in August. The Purple Heart is awarded to members of the Armed Forces of the United States who are wounded by an instrument of war in the hands of the enemy.

Today, SPC Morera and his family will arrive back home in Clewiston, FL, so that he can celebrate the holidays in his hometown. I join the veterans and residents of Highlands County, Hendry County and Glades County in paying our respects to SPC Morera and celebrating his return to the Sunshine State.

I rise today with great pride to honor this brave young man and to thank him for his incredible sacrifice. The courage of SPC Morera and his fallen comrades ensure that all Americans can enjoy liberty.

Madam Speaker, please join me and the communities of the 16th District of Florida in welcoming Army Specialist Joel Morera and his family home for the holidays.

RECOGNIZING SEAN LOGAN
GRAHAM FOR ACHIEVING THE
RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 17, 2007

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

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

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

RECOGNIZING DEE CORK AND THE
DENTON COUNTY VETERANS ME-
MORIAL

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 17, 2007

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to thank Mr. Dee Cork for his years of service in the United States Armed Forces, and for his continued service to our country by building a memorial to veterans from Denton County, Texas.

Working along with Mr. Monty Slough, Mr. Cork identified the names of nine fallen servicemembers and created a personal way to memorialize their service. Without prompting or financial support, Mr. Cork began building a granite-tiled memorial to Denton County soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines who died in service in Iraq or Afghanistan.

Mr. Cork has taken up the honorable but unfortunate task of paying respect to fellow veterans who pay the ultimate price while serving our country. In his own eloquent words Dee said, "It would be nice to see no one else on it, one is too many."

The mobile memorial built by veterans Monty Slough and Dee Cork is an example of why we hold our Nation's veterans in such high esteem. I believe the character displayed by Mr. Slough and Mr. Cork should be highlighted as an example of American civic duty and community support; I rise here today to show them that courtesy.

It is with great honor that I recognize Mr. Dee Cork for his dedication to veterans and their families. I thank him for his work, I support his mission, and I am honored to have the opportunity to recognize him today.

BLOCK BURMESE, JADE (JUNTA'S
ANTI-DEMOCRATIC EFFORTS)
ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. WALLY HERGER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 11, 2007

Mr. HERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of extending additional import sanctions against the repressive Burmese military junta. This regime has steadfastly refused to make progress—not only with respect to its abhorrent and inexcusable human rights record, but also in preventing democracy to take root in Burma.

This past July, the House and Senate passed a bill which renewed our import ban against all Burmese products. Unfortunately, shortly after our renewal of the ban, the situation in Burma took a grave turn for the worse. As we all know, in September 2007, Buddhist monks led demonstrations in Burma, which ultimately culminated in an estimated 100,000 people marching through Rangoon. The peaceful protestors called for improvements in human rights, democratic processes, and the release of opposition leader and Nobel Peace Prize winner Aung San Suu Kyi, who still lives under unjustified house arrest.

The Burmese regime responded to these peaceful demonstrations with a violent crack-

down that led to deaths and hundreds more injuries. In addition, according to human rights groups, thousands of individuals have been arrested, tortured, or otherwise intimidated based on the regime's belief that these individuals participated in the protests.

These recent events make clear that it is time to strengthen our sanctions by putting a full stop on trade in Burmese rubies and jadeite, the sales of which finance the Burmese regime. While we need to act unilaterally, we also need to structure our strengthened import ban in a way that encourages and paves the way for multilateral pressure on the military regime. A multilateral effort that truly squeezes the junta is the only way sanctions will lead to real, lasting reform.

The Committee on Ways and Means, which has jurisdiction over import matters, has done just that. Working with the Foreign Affairs Committee, my committee was able to refine provisions so that all Burmese rubies and jadeite—and jewelry containing these Burmese stones—could fall under the purview of the current ban, even if the jewelry was made in, and exported from, a third country.

While we believe the changes the Ways and Means Committee made to this legislation maximize our compliance with U.S. international obligations, the added provisions also open the door to building a multilateral consensus at the United Nations and World Trade Organization to prevent trade in Burmese rubies and jadeite. Modeled after the successful conflict diamonds legislation, the provisions my committee added are proven and administrable.

At the same time, however, I am concerned about the provisions relating to the Generalized System of Preferences. While I understand the need to avoid unduly harming third countries affected by this ban, I believe that the approach outlined in this bill creates a number of problems and doesn't create a solid basis for holding these countries harmless. It is our expectation that there will be continued work with Chairman RANGEL and the other body to solve these problems as this bill moves forward.

For these reasons, I urge support of H.R. 3890, as amended.

RECOGNIZING JACOB DANIEL
FICHMAN FOR ACHIEVING THE
RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 17, 2007

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

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

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Jacob Fichman for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of Amer-

ica and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

INTRODUCTION OF THE
RENEWABLE HEAT ACT

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 17, 2007

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Renewable and Hydro-electric Energy for Alaska's Tomorrow Act, the Renewable HEAT Act. The purpose of this legislation is to authorize the Department of Energy to provide grants for carrying out renewable energy and hydroelectric projects.

Similar, yet more restrictive, language was included in the Senate-passed energy bill, H.R. 6. The bill, written in secret behind closed doors by my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, is hardly an energy bill. More accurately described as the "Energy Suicide Act," this bill will do nothing to reduce our dependence on hostile foreign nations, nor will it bring relief to Americans suffering from rising energy costs. In fact, it will do the opposite. The only positive aspect of this bill is the provision providing grants for renewable energy, and more importantly, Alaska small hydro-electric projects.

Madam Speaker, I cannot in good conscience vote for a bill that tries to fool the American people into thinking we are going to be able to lower their energy prices. How can we lower costs and become energy independent if there is no production? Essentially, it is economic terrorism. And who is dictating the terms of this bill? The environmental groups funded by millionaires who don't lose any sleep wondering how they are going to heat their homes, as temperatures drop. We are approaching a state of crisis, where oil is trading for \$90 a barrel.

As I stated earlier, the only real energy provided for in the deceptive H.R. 6 is for hydro-electric power in Alaska. My colleagues seem to think that water is the only resource needed to keep a world power running. Since I cannot vote for this bill in its entirety, I have introduced this legislation to provide grant money for hydropower to my State of Alaska. Hydro-electric power is the Nation's largest renewable energy source and accounts for seven percent of America's electricity supply. Even though Alaska is one-sixth the size of the entire Nation, it is home to about 40 percent of the country's free-flowing freshwater.

Rural Alaskan communities have the highest utility rates in America, paying up to six times the national average, while also suffering the lowest per capita incomes. Currently, heating oil costs between \$3 and \$5 a gallon. The diesel-fired electricity so many Alaskan communities rely upon is not only expensive, it's dirty. The generators are old, unreliable, and release pollutants into the air, and in order to conserve money, are usually turned off at night. The grants this bill provides will assist these areas in the transition to clean, more affordable energy by giving them the funding to harvest the natural flow of water that surrounds them.

It has become clear to me that the United States Congress has no intention of taking care of the American people by making sure

they can heat their homes and put food on their plates. Therefore, I must make sure my Alaskans are taken care of, while they endure some of the coldest temperatures in the country.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2082,
INTELLIGENCE AUTHORIZATION
ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 13, 2007

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Conference Report to the Intelligence Authorization Act of 2008. This legislation authorizes appropriations for the conduct of intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the Office of the Director of National Intelligence; the Central Intelligence Agency; the Department of Defense; the National Security Agency; and the Drug Enforcement Administration.

The legislation touches all aspects of our national security—from preventing the spread of weapons of mass destruction, to anticipating and addressing developing threats around the world. Additionally, this legislation ensures that intelligence is collected, analyzed, and disseminated in a manner that comports with American law, policies and values.

In conference, we added a provision requiring U.S. interrogation policies employed by our intelligence community to follow those outlined in the U.S. Army Field Manual. The strength of our Nation comes not only from the might of our military, but from the power of our example. Historically, the United States has stood as a beacon for human rights and the rule of law. Unfortunately, that light has been dimmed recently as a result of the Bush Administration's gross indifference to the Geneva Convention and anti-torture regimes. The language was inserted not only to help regain our moral standing around the world, but also as a critical step toward protecting our own troops captured in the field. It is no secret that the world looks to how we treat our prisoners when determining how to treat our troops.

When we practice waterboarding or when we inhumanely parade our detainees around naked before the cameras, the world sees this as the standard to apply to the treatment of American troops.

According to testimony received by intelligence committees in the House and Senate, the U.S. Army Field Manual provides a detailed description of interrogation strategies that can be used to effectively elicit information from detainees while allowing the flexibility to adapt particular approaches to particular situations.

Importantly, the U.S. Army Field Manual also includes a number of specific prohibitions. Acts of violence or intimidation—including physical or mental torture, or exposure to inhumane treatment—are prohibited.

It also explicitly prohibits forcing a detainee to be naked; perform sexual acts; placing hoods or sacks over the head of a detainee; electric shock; burning or other forms of physical pain; waterboarding; using military working dogs; conducting mock executions; and de-

priving the detainee of necessary food, water, or medical care.

Private security companies, funded by billions of dollars in U.S. military and State Department contracts, are performing many of the jobs handled by our troops. Some of these jobs include work assigned to the intelligence community.

This conference report adds an additional level of oversight and accountability of these contractors by requiring the director of national intelligence to provide a report to Congress by April of next year, describing the services performed by contractors across the Intelligence Community.

This conference report seeks to start the process of establishing a clear definition of the functions that may be appropriately performed by contractors employed by the intelligence community. It is key that the intelligence community exercises the will to identify criminal violations by contractors and puts in place procedures to respond to financial fraud or other abuses. Requiring a report of contractor activities will help policymakers determine whether intelligence contractors are performing functions that are legal or that should be performed by government employees.

Passage today of this conference report will correct a three-year failure by Congress to pass an Intelligence Authorization bill. With this legislation, Congress sends to the President an intelligence package that makes new investments in human intelligence training and adds funds for sending analysts overseas while also enhancing oversight and eliminating wasteful spending. This conference report is also a significant move in the direction of reestablishing our reputation abroad as a country dedicated to promoting and observing human rights.

I am happy to support this conference report and I encourage my colleagues to do the same.

RECOGNIZING KYLE JOSEPH KRUG
FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF
EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 17, 2007

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

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

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

IN SUPPORT OF THE FAIR
FUNDING FOR SCHOOLS ACT

HON. LEE TERRY

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 17, 2007

Mr. TERRY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the Fair Funding for Schools Act, a law designed to build upon the important strides for local school districts that have been taken over the past 57 years by the Impact Aid program.

Because people living on Federal property do not pay local property taxes, often do not pay State income taxes, and have the ability to shop for groceries and other necessities at a base PX that does not charge sales tax, local school districts are left without a funding source they otherwise would have. The Impact Aid Program is designed to replace the lost tax revenue that local school districts depend on to provide a free public education to the communities they serve. Impact Aid has provided nearly \$25 million dollars in funding for schools throughout my district, and over \$1.2 billion for the more than 1,400 school districts currently receiving Impact Aid funding.

Impact Aid is the most efficient education program because money is wired directly from the Department of Education to the school's bank accounts, avoiding administrative costs at the State level. There are no strings attached to the money and local schools can use it in any way the school board sees fit. In the past this money has been used for such necessities as construction, salaries and supplies. As a leading member and co-chair of the House Impact Aid Coalition and the father of children receiving a public education, I understand the importance of this money to schools in my district and districts across the country.

The current re-authorization proposed by Congresswoman HIRONO and me makes an already strong program even stronger and more efficient. Our proposal eliminates duplicative provisions that are no longer necessary, corrects a major error in the previous reauthorizations allocation formula, updates the law to meet the challenges of base realignments and troop deployments currently faced by this Nation, and it simplifies and reforms a number of provisions to the law that ensures a smooth road ahead for school districts that rely on this money as an integral part of their budgets.

I would also like to mention the important contributions to this reauthorization made by Congressman CHET EDWARDS and Congressman JOHN CARTER of Texas. The insight they provided proved to be invaluable as we met with people involved in drafting our proposal. The suggestions of Congressman CARTER and Congressman EDWARDS strengthen this reauthorization and ensure that it will meet the needs of all the school districts affected by Impact Aid.

The Congress must continue to recognize the sacrifice our men and women in uniform make for all of us and provide their children with the best education possible. The Fair Funding for Schools Act achieves that goal, in Nebraska, Hawaii and every other State in the Union that receives Impact Aid dollars. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this important legislation.

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT OF EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT LEGISLATIVE ADMINISTRATIVE ANALYST RO AGUILAR

HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 17, 2007

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Madam Speaker, I rise with my colleague, Hon. GEORGE MILLER, in the House of Representatives, to recognize Ro Aguilar for her service to the residents of the East Bay as an analyst for the East Bay Regional Park District, EBRPD, for more than 20 years.

Before joining the EBRPD Ms. Aguilar had established a strong record of effective public service in our community. She started her career of service as an educator in Contra Costa County and also served as a community coordinator for a local chapter of the American Red Cross.

In 1986 Ms. Aguilar joined the EBRPD as an administrative analyst in public affairs. Due to her sharp analytical skills and commitment to the values and ideals of the EBRPD she was appointed to the general manager's office as the legislative administrative assistant in just 2 short years.

The EBRPD has relied heavily on Ms. Aguilar's expertise and leadership skill. Since 1991 she has attended almost every National Park Recreation Association Mid-Year Legislative Forum in Washington, DC. Her efficient analytical style has also been central to her successful work with agencies and legislative staffers at all levels of government.

Ms. Aguilar's tireless work to organize and advocate on behalf of special districts in our community has produced remarkable results in our region. In the early 1990s she was instrumental in organizing the Alameda and Contra Costa County chapters of the California Special Districts Association, CSDA. Through the years these associations have contributed significantly to the quality of life for Alameda and Contra Costa County residents.

Since the formation of local CSDA affiliates Ms. Aguilar has regularly presented written reports to the local chapters regarding critical special district issues. Ms. Aguilar has offered her expertise on the Constitutional Revision Commission, the State budget tax shifts, and AB 1335, the special district representation on Local Agency Formation Commission legislation. Due to her commitment and strong work on behalf of special districts in our community Ms. Aguilar was recognized and honored as the Legislative Advocate of the Year for 2007 by the CSDA.

Ms. Aguilar's many accomplishments have immeasurably improved the East Bay and enriched the lives of its residents. I would like to thank her for her years of public service and wish her success and happiness in her future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO BEN ANDREW SCHAMEL

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 17, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Ben Andrew Schamel of Blue Springs, Missouri. Ben is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Unit 1362, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

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

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

LETTER TO GEN PERVEZ MUSHARRAF

HON. DAVID WU

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 17, 2007

Mr. WU. Madam Speaker, I rise to enter into the RECORD the text of a letter authored by Dean Harold Hongju Koh of Yale Law School and signed by numerous prominent law school deans, professors, and students to GEN Pervez Musharraf of Pakistan denouncing his recent assault on the rule of law in his country. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

We the undersigned lawyers, deans, professors, law students, and law school administration and staff denounce in the strongest terms General Pervez Musharraf's recent assault on the rule of law in Pakistan. By suspending the Constitution; dissolving the Supreme Court and the provincial High Courts and replacing them with judges of his own choosing; engaging in arbitrary and unprovoked arrests of thousands of opposition leaders, journalists, and other law-abiding citizens; and violently suppressing protests by hundreds of lawyers who were acting in the highest tradition of our profession, General Musharraf is trampling upon the very system of law that alone can justify a ruler's power over his people. We stand in solidarity with our fellow lawyers and the democratic values that they represent, and we urge an early restoration of legality and legitimate authority in Pakistan.

Sincerely,

HAROLD HONGJU KOH,
Dean and Gerard C.
and Bernice Latrobe
Smith Professor of
International Law,
Yale Law School.

TRIBUTE TO ARMY NATIONAL GUARD BRIGADIER GENERAL JODI TYMESON

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 17, 2007

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the retirement of Iowa Army National Guard BG Jodi Tymeson after 33 years of faithful and honorable service.

After graduating from Ogden High School, GEN Jodi Tymeson enlisted in the Iowa National Guard in 1974 and was assigned to the headquarters and Headquarters Company, 248th Aviation Battalion, beginning her long and distinguished career in the military. She was selected to attend the Iowa Military Academy's officer candidate school and commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in 1982, assigned to Company B, 234th Signal Battalion as a telecommunications officer. During her service in the 234th Signal Battalion, GEN Tymeson also served as a platoon leader, company commander, systems control officer, battalion operations and training officer, executive officer and battalion commander.

In 1997 GEN Tymeson was assigned to the 67th Troop Command, where she served as an intelligence officer, operations and training officer, special projects officer and commander. On September 24, 2002, she became the first female to be promoted to the general officer rank in the Iowa National Guard. In addition to her many military positions, GEN Tymeson has an impressive military education background, a bachelor's degree in elementary education from the University of Northern Iowa and a master's degree in public administration from Drake University. She also currently serves in the Iowa House of Representatives as a District 73 Representative.

I commend GEN Jodi Tymeson for her many years of loyalty and service to our great Nation. It is an immense honor to represent GEN Tymeson in Congress, and I wish her the best in health and happiness throughout the future.

TRIBUTE TO CHRISTIAN RANDALL PETERSON

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 17, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Christian Randall Peterson of Blue Springs, Missouri. Christian is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Unit 1546, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

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

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Christian Randall Peterson for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in

achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING RAY BROOKS HIGH SCHOOL 2007 CLASS 1A STATE CHAMPIONS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 17, 2007

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, today I rise to congratulate Ray Brooks High School for winning the Mississippi Class 1A State Football Championship. The Ray Brooks Tigers completed the 2007 season amassing 13 victories and only 1 loss. This State Championship is their second in 3 years.

Benoit is a small town in the Mississippi Delta, as of the 2000 census there were 611 residents. As a matter of fact, Ray Brooks is one of the smallest high schools in the State of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, although Benoit may be small in population; it has no shortcomings in regards to its high school football team.

What makes this feat more impressive is the fact that Ray Brooks didn't have a football program for 15 years until 2002. The Tigers have been in the playoffs each of the last 6 years they have been back on the football field. During this 6-year period, the tigers have been phenomenal going 62–13 since restarting their football program.

Madam Speaker, not only have the Tigers enjoyed success this year but, they have done so dominantly averaging 35.4 points per game during the regular season while only allowing 9.9 points per game this season. Three wins came by the way of a shutout.

Madam Speaker, I would like to congratulate the student-athletes, student-body, faculty, staff, administration, and the community of West Bolivar for winning the 2007 Mississippi Class 1A State Championship. I am extremely proud to represent these young men and I look forward to the 2008 season.

HONORING THE LIFE OF THOMAS "TOMMY" MAKEM

SPEECH OF

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 11, 2007

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to observe the passing of a friend and a man for whom I held a tremendous amount of respect, Tommy Makem.

Tommy was an internationally celebrated folk musician, actor, artist, poet, songwriter, and storyteller from Ireland who took pride in sharing the Irish culture with those around the globe. He emigrated to the United States in 1955, with nothing more than a makeshift suitcase, a pair of bagpipes, and proof of his health, to pursue a career in acting. He settled in Dover, New Hampshire. After a brief period as an actor, Tommy Makem went on to join a band of Irish descent, The Clancy Brothers, where he rose to international fame.

Tommy broke out on his own following his time with The Clancy Brothers and educated

generations on the history, traditions, and customs of Ireland through his music, art, and poetry. He wrote hundreds of songs, including, "Four Green Fields," "Gentle Annie," and "The Rambles of Spring," which have been played in Carnegie Hall, Madison Square Garden, Royal Albert Hall and across the United States, Canada, and Australia.

Tommy Makem's illustrious career awarded him honorary doctorates from the University of New Hampshire in 1998, the University of Limerick in 2001, and the University of Ulster in 2007. He was regarded as an exceptional musician and achieved both gold and platinum albums, and a host of other awards, such as the Gold Medal of the Eire Society in Boston, the Genesis Award from Stonehill College in Massachusetts, an Emmy nomination for a New Hampshire public television series, as well as the first Lifetime Achievement Award in the Irish Voice/Aer Lingus Community Awards. Tommy, one of the greatest Irish-Americans of the 20th Century, was also listed as one of the top 100 Irish Americans in the Irish American Magazine 5 years in a row. The World Folk Music Association awarded him its Lifetime Achievement Award in 1999.

Tommy Makem passed away on Wednesday, August 1, 2007, in Dover, New Hampshire. He will be remembered not only for his incredible achievements, but as a dedicated husband, father, and grandfather. His enduring memory and music will live on, as will the power and energy of his unyielding spirit. He remains a true inspiration to me and millions of others around the world.

TRIBUTE TO HUNTER EDISON STOLL

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 17, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Hunter Edison Stoll of Lee's Summit, Missouri. Hunter is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Unit 1255 and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

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

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

TRIBUTE TO COUNCILMAN WERNER SCHON

HON. MIKE FERGUSON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 17, 2007

Mr. FERGUSON. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Councilman Werner Schon and his service to the residents of Mountainside, New Jersey.

Councilman Schon is the longest serving councilman in Mountainside history, having served for 25 years, including 3 years as council president. He has also served as the town's fire commissioner, during which time he helped to acquisition fire vehicles for his town. When the New Jersey Department of Transportation attempted to close a U-Turn on a local highway, Councilman Schon worked diligently to alert the Department about safety concerns connected with such a move, and he successfully prevented the closure.

Werner Schon is retiring from public service in Mountainside and will be honored at the town's reorganization meeting on January 2, 2008. I join the residents of Mountainside in wishing Councilman Schon many happy years of rest and relaxation with his family, and I am pleased to honor his service to Mountainside.

TRIBUTE TO JOSEPH K JOHNSEN

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 17, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Joseph K Johnsen of Kearney, Missouri. Joseph is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Unit 1135, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

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

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

INTRODUCTION OF THE "ADDITIONAL SAFEGUARDS FOR LEASE AND DEVELOPMENT OF NON-EXCESS PROPERTY OF MILITARY DEPARTMENTS ACT"

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 17, 2007

Mr. FILNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation to take reasonable steps to prevent avoidable disasters related to seismic activity in connection with the lease and development of non-excess property of military departments, H.R. 4719.

In San Diego, California, the Department of the Navy is planning a mixed-use development along the downtown waterfront that will incorporate not only a new Navy headquarters, but also business, commercial, and housing elements. It has come to my attention that the land in question is within the Uniform Building Code, UBC, Seismic Zone 4.

My bill requires the lease for this development to be revoked unless the Secretary of the Navy determines that seismic activity would not have any significant impact on any

portion of the proposed development. My bill would also extend this requirement to other leases on which no substantial construction has already begun.

In my view, it is only reasonable to require a scientific review of this issue before construction begins. Please support H.R. 4719.

A TRIBUTE TO COLLEAGUE, PIONEER, AND DEAR FRIEND CONGRESSWOMAN JULIA CARSON

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 17, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today in reverence of the trailblazing life led by our colleague, Congresswoman JULIA CARSON, and to commemorate the myriad achievements attached to her name. She spent over 35 of her years—more than half of her life—as a spirited public servant, pushing her message of hope and equality in the Indiana legislature, and subsequently, the halls of Congress.

Her 1996 election from the Indianapolis district marked a litany of historic firsts: the first woman, the first African American from that area to serve in the House, and up until her passing, the only one in that delegation to fit that profile. Hers was a unique—strong, proud—voice, and the people of her district—the people of America—were all the better for it.

Known to all as “Miss Julia,” Congresswoman CARSON was raised in modest conditions and retained that modesty throughout. She was born to a single mother, a housekeeper, who instilled in her the core values that impelled her to always agitate for justice. Her convictions drove her to be a vehement critic of the Iraq invasion of 2003, and her respect for history led her to push for the conferring of a congressional gold medal to civil rights heroine Rosa Parks.

Representative CARSON, herself, was a heroine, and although her presence is infinitely missed, her aspirations for this great Nation will never leave us.

IN MEMORY OF CONGRESSWOMAN JULIA CARSON

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 17, 2007

Mr. BACA. Madam Speaker, I stand here today to mourn the loss of a friend, and celebrate the life of a dedicated public servant and exemplary American.

Congresswoman JULIA CARSON was a trailblazer and an inspiration to her colleagues here in the House of Representatives.

Before beginning her political career, Congresswoman CARSON raised two children as a single, working mother.

She first ventured into politics in the 1960's, when she went to work for then-Congressman Andrew Jacobs.

From then on she served as a State Representative, State Senator, City Trustee, and U.S. Representative.

Throughout her distinguished career, Congresswoman CARSON never forgot who she was or where she came from.

She served as a constant advocate for those in her community who had no voice.

Since first coming to Congress in 1999, I have had the extreme privilege of working with Congresswoman CARSON on a number of issues.

In particular, we worked together to champion the cause of minority and socially disadvantaged farmers—who have traditionally faced many discriminatory obstacles.

In all our work together, I was amazed by her passion and her simple dedication to doing the right thing.

Madam Speaker, Congresswoman CARSON will be deeply missed by her family, friends, constituents, and colleagues here in Congress.

But her actions have left a bold legacy of action that will continue in the lives of those she has touched.

TRIBUTE TO LATE CONGRESSWOMAN JULIA CARSON

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 17, 2007

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, it is with great sadness that I recognize the life and passing of colleague Congresswoman JULIA CARSON of Indiana's 7th District. I have known this extraordinary person for a long time. She was a woman of principle who unabashedly championed the issues in which she believed. Her constituents and the Nation have lost a great legislator and an outstanding leader.

Congresswoman CARSON made history in 1996 by becoming the first woman and the first African-American Indianapolis has ever sent to Congress. And she came to Congress with one mission—to improve the lives of the people of her community. Even as she rose to a position of prominence in this body, she never forgot the people she was sent here to serve. She truly dedicated her career to them—and for that, earned the respect and gratitude of all Americans.

Since her days in the Indiana State Senate, Congresswoman CARSON has been committed to helping seniors live with independence and dignity as they age. Throughout her career, she has provided exceptional leadership and devoted service to America's senior citizens.

Congresswoman CARSON was also a strong proponent of civil rights movement, scaling the barriers imposed by poverty and sexism. She was a leader in advocating for voting rights, and worked diligently for the health and income needs of people experiencing homelessness and families at risk of homelessness. As a member of the Committee on Financial Services and the Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure, Congresswoman CARSON worked to address the most pressing needs of her constituents and this Nation.

In the 108th Congress, Congresswoman CARSON was the sponsor of the largest Amtrak reauthorization bill, the National Defense Rail Act, which provided the rail passenger system with over \$40 billion in funds to develop high-speed rail corridors and aid in the develop-

ment of short distance corridors between large urban centers.

Madam Speaker, Indiana has lost a powerful legislator. The Nation has lost a great leader. The Congress will mourn JULIA CARSON for her enormous intellectual ability and her huge heart. I will miss an irreplaceable colleague and friend.

And yet, I know that while her loss will be deeply felt, the memory of her kindness and the recollection of her good deeds will transcend into future generations.

HONORING JANET MYERS

HON. PATRICK J. MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 17, 2007

Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Janet Myers on her retirement after decades of dedicated service to her community.

Twenty four years ago, Janet Myers was elected to the Penn del Borough Council in Bucks County Pennsylvania. While on the council, Mrs. Myers served her community on the police, finance, building and maintenance and streets committees. Her leadership and activism after more than two dozen years will be missed.

Fourteen years ago, Mrs. Myers was one of the founders of the Penn del Activities Committee, which organizes a number of community events each year. Some of the community events include annual festivals, such as the Holiday Tree Lighting Program on the first Saturday in December, the Penn del Holiday Decorating Contest, the Easter egg hunt, a senior's birthday dinner and the Halloween parade. Mrs. Myers shaped the Penn del community with wonderful festivities every year and continued to make an impact even after she left the Activities Committee.

Madam Speaker, we are proud to have Mrs. Myers as a leader in our community and with her retirement, she leaves behind legacy that many will try to follow. Her devotion, selflessness, and commitment to the residents of Penn del Borough in Bucks County, Pennsylvania is unwavering. I ask my colleagues to join me today in thanking Mrs. Myers for improving the lives of so many and as we, in Bucks County, wish her well for the future.

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL BRINTON G. MARSDEN

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 17, 2007

Mr. BERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Colonel Brinton G. Marsden. Colonel Brinton was born in Desoto, Missouri to Cornelius “Roy” Marsden and Hazel K. Marsden in July 1928. His father was a WWI veteran, Sergeant First Class, USMC, who fought in France. In 1939, Colonel Marsden's family moved to Los Angeles, CA and settled in Westwood.

He attended the University of Southern California (USC). During his studies there, he enrolled in the Air Force ROTC program, and

upon graduating, he was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant.

He was stationed abroad in Morocco at the Nour Asour Air Force Base outside of Casablanca where he traveled extensively throughout North Africa and Europe, with tours of duty that included Rhine Maine Air Force Base in Germany.

Upon returning home, Colonel Marsden applied his knowledge of the Air Force to the burgeoning aerospace industry in southern California. He focused mainly on aerospace marketing and sales. He also took part in the Mercury, Gemini, and Apollo space missions. The last major project he worked on was the C-17 cargo plane for Boeing. He remained on active reserve and in command of the 9012 Air Force Reserve Squadron until his retirement in 1983. He died on December 2, 2007.

Colonel Marsden was married to Paula Walsh in November of 1956 in Sherman Oaks, California. This past year they celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. Colonel Marsden is survived by Paula, his loving wife; his three children, Brinton Jr., Kerri and Craig; his six grandchildren, Jason, Brinton, James, Connor, Timothy, and Jennifer. In addition he leaves behind his sister, Beverly Birner.

His funeral took place at the St. Cyrils of Jerusalem Church in Encino, California on December 6, 2007. He will be buried with full military honors at Arlington National Cemetery on January 22, 2008.

I extend my deepest sympathies to Colonel Marsden's family. The Nation is grateful for his years of distinguished service.

HONOR OUR FALLEN HEROES OF
VIETNAM!

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 17, 2007

Mr. FILNER. Madam Speaker and colleagues, I rise today to speak about a bill that I have just introduced that recognizes and honors the service and sacrifice of many members of the United States Armed Forces who fought in Vietnam, H.R. 4720, the "In Memory Medal for Forgotten Veterans Act".

Those so recognized are veterans who have died as a result of their service in the Vietnam War but who do not meet the criteria for inclusion on The Wall of the Vietnam War Memorial in Washington, D.C. The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund has a program called "In Memory" which has raised money for a plaque that has been placed near The Wall. The plaque honors "those who served in the Vietnam War and later died as a result of their service". No names are on the plaque, but all names are kept in the "In Memory Book" at a kiosk near The Wall, and families can order a copy.

My bill adds to this recognition by presenting the families of these veterans with a medal, to be known as the "Jesus (Chuchi) Salgado Medal" to be issued by the Secretary of Defense. Chuchi Salgado was an outstanding individual who lived in my Congressional district, whose exposure to Agent Orange ultimately led to his death. His relatives continue to live in my district.

Because of the boundaries that have been set for the names to be placed on The Wall,

Chuchi and many, many other Vietnam veterans are not honored in this manner. Now, with new veterans coming back from Iraq and Afghanistan, we are all taking a second look and a closer look at how veterans from past wars have been treated. While we must care for the newer veterans, we must also take this opportunity to do right by veterans of Vietnam, along with other past wars and conflicts.

I invite my colleagues to join with me in honoring these veterans. It is critical that we remember those who have fought so gallantly and sacrificed their lives for our freedom! Please join me in supporting H.R. 4720.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF ROBSTOWN, TEXAS

SPEECH OF

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 11, 2007

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and honor "The Biggest Little Town in Texas": Robstown, Texas.

Robstown has been "Celebrating a Century" this year, as the city turns 100 years old.

This centennial celebration and resolution are especially important to me because Robstown is my hometown.

I was born and raised there, attended the public schools there, and held my first job as a "printer's devil" at the local newspaper there.

Cotton and vegetable farming played an important role in the history and economy of Robstown, named after prominent local Robert Driscoll.

Robstown is a town where citizens are deeply committed to public service.

We've sent sons and daughters to shape history in local, state, and Federal offices.

County Commissioners, Sheriffs, District Attorneys, District Judges, Federal Judges, State Representatives—and this proud Member of Congress—can all trace their roots to Robstown.

Noted actress and singer, Kathryn Grant Crosby, wife of the late great crooner Bing Crosby, also hails from Robstown.

Robstown also has a great athletic tradition. Gene Upshaw, former NFL great for the Oakland Raiders, is from Robstown.

Humberto "Lefty" Barrera, bantamweight boxer on the historic 1960 Olympic team, who later earned an engineering degree at night school, also called Robstown home.

Our students also excel in the classroom, including the Robstown High School Cotton Pickers, who have achieved much in the fields of academics and athletics.

All year long, we have recognized the "Century of Celebration" which included a formal celebration on June 1.

One of our greatest traditions is the annual Cottonfest, held in October.

This year's was bigger and better than ever before.

Live music, arts and crafts, sports competitions, cook offs, contests, carnivals, and historical exhibits provide something for everyone.

We also have much to look forward to, as our town continues to grow.

Robstown enters the 21st century at the crossroads of international trade due to its

proximity to railroads, interstate highways, sea ports, and airports.

Robstown will serve as a rail hub by connecting major railway companies—Texas Mexican Railway, Kansas City Southern, and Union Pacific—with direct links to Corpus Christi, Brownsville, Houston, San Antonio, and Laredo.

Robstown is also home to the new Nueces County fairgrounds and an entertainment venue.

My hometown is the future home of an inland port, which will be the first such port in the United States, and the future home of an Army storage facility.

And no trip to Robstown would be complete without a filling yourself up with South Texas' best BBQ at Joe Cotten's.

Cotten's is an iconic restaurant where many of you have joined me for lunch South Texas style.

It is where presidential candidates, athletes, businessmen, cowboys, writers, astronauts, Generals, Admirals, other celebrities, and thousands of others have eaten over the years.

Robstown is the best of our communities in South Texas—friendly, family-oriented, and proud of their history.

It was in Robstown where my mother taught me my most important lesson: to always serve the community that gave me so many opportunities growing up.

"To whom much is given, much is expected."

Please join me in honoring Robstown on the city's 100th anniversary.

I'd like to thank Mr. CLAY and Mr. ISSA.

THE SECOND CHANCE ACT OF 2007

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 17, 2007

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support H.R. 1593, the Second Chance Act of 2007. I would like to thank my dear colleague Mr. DANNY DAVIS of Illinois for sponsoring this very important legislation that addresses the prison warehousing crisis in this country. H.R. 1593, a bill of which I am an original cosponsor, addresses the very serious concerns about the compromised state of warehousing prisoners.

Earlier this year, the Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism and Homeland Security of which I am a member, held hearings to address the state of certain conditions within the United States prison system. In one of those hearings, my colleagues and I considered the merits of the Second Chance Act, and my amendment which I offered in the last Congress was included in the base bill this year.

The Second Chance Act is designed to reduce recidivism, increase public safety, and help State and local governments better address the growing population of ex-offenders returning to their communities. The bill focuses on four areas: development and support of programs that provide alternatives to incarceration, expansion of the availability of substance abuse treatment, strengthening families, and the expansion of comprehensive re-entry services.

Nearly two-thirds of released State prisoners are expected to be re-arrested for a felony or serious misdemeanor within 3 years of their release. Such high recidivism rates translate into thousands of new crimes each year and wasted taxpayer dollars, which can be averted through improved prisoner re-entry efforts.

The Second Chance Act of 2007 allocates funding towards a variety of re-entry programs. One of the main components of the bill is the funding of demonstration projects that would provide ex-offenders with a coordinated continuum of housing, education, health, employment, and mentoring services. This broad array of services would provide stability and make the transition for ex-offenders easier, in turn reducing recidivism.

Another reason why I strongly support this legislation is because it includes a provision contained in an amendment I offered during the Judiciary Committee markup of this bill in the 109th Congress. That amendment, incorporated in H.R. 1593 as section 243 of the bill, requires that the:

Attorney General shall collect data and develop best practices of State corrections departments and child protection agencies relating to the communication and coordination between such State departments and agencies to ensure the safety and support of children of incarcerated parents (including those in foster care and kinship care), and the support of parent-child relationships between incarcerated (and formerly incarcerated) parents and their children, as appropriate to the health and well-being of the children.

My amendment provides for a systematic means of ensuring the safety and support of children of incarcerated parents and the support of children of release for nonviolent offenders who have attained the age of at least 45 years of age, have never been convicted of a violent crime, have never escaped or attempted to escape from incarceration, and have not engaged in any violation, involving violent conduct, of institutional disciplinary regulations.

The Second Chance Act seeks to ensure that in affording offenders a second chance to turn around their lives and contribute to society, ex-offenders are not too old to take advantage of a second chance to redeem themselves. A second benefit of the legislation is that it would relieve some of the strain on Federal, State, and local government budgets by reducing considerably government expenditures on warehousing prisoners.

Madam Speaker, some of those who are incarcerated face extremely long sentences, and this language would help to address this problem. Releasing rehabilitated, middle-aged, nonviolent offenders from an already overcrowded prison population can be a win-win situation for society and the individual who, like the Jean Valjean made famous in Victor Hugo's *Les Misérables*, is redeemed by the grace of a second chance. The reentry of such individuals into the society will enable them to repay the community through community service and obtain or regain a sense of self-worth and accomplishment. It promises a reduction in burdens to the taxpayer, and an affirmation of the American value that no non-violent offender is beyond redemption.

Madam Speaker, the number of Federal inmates has grown from just over 24,000 in 1980 to 173,739 in 2004. The cost to incarcerate these individuals has risen from \$330

million to \$4.6 billion since 2004. At a time when tight budgets have forced many States to consider the early release of hundreds of inmates to conserve tax revenue, early release is a commonsense option to raise capital.

The rate of incarceration and the length of sentence for first-time, nonviolent offenders have become extreme. Over the past two decades, no area of State government expenditures has increased as rapidly as prisons and jails. According to data collected by the Justice Department, the number of prisoners in America has more than tripled over the last two decades from 500,000 to 1.8 million, with States like California and Texas experiencing eightfold prison population increases during that time. Mr. Chairman, there are more people in the prisons of America than there are residents in States of Alaska, North Dakota, and Wyoming combined.

Over 1 million people have been warehoused for nonviolent, often petty crimes. The European Union, with a population of 370 million, has one-sixth the number of incarcerated persons as we do, and that includes violent and nonviolent offenders. This is one-third the number of prisoners which America, a country with 70 million fewer people, incarcerates for nonviolent offenses.

The 1.1 million nonviolent offenders we currently lock up represents five times the number of people held in India's entire prison system, even though its population is four times greater than the United States.

As the number of individuals incarcerated for nonviolent offenses has steadily risen, African-Americans and Latinos have comprised a growing percentage of the overall number incarcerated. In the 1930s, 75 percent of the people entering State and Federal prison were white, roughly reflecting the demographics of the nation. Today, minority communities represent 70 percent of all new admissions—and more than half of all Americans behind bars.

This is why for the last several years I have introduced the H.R. 261, the Federal Prison Bureau Nonviolent Offender Relief Act. H.R. 261 directs the Bureau of Prisons, pursuant to a good time policy, to release a prisoner who has served one-half or more of his or her term of imprisonment if that prisoner: (1) has attained age 45; (2) has never been convicted of a crime of violence; and (3) has not engaged in any violation, involving violent conduct, of institutional disciplinary regulations.

Over 2 million offenders are incarcerated in the Nation's prisons and jails. At midyear 2002, 665,475 inmates were held in the Nation's local jails, up from 631,240 at midyear 2001. Projections indicate that the inmate population will unfortunately continue to rise over the years to come.

To illustrate the impact that the Second Chance Act will potentially have on Texas, the Federal prison population for the years 2000, 2001, and 2002 reached 39,679, 36,138, and 36,635 persons respectively; the State prison population for the same years reached 20,200, 20,898, and 23,561 persons. These numbers have grown since 2002, so the impact is indeed significant and the State of Texas is an important stakeholder.

I am also concerned about the rehabilitation and treatment of juvenile offenders in my home State of Texas as it appears that the administrators of TYC have neglected their duties. The April 10, 2007 Dallas Morning News,

reported that "two former Texas Youth Commission administrators were indicted on charges that they sexually abused teenage inmates at the state juvenile prison in Pyote." The same article also cited the 2005 investigative report by Texas Rangers' Sgt. Burzynski which found that the two indicted TYC administrators, Brookins and Hernandez, had repeatedly molested inmates in the Pyote prison. The report is cited as saying that Mr. Brookins, who during some periods was the top official, had shown sex toys and pornography in his office, while Mr. Hernandez molested inmates in classrooms and closets.

I hope that all of my colleagues would join me in supporting the Second Chance Act. Passage of H.R. 1593 would be the start of a long overdue process to eliminate unnecessary costs that result from warehousing prisoners.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF
CASIMIR LENARD

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 17, 2007

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Col. Casimir I. Lenard AUS (Ret.) who passed from this life on December 7, 2007. At exactly the same moment, the Polish-American Congress was holding a recognition ceremony during which he was awarded with the first-ever Polish-American Congress Medal of Freedom.

Casimir Lenard was born in Chicago, Illinois on March 10, 1918. Even though Chicago had an ever-expanding Polish population, at the age of 10 he journeyed to Poland, a country who regained its independence after more than a century of being ruled by its neighbors. He studied at the Jesuit Gimnazjum in Chyrow, Poland. Upon completion, he returned to the United States to attend Northwestern University where he received a Bachelor of Science degree in Economic History.

In receipt of his degrees, he learned of the German-Nazi's invasion of Poland. Upon hearing this news, he immediately joined the Chicago Black Horse Troop, 106th Cavalry, Illinois National Guard. This commenced a meritorious and distinguished military career. When the United States was drawn into the conflict in Europe, in 1941, he became part of the first U.S. Army to go overseas as a commissioned 2nd Lieutenant, assigned to the 1st U.S. Infantry Division. As a member of the 1st Reconnaissance Troop, Lenard was engaged in overseas combat duty from 1942 to 1945. He participated in major operations in the European Theatre including the D-Day invasion. He also served as press and radio censor with the Supreme Headquarters of the Allied Expeditionary Forces.

In 1945, he returned to the United States where he married Casimira (Myra) Lamot. He worked in the family restaurant business, known as "Lenard's Little Poland" in Chicago and "Lenard's Casino" Summer Resort in Beverly Shores, Indiana. However, when the United States engaged in the Korean War, he volunteered for active duty, serving from August 1951 to 1957, under special assignment with the Headquarters Berlin Command and later in Chicago.

In 1962, he was selected for a 5-year tour of active duty with the General Staff at the Pentagon, where he became Chief of the Army Intelligence Reserve Office. And as the United States engaged in another military conflict in Vietnam, he again heeded the call to service in 1967. After his tour, he was a military intelligence research analyst at the U.S. Army Institute of Land Combat. In 1970, Col. Lenard retired after 30 years of distinguished military service.

Col. Lenard gained numerous recognitions and awards during his extensive military career including: the Silver Star Medal with Clusters, the Legion of Merit, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Bronze Star Medal with "V" for Valor, the French Croix de Guerre with Palm, seven overseas campaign ribbons (Algeria-French Morocco, Tunisia, Sicily, Normandy, Northern France, Ardennes-Alsace and Rhineland) and numerous other citations, the last being the Normandy Medal of the Jubilee of Liberty.

Upon retirement from the military, he became the first executive director of the Polish-American Congress, Washington D.C. Office. After leaving that office in 1974, he became Project Manager of the U.S. Bicentennial Ethnic Racial Council. He organized nationwide conferences and coordinated local and national U.S. Bicentennial activities, providing many opportunities for Polonia participation.

Together, with his wife Myra, Col. Lenard worked on many initiatives to support Polish independence, as the country once again suffered under the pervasive influence of its Soviet neighbor. He administered millions of dollars in grants at The National Endowment for Democracy through the Polish American Congress Charitable Foundation to support the budding Polish underground: Solidarity. He helped provide to Citizens' Committees with urgently needed technical resources and finances. Col. and Mrs. Lenard lead the march toward supporting Poland's membership in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). Col. Lenard served on the Board of Directors of the American Red Cross. Moreover, Col. Lenard was well-known for his advocacy of close relations between Poles and Jews, the two groups that suffered the most under German-Nazi rule.

For his work with the Polish-American Community, the Polish-American Congress and the bitterness of Poland's position in the world, Colonel Lenard and his wife Myra, either jointly or as individuals, received many awards. These included the following: the Commander's Cross of the Order of Merit of the Republic of Poland with Star, Commander's Cross of the Order of Merit of the Republic of Poland, Polish Cavalry saber with inscription "For Your Freedom and Ours From The Grateful Nation of Poland," the Polish-National Alliance's "Gold Cross Legion of Honor," the Polish Apostolate "Pride of Polish American Community Award, the Founders Award and the Grand Cross of the Order of Merit of the Republic of Poland.

Myra Lenard passed from this life on May 1, 2000, later to be joined with her husband. They are survived by their three children: George, Antoinette and Elizabeth as well as their grandson Jeffrey Lenard.

The Polish-American Congress Medal of Freedom was awarded to Col. Lenard on December 7, 2007. Since he was unable to obtain his award and the gratitude of Polish-

Americans in person, it is a fitting to conclude this record of a remarkable man with the acceptance speech he wrote, but could not make upon receipt of this honor:

Merry Christmas to all of my dear friends. This is the first time in many years that I will not be able to share with you the wonderful holiday celebration we all look forward to that is sponsored by the Washington office of the Polish-American Congress.

Nonetheless, I am with you in spirit. I cherish the memories of our long association together, our common struggles in favor of a free and democratic Poland and in favor of Polish-American culture and the values that we all share."

TRIBUTE TO U.S. AIR FORCE
STAFF SERGEANT ALEJANDRO
AYALA

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2007

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a hero from my congressional district, U.S. Air Force SSgt Alejandro Ayala. Today, I ask that the House of Representatives honor and remember this incredible young man who died in service to his country.

Alejandro had a lifelong fascination with the military. He attended Arlington High School in Riverside, CA, and joined the Reserve Officers' Training Corps. Immediately after his graduation in 1999, Alejandro joined the United States Air Force. Alejandro Ayala attended basic training at Lackland Air Force Base and then was assigned to Seymour Johnson Air Force Base in North Carolina, where he met his wife Megan, whom he married in 2003. Alejandro was subsequently assigned to the 90th Logistics Readiness Squadron at F.E. Warren Air Force Base in Wyoming. On Sunday, November 18, 2007, Alejandro died of injuries he received from a vehicle accident in Kuwait while serving with forces fighting in Iraq. He was 26 years old.

In reading about Alejandro's life, I was impressed by his devotion to family and the military. Alejandro's brother Cesar describes Alejandro as his inspiration for joining the U.S. Marine Corps. Alejandro is survived by his wife Megan; two young children, Alexandra and Matthew; parents Faustino and Ilda; twin sister Liset; sister Angelica; and brothers, Cesar and Francisco.

As we look at the incredibly rich military history of our country we realize that this history is comprised of men, just like Alejandro, who bravely fought for the ideals of freedom and democracy. Each story is unique and humbling for those of us who, far from the dangers they have faced, live our lives in relative comfort and ease. The day the Ayala family had to lay Alejandro to rest was probably the most difficult moment the family has ever faced and my thoughts, prayers and deepest gratitude for their sacrifice go out to them. There are no words that can relieve their pain and what words I offer only begin to convey my deep respect and highest appreciation.

Staff Sergeant Ayala's wife, children, mother, father, sisters, brothers and all his relatives have given a part of themselves in the loss of their loved one. I hope they know that the goodness Alejandro brought to the world and

the sacrifice he has made will always be remembered.

TRIBUTE TO 75TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE SANDHILLS STOCK SHOW
AND RODEO

HON. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2007

Mr. CONAWAY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the SandHills Stock Show and Rodeo on its 75th anniversary. Since 1932, the SandHills Rodeo has had an invaluable impact on the economy and heritage of West Texas.

From its beginnings as the first "Pure Hereford" Show in Texas in 1932 to the present-day exposition—including the horse show, stock show, and rodeo—the SandHills Rodeo has generated millions of dollars in revenue for the Permian Basin and has attracted thousands of visitors from across the country. Like the City of Odessa itself, the SandHills Stock Show and Rodeo has grown and flourished over the past 75 years and has become as much a part of Texas as the cowboys themselves.

Growing up in Odessa, I attended the rodeo and marveled at the brave cowboys on their bucking broncos and the fine animals that compete in the Stock and Horse shows. From the crowning of Miss SandHills Rodeo to the always exciting (at least for the parents) Boot Scramble, the rodeo has something for everyone. I am pleased that West Texans of all generations continue to enjoy this unique and exciting event. Congratulations to all of those who have made the SandHills Stock Show and Rodeo such a fine Texas tradition!

TO HONOR THE MEMORY OF
STAFF SERGEANT. SHANE BECKER

HON. MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2007

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of SSG Shane Becker.

Mr. Becker served in the United States Army as a staff Sergeant in the 1st Squadron, 40th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division.

Mr. Becker courageously died in combat on April 3, 2007, in Baghdad. I believe his service and commitment to our country most worthy of being recognized by this great legislative body.

Shane Becker was born October 12, 1971, and graduated from Greeley West High School in 1990. Becker joined the Army in 1993 and was stationed at Fort Hood, Texas. In 2006, Becker transferred from Fort Hood to Fort Richardson in Alaska.

Mr. Becker was a decorated war hero who received the Bronze Star, the Purple Heart, the Joint Service Commendation Medal, the Army Achievement Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters, the Joint Meritorious Unit Award, the Army Good Conduct Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, and the Overseas Service Medal.

Becker is survived by his wife Crystal and daughters Cierra and Cheyenna; his mother and stepfather, Deborah and Bob Jorgensen, his father and stepmother, Joe and Jean Becker; sister Brooke Jorgensen; stepsister Nichole Becker; and stepbrothers Chris Becker, Adam Becker, Matt Jorgensen and Chris Jorgensen.

Madam Speaker, I am grateful for Mr. Becker's selfless service to our Nation. I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing a man worthy of our honor, Mr. Shane Becker.

VETERANS GUARANTEED BONUS
ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 17, 2007

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3793, the Veterans Guaranteed Bonus Act. I am proud to cosponsor this important, bipartisan legislation which will ensure that members of the Armed Services who are discharged as a result of combat-related wounds receive the full compensation to which they are entitled.

H.R. 3793 was prompted by the recommendations of the Commission on Care for America's Returning Wounded Warriors, co-chaired by former Senator Bob Dole and former Secretary of Health and Human Services Donna Shalala. It will reverse a Department of Defense rule that unfairly penalizes wounded soldiers and prohibits them from receiving their full enlistment bonuses.

While facing the threat of a hostile enemy, our veterans have too often returned home to find more trouble: gaps in health care services, limited educational assistance, problems finding employment and a lack of support for their families. Too often, our brave military men and women find that while they have been willing to serve their country, their country is not ready to serve them. We can take an important step in reversing that trend by ensuring that veterans receive all the pay for which they are entitled.

According to Department of Defense rules, enlistees cannot receive their full enlistment bonus unless they fulfill their entire military obligation. Unfortunately, members of the Armed Services who are wounded while on active duty are not receiving their full bonuses because their service was prematurely cut short. The Veterans Guaranteed Bonus Act will correct this problem by requiring the Department of Defense to provide veterans who have been discharged due to combat-related wounds with full payment of remaining bonuses within 30 days of discharge. This will ensure that America's wounded warriors receive the full compensation promised to them.

These wounded veterans have earned their bonuses by answering the call to service. Now is the time to heed the recommendation of the Dole-Shalala Commission and fix this problem.

I would like to thank Congressman JASON ALTMIRE for introducing this legislation and Chairman BOB FILNER for prioritizing the health and well-being of the Nation's veterans.

RECOGNIZING MATTHEW J. ROBERTS FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2007

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

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

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

WILDLAND FIRE SAFETY AND
TRANSPARENCY ACT

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2007

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing a bill to promote wildland firefighter safety and facilitate agency and congressional oversight of the Federal agencies' wildland firefighter safety practices and policies.

The legislation is identical to a bill introduced by Senator CANTWELL and cosponsored by my Colorado colleague, Senator KEN SALAZAR. That measure (S. 1152) has been favorably reported from the Senate's Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, and I am introducing a House companion to assist in securing enactment of the legislation.

The bill would require Interior Department agencies and the Forest Service to provide Congress with an annual joint report on their wildland firefighter safety practices, including training programs and activities for wildland fire suppression, prescribed burning, and wildland fire use.

This will encourage greater focus in the agencies and can assist in our oversight of these important agency activities.

Ensuring timely and sufficient information on the agencies' safety practices and policies is critical to such oversight. For example, the Federal agencies currently do not specifically track the portion of their wildfire-related funding that is expended for wildland firefighter safety and training, making oversight of safety program funding difficult.

Madam Speaker, wildland firefighting has long been a dangerous activity, as shown by a report from the National Wildfire Coordinating Group listing 945 fatalities resulting from wildland fire accidents since 1910. And while evidently from 1910 until the late 1970s and early 1980s, the number of Federal wildland fire fatalities was trending downward, but that trend has reversed, with the number

of Federal fatalities slowly increasing since then.

This disturbing trend reflects the fact that in recent years wildfire behavior has become more extreme, the wildland-urban interface has grown rapidly, and the number and size of wildfires has increased significantly. Despite improvements in wildfire fighting technologies, these and other factors combine to make wildland firefighting more complex today than ever before.

The 1994 deaths of fourteen Forest Service firefighters on Storm King Mountain in Garfield County, Colorado, followed by four more deaths in the Thirtymile Fire in 2001, two in the Cramer Fire in 2003, five in the Esperanza Fire in 2006, and many others, particularly highlight the need for continual improvement in and oversight of safety policies and practices.

A number of recent reports have identified serious concerns with the agencies' safety practices. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration found "serious and willful" violations of safety standards by the Forest Service in its investigation of Thirtymile Fire fatalities, noting that a number of them were similar to failures which occurred at the Storm King Mountain fire. It also found willful, serious and repeated violations of safety regulations during its investigation of the Cramer Fire.

The agencies' growing reliance on contract wildfire fighting crews also has presented safety challenges. A report by the Department of Agriculture's Office of Inspector General (Report No. 08601-42-SF, March 2006) identified significant problems with oversight and administration of the Forest Service contracts and agreements for these private crews. The report's "findings confirm the need to address serious control weaknesses with respect to the firefighting contract crews," which led the Inspector General to recommend, among other things, improving oversight of contract crews' qualifications and training.

These and other reports highlight the need for Congress and the Federal agencies to improve oversight in the area of wildfire safety. The agencies indicated at a recent Committee oversight hearing on wildfire that they are working on making some major changes to their training and other safety programs, which further highlights the need for Congress to keep abreast of the agencies' wildfire safety program.

This legislation is intended to assist in that effort, and I think it deserves the support of all our colleagues.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION
TO CODIFY TITLE 51, U.S. CODE

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2007

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, Ranking Member LAMAR SMITH and I are introducing a bill to codify into positive law as title 51, United States Code, certain general and permanent laws related to national and commercial space programs. It was prepared by the Office of the Law Revision Counsel as part of its functions under 2 U.S.C. 285(b).

This bill is the successor to H.R. 3039, introduced in the 109th Congress. It has been updated to include provisions enacted after the

earlier bill was prepared. It also contains changes made in response to comments received subsequent to the introduction of the previous bill.

This legislation is not intended to make any substantive changes in the law. As is typical with the codification process, a number of non-substantive revisions are made, including the reorganization of sections into a more coherent overall structure, but these changes are not intended to have any substantive effect.

The bill, along with a detailed section-by-section explanation of the bill, can be found on the Law Revision Counsel website at <http://uscdo.house.gov/codification/legislation.shtml>.

The Committee on the Judiciary hopes to act on this bill after providing an opportunity for public review and comment. In addition to sharing concerns with the Committee, interested persons are invited to submit comments to Rob Sukol, Assistant Counsel, Office of the Law Revision Counsel, U.S. House of Representatives, H2-304 Ford House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515-6711, (202) 226-2411.

IN HONOR OF STEPHANIE C.
KOPELOUSOS

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2007

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Stephanie C. Kopelousos, the Secretary of the Florida Department of Transportation.

Throughout her nearly 15 year public service career, Stephanie C. Kopelousos has worked in both State and Federal public policy, with a particular emphasis in transportation. Her impressive rise to Florida's Secretary of Transportation is well deserved and notable.

Stephanie C. Kopelousos is the first woman to serve as Secretary of Transportation of Florida. She oversees more than 7,000 employees and an annual budget of \$8 billion. In an industry so critical to our economy such as transportation, it is sad that women are underrepresented. I hope that her status inspires other women to follow in her success. I believe her leadership will fuel Florida's continued economic growth and enhance Floridian's quality of life.

Secretary Kopelousos has served in several capacities in Florida's Department of Transportation since 2001. Prior to becoming Secretary, she was Interim Secretary and Chief of Staff, providing day-to-day management and directing legislative issues since December 2005. From 2001 to 2005, Secretary Kopelousos served as the primary federal liaison for the Florida Departments of Transportation and Community Affairs in Washington, D.C. Her policy portfolio included transportation, emergency management and disaster relief, and housing.

Her career boasts helping Florida receive its fair share of federal transportation funding as federal liaison for Florida Department of Transportation. In addition, her efforts during two back-to-back hurricane seasons in 2004 and 2005 helped Florida receive significant disaster-related assistance.

A graduate of the University of Alabama with a degree in Political Science, Secretary Kopelousos has proven herself to be a great asset to Florida's transportation needs. I am pleased to honor Stephanie C. Kopelousos for her distinguished accomplishment and her many years of outstanding service, and to thank her for her extraordinary dedication to the people of Florida.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT E. SCHWENK,
U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2007

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, as Chairman of the Joint Committee on Printing, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize Mr. Robert E. Schwenk, Managing Director of Plant Operations at the Government Printing Office, who is retiring next month following 45 years of dedicated Federal service, most of it at the GPO in support of the Congress and Federal agencies.

Beginning as a GPO apprentice in 1962, Mr. Schwenk rose through the ranks to become Managing Director of Plant Operations in 2003. As Managing Director, he oversaw the daily operation of GPO's printing services, including prepress, press, and binding services, as well as the ancillary services supporting them, including supply stores and engineering functions. Employing approximately 1,200 skilled men and women, these operations are responsible for producing the publications that are essential to the legislative operations of this House and the Senate in the discharge of our constitutional obligations—the daily CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, bills, reports, hearings, committee prints, and the host of other documents created as we conduct the people's business. Without them, there would be no publicly accessible record of our work, no documentation for the media, judiciary, educational and research institutions, and the American people to refer to and rely upon as the foundation for our government of laws and democracy. He also oversaw production of the daily Federal Register and Code of Federal Regulations, the annual Budget of the United States, and other significant Federal documents, including U.S. passports.

One of the many fundamental changes in GPO's printing systems which took place during Mr. Schwenk's career was the development of congressional and other Federal information databases that could be used not only for printing, but for online and other electronic dissemination. Since 1986, when Mr. Schwenk was appointed to head GPO's electronic photocomposition division, he played a major role in the development of GPO's information technology operations, guiding successive generations of upgrades to GPO's prepress systems, leading the implementation of computer-to-plate technology, and assisting in GPO's transition to online dissemination in the 1990's with the creation of GPO Access, which quickly became one of the Federal Government's largest and most heavily used Web sites. GPO's transition to these systems has improved access to congressional information immeasurably, and yielded significant savings in congressional printing costs.

Mr. Schwenk's expertise in electronic systems and production operations were combined in his most recent achievement at GPO, in which he oversaw the implementation of electronic chips in U.S. passports and managed the growth in passport production from approximately 11 million total in 2003 to more than 2 million each month today. When the demand for passports increased exponentially over the past year, GPO quietly fulfilled its role, increasing both its staffing and productivity to meet the State Department's requirements. Mr. Schwenk leaves the GPO with the staffing, equipment, and plans in place to meet the future demand for this important document.

During his career at the GPO, Mr. Schwenk witnessed and participated in vast changes in Federal printing operations, as the impact of new technologies reduced GPO's staffing needs from its peak of nearly 8,500 in the mid-1970's to 2,300 today, while at the same time leading to an explosion in the access to Government information via the Internet. During that period, Mr. Schwenk saw history being made—and helped record it for posterity—at the GPO, as that office worked to produce the official versions of the Warren Report, historic civil rights and other legislation, photographs of the first landing on the moon, transcripts of hearings on Vietnam, Watergate, and Iran-Contra, the report on the Challenger space shuttle disaster, and many more.

Next month, he will retire from a long and distinguished career of public service. I ask my colleagues to join me in conveying our thanks to Mr. Schwenk and best wishes for a healthy and happy retirement.

TRIBUTE TO MR. RONALD F.
DEATON

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2007

Mr. BERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the career of Mr. Ronald F. Deaton. Mr. Deaton retired December 1, 2007 from the city of Los Angeles after 42 years of dedicated service to the people of Los Angeles. While Mr. Deaton is officially retiring as General Manager of the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP), the Nation's largest municipally owned utility, he spent 11 years as the Chief Legislative Analyst (CLA), reporting directly to the Los Angeles City Council. In this position he was the chief advisor to the City Council and, with a staff of 50 professionals who researched and analyzed public policy issues, played a leading role in the critical decisions, actions and initiatives facing the city of Los Angeles during that period. He was one of the most clear-sighted, intelligent, and effective public servants I have had the opportunity to engage with in my 35 years in elected office. I consider him a good friend as well.

Mr. Deaton began his career in public service for the city of Los Angeles in 1965, when he first joined the LADWP and worked in budget preparation and market research. From there he moved to the City Administrative Office (CAO) in 1969, where again he was responsible for budget analysis and management audits. In 1976, he accepted a position

in the office of the Chief Legislative Analyst (CLA). He continued his work on budget issues affecting all the city departments. In addition, he oversaw the city's State and Federal legislative program.

In 1993, he was picked by the Council to be the CLA. In that position he was given the lead role in guiding the seismic rehabilitation and restoration of the historic Los Angeles City Hall and the Van Nuys City Hall. Additionally, he provided analysis and guidance in crafting the city's response to such challenging and complex issues as City Charter reform, secession, energy deregulation and redistricting.

Other programs which benefited from his involvement and dedication included the Proposition "O" bond measure for Stormwater and Water Quality projects; Proposition K which benefited parks and recreation programs for young people; police and fire bonds for public facilities; creation of the Griffith Park Festival of Lights; relocation of the Children's museum; emergency rehabilitation and improvement of the Los Angeles Zoo; coordination of the National League of Cities convention in Los Angeles; bringing the City Council's information technology into the 21st Century; Parker Center replacement; the Police Consent Decree; the downtown arena agreement; Los Angeles River improvement and beautification plan; ethics legislation, and eleven balanced City budgets.

Mr. Deaton's dedication to public service was complimented by a sense of humor and his extraordinary ability to deal effectively, ethically and creatively with the challenges before him. He brought these qualities with him to the Department of Water and Power in 2004 when he was appointed to be the General Manager by the Mayor and confirmed by the City Council. In that capacity he initiated diversification of power generation resources;

implemented significant infrastructure improvements and operational efficiencies; enhanced customer service and public outreach; and increased education programs for school children studying environmental issues.

A graduate of California State University at Long Beach, with a B.A. degree in Economics, Deaton holds an MBA degree from the University of Southern California. He and his wife, Ellery, whom he met at LADWP in 1965, reside in Seal Beach, California. Their family includes four grown children and ten grandchildren.

HONORING PINNACLES 100TH
ANNIVERSARY

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2007

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of Pinnacles National Monument. The extraordinary geology of the landscape has captured the imagination of Central California homesteaders, ranchers, naturalists, and philanthropists since the 1800s. A remnant volcano, the Pinnacles Volcanic Formation of rocky fingers of stone, talus caves, and lofty cliffs create a stark contrast to the smooth rolling hills of the surrounding Gabilan Range.

More than 14,000 acres of congressionally designated wilderness together with its multiple ecological niches provides the best remaining refuge for floral and faunal species representative of the Central California Coast. Located within the Pacific Flyway migratory route, Pinnacles has the highest concentration of nesting Prairie Falcons of any National Park site, and provides a safe haven for 20 species holding special Federal or State status.

Pinnacles is the only National Park site within the ancestral home range of the California condor that releases and maintains this Nation's largest bird species. There are nearly 400 species of bees at Pinnacles, the highest known bee diversity per unit area of any place on Earth. The monument sustains a showcase example of chaparral, a unique miniature forest ecosystem that elsewhere in coastal California is losing ground to ever-increasing urban expansion.

Life flourishes in the protective shadow of this remnant volcano whose location along the San Andreas fault zone has carried it nearly 195 miles northward from its place of origin and contains the Nation's largest talus caves. Research on Pinnacles' geology has helped revolutionize the theory of plate tectonics.

In this landscape Pinnacles National Monument preserves natural and cultural resources whose stories are woven into the fabric of this Nation's history and heritage. On January 16, 1908, under the authority of the newly created Antiquities Act, Theodore Roosevelt proclaimed 2,080 acres of the Pinnacles National Forest Reserve as Pinnacles National Monument. Today Pinnacles covers over 26,000 acres across both Monterey and San Benito Counties. Surrounding lands are still grazed by cattle, ridden by cowboys and vaqueros, and farmed by descendants of the first settlers who homesteaded the region.

Madam Speaker, I know the Members of this House will join me in noting this important milestone for Pinnacles National Monument: a haven for solitude; a recreational getaway for climbers, hikers and lovers of open space; a springboard for personal journeys of enrichment; and a continuing reminder of America's history preserved for future generations to study and enjoy.