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WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, JANUARY 15, 2008

No. 5

House of Representatives

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. TAUSCHER).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
January 15, 2008.

I hereby appoint the Honorable ELLEN O. TAUSCHER to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer: As this 110th Congress resumes in this Second Session for debate and passage of new bills, we pray to You, the almighty and all-powerful Lord. With prophetic words, we plead that You would rip open the heavens and come down to be with us.

Then Your holy name will be known by true believers and enemies as well. Nations shall tremble before You and forge a new alliance together. No ear has ever heard, no eye has ever seen what great deeds You can accomplish for those who wait upon Your visitation.

Do not hold back, O Lord. Do not remain silent. Come upon us with Your grace and power. Make of us Your people, that we may accomplish Your holy will and give You praise now and forever. Amen.

RESIGNATION FROM THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following resignations from the House of Representatives:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, December 31, 2007.
Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER, I hereby give notice of my resignation from the United States House of Representatives. Attached is the letter I submitted to Governor Haley Barbour.

With best wishes, I am
Sincerely yours,

ROGER F. WICKER.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, December 31, 2007.
Hon. HALEY BARBOUR,
Governor, State of Mississippi, Jackson, MS.

DEAR GOVERNOR BARBOUR, I hereby submit my resignation as United States Representative of the First District of Mississippi, effective 10:00 a.m., Eastern Standard Time, Monday, December 31, 2007.

With best wishes, I am
Sincerely yours,

ROGER F. WICKER.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under clause 5(d) of rule XX, the Chair announces to the House that, in light of the resignations of the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) and the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. JINDAL), the whole number of the House is adjusted to 431.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the House stands in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 3 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m.

□ 1833

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order at 6 o'clock and 33 minutes p.m.

CALL OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER. The Clerk will utilize the electronic system to ascertain the presence of a quorum.

Members will record their presence by electronic device.

The call was taken by electronic device, and the following Members responded to their names:

[Roll No. 1]

YEAS—393

Abercrombie	Brown (GA)	Cubin
Ackerman	Brown (SC)	Cuellar
Aderholt	Brown, Corrine	Cummings
Akin	Brown-Waite,	Davis (AL)
Alexander	Ginny	Davis (CA)
Allen	Buchanan	Davis (IL)
Altmire	Burgess	Davis (KY)
Andrews	Burton (IN)	Davis, David
Arcuri	Butterfield	Davis, Tom
Bachmann	Buyer	Deal (GA)
Bachus	Camp (MI)	DeFazio
Baird	Campbell (CA)	DeGette
Baldwin	Cannon	Delahunt
Barrett (SC)	Capito	DeLauro
Bartlett (MD)	Capps	Dent
Barton (TX)	Capuano	Diaz-Balart, L.
Bean	Cardoza	Diaz-Balart, M.
Becerra	Carnahan	Dicks
Berman	Carney	Doggett
Berry	Carter	Donnelly
Biggert	Castle	Doyle
Bilbray	Castor	Drake
Billirakis	Chabot	Dreier
Bishop (GA)	Chandler	Duncan
Bishop (NY)	Clarke	Edwards
Bishop (UT)	Clay	Ehlers
Blumenauer	Cleaver	Ellison
Blunt	Clyburn	Ellsworth
Boehner	Coble	Emanuel
Bonner	Cohen	Emerson
Bono Mack	Cole (OK)	Engel
Boozman	Conaway	English (PA)
Boren	Conyers	Eshoo
Boswell	Cooper	Etheridge
Boucher	Costa	Everett
Boustany	Costello	Fallin
Boyd (FL)	Courtney	Fattah
Boyd (KS)	Cramer	Feeney
Brady (PA)	Crenshaw	Finer
Brady (TX)	Crowley	Flake

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



Printed on recycled paper.

Fortenberry	Lowey	Rothman
Fossella	Lucas	Royal-Allard
Fox	Lungren, Daniel	Royce
Franks (AZ)	E.	Ruppersberger
Frelinghuysen	Lynch	Rush
Gallegly	Mack	Ryan (OH)
Garrett (NJ)	Mahoney (FL)	Ryan (WI)
Gerlach	Maloney (NY)	Salazar
Giffords	Manzullo	Sali
Gilchrest	Marchant	Sánchez, Linda
Gillibrand	Markey	T.
Gingrey	Marshall	Sanchez, Loretta
Gohmert	Matheson	Sarbanes
Gonzalez	Matsui	Saxton
Goode	McCarthy (CA)	Schakowsky
Goodlatte	McCarthy (NY)	Schiff
Gordon	McCauley (TX)	Schmidt
Granger	McCollum (MN)	Schwartz
Graves	McCotter	Scott (GA)
Green, Al	McDermott	Scott (VA)
Green, Gene	McGovern	Sensenbrenner
Grijalva	McHenry	Serrano
Hall (NY)	McHugh	Sessions
Hall (TX)	McIntyre	Sestak
Hare	McKeon	Shadegg
Harman	McMorris	Sha
Hastings (FL)	Rodgers	Shea-Porter
Hastings (WA)	McNerney	Sherman
Hayes	McNulty	Shimkus
Heller	Meek (FL)	Shuler
Melancon	Melancon	Shuster
Hergert	Mica	Sires
Herseth Sandlin	Michaud	Skelton
Higgins	Miller (FL)	Miller (MI)
Hill	Miller (MI)	Smith (NE)
Hinchee	Miller, George	Smith (NJ)
Hirono	Mitchell	Smith (TX)
Hobson	Mollohan	Smith (WA)
Hodes	Moore (KS)	Snyder
Holden	Moore (WI)	Solis
Holt	Moran (KS)	Souder
Hooley	Moran (VA)	Space
Hoyer	Murphy (CT)	Stearns
Hulshof	Murphy, Patrick	Stupak
Inglis (SC)	Murphy, Tim	Sullivan
Inlee	Murtha	Sutton
Israel	Musgrave	Tancredo
Issa	Myrick	Tanner
Jackson (IL)	Nadler	Tauscher
Jackson-Lee	Napolitano	Taylor
(TX)	Neal (MA)	Terry
Jefferson	Neugebauer	Thompson (CA)
Johnson (GA)	Nunes	Thompson (MS)
Johnson (IL)	Oberstar	Thornberry
Johnson, E. B.	Obey	Tiahrt
Johnson, Sam	Oliver	Tiberi
Jones (NC)	Ortiz	Tierney
Jones (OH)	Pallone	Towns
Jordan	Pascarella	Turner
Kagen	Pastor	Udall (CO)
Kanjorski	Payne	Udall (NM)
Keller	Pearce	Upton
Kennedy	Pelosi	Van Hollen
Kildee	Pence	Velázquez
Kilpatrick	Perlmutter	Viscosky
Kind	Peterson (MN)	Walden (OR)
King (IA)	Peterson (PA)	Walsh (NY)
King (NY)	Petri	Walz (MN)
Kingston	Pickering	Wamp
Kirk	Pitts	Wasserman
Klein (FL)	Platts	Schultz
Kline (MN)	Poe	Waters
Knollenberg	Porter	Watson
Kuhl (NY)	Price (GA)	Watt
LaHood	Price (NC)	Waxman
Lamborn	Putnam	Weiner
Lampson	Radanovich	Welch (VT)
Langevin	Rahall	Weldon (FL)
Larsen (WA)	Ramstad	Weller
Larson (CT)	Rangel	Westmoreland
Latham	Regula	Wexler
LaTourette	Rehberg	Whitfield (KY)
Latta	Reichert	Wilson (NM)
Lee	Reyes	Wilson (OH)
Levin	Reynolds	Wilson (SC)
Lewis (CA)	Richardson	Wittman (VA)
Lewis (GA)	Rodriguez	Wolf
Lewis (KY)	Rogers (AL)	Woolsey
Linder	Rogers (KY)	Wu
Lipinski	Rogers (MI)	Wynn
LoBiondo	Ros-Lehtinen	Yarmuth
Loeback	Roskam	Young (AK)
Lofgren, Zoe	Ross	Young (FL)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the call). Due to a problem in the Rayburn House Office Building, the electronic voting system is partially inop-

erable. The portion of the system by which the Tally Clerk enters votes for Members on the basis of ballot cards submitted in the well is operable. That portion of the system is being used to tabulate the names of Members who have recorded their presence. Members who have submitted amber cards in the well have recorded their presence.

□ 1931

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. TAUSCHER). On this rollcall, 393 Members have recorded their presence, a quorum.

Under the rule, further proceedings under the call are dispensed with.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CONAWAY) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. CONAWAY led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

PROVIDING FOR A COMMITTEE TO NOTIFY THE PRESIDENT OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE CONGRESS

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I send to the desk a privileged resolution and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 913

Resolved, That a committee of two Members be appointed by the Speaker on the part of the House of Representatives to join with a committee on the part of the Senate to notify the President of the United States that a quorum of each House has assembled and Congress is ready to receive any communication that he may be pleased to make.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

APPOINTMENT AS MEMBERS OF COMMITTEE TO NOTIFY THE PRESIDENT, PURSUANT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 913

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 913, the Chair appoints the following Members to the committee on the part of the House to join a committee on the part of the Senate to notify the President of the United States that a quorum of each House has assembled and that Congress is ready to receive any communication that he may be pleased to make:

The gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER); and

The gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BOEHNER).

TO INFORM THE SENATE THAT A QUORUM OF THE HOUSE HAS ASSEMBLED

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I send to the desk a privileged resolution and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 914

Resolved, That the Clerk of the House inform the Senate that a quorum of the House is present and that the House is ready to proceed with business.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PROVIDING FOR THE HOUR OF MEETING OF THE HOUSE

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I send to the desk a privileged resolution and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 915

Resolved, That unless otherwise ordered, before Monday, May 12, 2008, the hour of daily meeting of the House shall be 2 p.m. on Mondays; noon on Tuesdays; and 10 a.m. on all other days of the week; and from Monday, May 12, 2008, for the remainder of the 110th Congress, the hour of daily meeting of the House shall be noon on Mondays, 10 a.m. on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays; and 9 a.m. on all other days of the week.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MAKING IN ORDER MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the order of the House of January 4, 2007, providing for morning-hour debate be extended for the remainder of the 110th Congress, except that pursuant to House Resolution 915, the date of May 12, 2008, shall be used in lieu of May 14, 2007.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Maryland?

There was no objection.

DISPENSING WITH CALENDAR WEDNESDAY BUSINESS ON TOMORROW

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the business in order under the Calendar Wednesday rule be dispensed with tomorrow.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Maryland?

There was no objection.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

DECEMBER 28, 2007.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
The Capitol, Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, I have the honor to transmit H.R. 1585, the "National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008," and a Memorandum of Disapproval thereon received from the White House on December 28, 2007, at 3:25 p.m.

With best wishes, I am
Sincerely,

LORRAINE C. MILLER,
Clerk of the House.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2008—VETO MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 110-88)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following veto message from the President of the United States:

MEMORANDUM OF DISAPPROVAL

I am withholding my approval of H.R. 1585, the "National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008," because it would imperil billions of dollars of Iraqi assets at a crucial juncture in that nation's reconstruction efforts and because it would undermine the foreign policy and commercial interests of the United States.

The economic security and successful reconstruction of Iraq have been top priorities of the United States. Section 1083 of H.R. 1585 threatens those key objectives. Immediately upon enactment, section 1083 would risk the freezing of substantial Iraqi assets in the United States—including those of the Development Fund for Iraq (DFI), the Central Bank of Iraq (CBI), and commercial entities in the United States in which Iraq has an interest. Section 1083 also would expose Iraq to new liability of at least several billion dollars by undoing judgments favorable to Iraq, by foreclosing available defenses on which Iraq is relying in pending litigation, and by creating a new Federal cause of action backed by the prospect of punitive damages to support claims that may previously have been foreclosed. This new liability, in turn, will only increase the potential for immediate entanglement of Iraqi assets in the United States. The aggregate financial impact of these provisions on Iraq would be devastating.

While my Administration objected to an earlier version of this provision in previous communications about the bill, its full impact on Iraq and on our relationship with Iraq has become apparent only in recent days. Members of my Administration are working with Members of Congress to fix this flawed provision as soon as possible after the Congress returns.

Section 1083 would establish unprecedented legal burdens on the allocation of Iraq's funds to where they are most needed. Since the fall of Saddam Hus-

sein, I have issued Executive Orders to shield from entanglement in lawsuits the assets of the DFI and the CBI. I have taken these steps both to uphold international legal obligations of the United States and to remove obstacles to the orderly reconstruction of Iraq. Section 1083 potentially would place these crucial protections of Iraq's core assets in immediate peril, by including a provision that might be misconstrued to supersede the protections I have put in place and to permit the judicial attachment of these funds. Iraq must not have its crucial reconstruction funds on judicial hold while lawyers argue and courts decide such legal assertions.

Moreover, section 1083 would permit plaintiffs to obtain liens on certain Iraqi property simply by filing a notice of pending action. Liens under section 1083 would be automatic upon filing a notice of a pending claim in a judicial district where Iraq's property is located, and they would reach property up to the amount of the judgment plaintiffs choose to demand in their complaints. Such pre-judgment liens, entered before claims are tested and cases are heard, are extraordinary and have never previously been available in suits in U.S. courts against foreign sovereigns. If permitted to become law, even for a short time, section 1083's attachment and lien provisions would impose grave—indeed, intolerable—consequences on Iraq.

Section 1083 also includes provisions that would expose Iraq to increased liability in lawsuits. Contrary to international legal norms and for the first time in U.S. history, a foreign sovereign would be liable for punitive damages under section 1083. Section 1083 removes defenses common for defendants in the United States—including *res judicata*, collateral estoppel, and statutes of limitation—upon which the Iraqi government has relied. And section 1083 would attempt to revive a \$959 million judgment against the new democratic Government of Iraq based on the misdeeds of the Saddam Hussein regime.

Exposing Iraq to such significant financial burdens would weaken the close partnership between the United States and Iraq during this critical period in Iraq's history. If Iraq's assets are frozen, even temporarily, that could reduce confidence in the Iraqi dinar and undermine the success of Iraq's monetary policy. By potentially forcing a close U.S. ally to withdraw significant funds from the U.S. financial system, section 1083 would cast doubt on whether the United States remains a safe place to invest and to hold financial assets. Iraqi entities would be deterred from engaging in commercial partnerships with U.S. businesses for fear of entangling assets in lawsuits. Section 1083 would be viewed with alarm by the international community and would invite reciprocal action against United States assets abroad.

The adjournment of the Congress has prevented my return of H.R. 1585 with-

in the meaning of Article I, section 7, clause 2 of the Constitution. Accordingly, my withholding of approval from the bill precludes its becoming law. The Pocket Veto Case, 279 U.S. 655 (1929). In addition to withholding my signature and thereby invoking my constitutional power to "pocket veto" bills during an adjournment of the Congress, I am also sending H.R. 1585 to the Clerk of the House of Representatives, along with this memorandum setting forth my objections, to avoid unnecessary litigation about the non-enactment of the bill that results from my withholding approval and to leave no doubt that the bill is being vetoed.

This legislation contains important authorities for the Department of Defense, including authority to provide certain additional pay and bonuses to servicemembers. Although I continue to have serious objections to other provisions of this bill, including section 1079 relating to intelligence matters, I urge the Congress to address the flaw in section 1083 as quickly as possible so I may sign into law the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008, as modified. I also urge the Congress to ensure that any provisions affecting servicemember pay and bonuses, as well as provisions extending expiring authorities, are retroactive to January 1, 2008.

GEORGE W. BUSH.

THE WHITE HOUSE, December 28, 2007.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The objections of the President will be spread at large upon the Journal, and the veto message and the bill will be printed as a House document.

MOTION OFFERED BY MR. HOYER

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I have a privileged motion at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. Hoyer moves that the veto message of the President, together with the accompanying bill, H.R. 1585, be referred to the Committee on Armed Services.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the motion to refer.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Accordingly, the veto message and the bill will be referred to the Committee on Armed Services.

RESIGNATION AS MEMBER OF COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following resignation as a member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, December 18, 2007.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House, House of Representatives.

DEAR SPEAKER PELOSI: This letter serves as a notice of resignation from the Foreign

Affairs Committee, effective today. At a time when our country has troops deployed in the field fighting against those who would perpetrate harm against our people, it was an honor to return, although briefly, to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs where these critical issues of national security are considered.

Sincere regards,

ROY BLUNT,
Republican Whip.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the resignation is accepted. There was no objection.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 4, rule I, the following enrolled bill was signed by Speaker pro tempore VAN HOLLEN on Friday, January 4, 2008:

H.R. 2640, to improve the National Instant Criminal Background Check System, and for other purposes.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2768, SUPPLEMENTAL MINE IMPROVEMENT AND NEW EMERGENCY RESPONSE ACT OF 2007

Ms. SLAUGHTER, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 110-508) on the resolution (H. Res. 918) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2768) to establish improved mandatory standards to protect miners during emergencies, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

H-2B VISAS

(Mr. BISHOP of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise to call upon my leadership to address an urgent need in my district that is affecting other areas across the country as well.

Two weeks ago, the cap on H-2B immigration visas for seasonal workers was reached. Consequently, many family-owned businesses that depend on such employees will be without the workforce they need to stay in business.

I support raising the cap on H-2B visas permanently and incorporating this change into broader immigration reform. Regrettably, partisanship blocked reform in the Senate last year. We must resolve to enact these smaller scale remedies we can agree upon today to alleviate the burden our broken immigration system imposes upon businesses as we continue to address economic and security challenges required to enact broader reform.

In the absence of such a consensus, and although I would prefer a vote on broader reform, I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting the Save Our Small and Seasonal Businesses Act and

related measures that would relieve business owners of the immediate threat caused by the freeze on H-2B visas. We cannot leave small businesses that want to do the right thing with the unacceptable choice of going out of business or hiring illegal workers.

CELEBRATING THE RETIREMENT OF REV. ROGER BAKER

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a faithful pastor who served a growing and vibrant church for 32 years. Rev. Roger Baker, who is retiring from ministry at Calvary Baptist Church in King, North Carolina, has given his life to ministry in the church and the surrounding community.

When my friend Rev. Baker first began pastoring at Calvary Baptist 32 years ago, it was a congregation of about 75. Today, the church has grown to nearly 900 under his astute leadership and pastoral care.

During Rev. Baker's tenure, the church started a local Christian school, Calvary Christian School; and he also founded a seminary to educate the next generation of church leadership.

As president of Calvary Baptist Bible College, Rev. Baker has helped to equip many for the role of pastoral teaching and care. He will continue to serve as a teaching professor at the seminary after his retirement.

Men like Rev. Baker do not often come along. His faithful witness in the community and sterling Christian testimony have touched countless lives as he strives to spread the good news. This man is not only a great pastor; he is a faithful Christian.

I congratulate Rev. Baker on his 32 years of service and wish him the very best in his kingdom work during retirement. The people of Calvary Baptist have been fortunate to call him their own.

□ 1945

IT IS TIME FOR AN ECONOMIC STIMULUS PACKAGE TO HELP HOMEOWNERS

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Today, Madam Speaker, we have the honor of celebrating the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King. I am reminded of the 40th year of his death and what he was committed to, that is, the equality of all people, the economic equality. And that is why in 1968 he was bringing to Washington poor people from around America.

It is time for an economic stimulus package, and the United States Congress must respond to the pain of the American people who are losing their

homes. An immediate moratorium on those who are being foreclosed on, an infusion of capital to help them save their homes, and a freeze on the adjustable rates of these individuals who are suffering, who have invested in their homes, paid for their homes, and are the victims of scandalous and unscrupulous individuals who would take advantage of them.

Let us keep the dream alive and fight for those who have invested in the American Dream. Let us put forward an economic stimulus package that will save the American people and their homes and really say that America is going toward the promised land.

Happy birthday, Dr. Martin Luther King. Thank you so very much for all that you have done for all America.

“MY RELIGION MADE ME DO IT”

(Mr. POE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, murder in the name of religion has struck again. This time it happened in Dallas, Texas.

On New Year's Day law enforcement officials found the bullet-riddled bodies of two teenage sisters, 17-year-old Sarah Said and 18-year-old Amina Said. They were found in the back seat of their father's taxicab.

Now their father, Yaser Said, a Muslim and an Egyptian-born immigrant, is on the run. Authorities believe he murdered the girls after he found out they had American boyfriends.

Family members say the murder was motivated by a Muslim tradition known as “honor killing.” According to this tradition, religious extremists justify homicide in the name of religion in order to correct the “shame” that a family member has brought on the family.

Well, in the United States it is absolutely never acceptable, let alone honorable, to murder your own kids. This criminal needs to be tried and sent to prison. We live in a Nation that values life and liberty. And no father has a right to kill his daughters and try to claim the defense, “My religion made me do it.”

And that's just the way it is.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE MEMPHIS LIBRARY AND INFORMATION CENTER

(Mr. COHEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, on Monday morning five libraries and five museums throughout the country were honored with medals at a ceremony that was presided over by Mrs. Laura Bush.

The Memphis Library and Information Center was one of the five libraries and the only big city library to be honored. I was honored to have nominated them for that recognition and honored to be there with them when the library was so recognized.

Libraries are very important to the future of this country, for people of all standings of wealth need access to books, access to computers, and access to other materials. The Memphis Library takes services to the community and gives people in their neighborhood the opportunity to read and make available to them cultural outreach.

We also have a television and radio station that is operated by our library, and it is an important facility, and I am proud that it's Tennessee's first facility to receive such an award and the first in the mid-South.

Congratulations to my city. You have a very proud congressman.

MOURNING THE LOSS OF JOHNNY GRANT, HONORARY MAYOR OF HOLLYWOOD

(Ms. WATSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. WATSON. Madam Speaker, it is with great sorrow that I learned of the death my dear friend Johnny Grant, known internationally as the honorary Mayor of Hollywood. His departure from our lives has created a significant void in the normal glitz and glamour of everyday Hollywood. Johnny was a symbol of great Hollywood movers and shakers who took sincere interest in creating goodwill worldwide.

Johnny's legendary accomplishments in Hollywood drew strongly from his roots in radio and television. He was one of television medium's earliest pioneers and stars. Johnny traveled the world to entertain U.S. troops in his role as the United Service Organization ambassador. He joined comedian Bob Hope in taking entertainers to war zones to perform for military personnel and was the first recipient of the highest honor awarded by the USO. Johnny was also a retired major general in the California State Military Reserve, a volunteer backup and support force of the National Guard.

Johnny Grant served as chairman of the Los Angeles City Fire Commission; the Los Angeles County Social Service Commission; and the Burbank, California Police Commission. More recently, he had been a member of the Los Angeles City Cultural Heritage Commission. He was the only person ever to twice receive an Order of California, the State's highest honor.

A lifelong bachelor, Johnny Grant was best known to television audiences around the world as the enthusiastic host alongside the more than 500 celebrities he inducted into the Hollywood Walk of Fame. With his ebullient style, Johnny was one of the west coast's most sought after masters of ceremony. He exceeded more than 5,000 civic and charity events. Johnny was also a humanitarian who produced hundreds of charity events where he was instrumental in raising millions of dollars for the USO, for the Boy Scouts, the Arthritis Foundation, police and fire services, veterans organizations, and others.

Although he has an honorary star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame, the real star, his presence and inspiration will be sorely missed. We will miss him. And just last month he completed his 60th trip to entertain servicemen and women abroad.

We extend our most heartfelt condolences to his family, colleagues, and his many close friends here on Capitol Hill, in California, and around the world.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. LEE). Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 7 o'clock and 53 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 2018

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. LEE) at 8 o'clock and 18 minutes p.m.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

DEATH PENALTY FOR CHILD RAPISTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, soon our United States Supreme Court will hear the case of Kennedy v. Louisiana and decide whether capital punishment is permitted in rape cases where the victim is a child that is 12 or under.

Patrick Kennedy was sentenced in Louisiana to death after a jury convicted him of raping his own 8-year-old daughter. The facts show that he even tried to cover up the rape by cleaning up the evidence and then he blamed the rape on two neighborhood boys.

New Louisiana law allows the death sentence for raping a child that is under the age of 12, so Kennedy v. Louisiana asks the Supreme Court, among other things, to decide whether the eighth amendment of the United States Constitution, the cruel and unusual punishment clause, permits a State to punish the crime of rape of a child under the death penalty.

In 1977, the Supreme Court decided that a death sentence for rape of an adult woman was unconstitutional under a case called Coker v. Georgia. Coker really didn't discuss child rape, even though the victim in that case was 16 years of age. But since the

Coker decision, State courts have interpreted it to limit death penalty crimes to certain murders. Those murders are what I call the murder-plus doctrine. There must not only be a homicide, but there must be some felony committed or some other unusual circumstance, like murder during a kidnapping, murder during a robbery, murder during a sexual assault, or murder of a police officer, and that is the doctrine that has been basically substantiated by the Supreme Court.

However, last year, the Louisiana Supreme Court ruled that Coker v. Georgia doesn't apply in their particular case of capital punishment and rape cases when the victim is under 12 because it would still be murder-plus, murder plus the victim was under the age of 12; thus, it would fulfill the Supreme Court's requirements under the Constitution.

No one has been executed in the United States for a crime other than murder since 1964. Many States, including my home State of Texas, before that time allowed the death penalty for robbery by firearm, kidnapping, and sexual assault. But since those days, only murder plus some other felony is allowed under our Constitution.

There are approximately 3,300 inmates on death row in the United States, and only two of them face the death penalty for an event that did not involve a homicide as well as a felony, and those two are the two that are on Louisiana's death row. One is the petitioner in the upcoming Supreme Court case that the Supreme Court will decide very soon; the other is an individual by the name of Richard Davis, who was recently sentenced to death in Louisiana for sexually assaulting a 5-year-old girl.

Louisiana argues that the rape of a child is like no other crime. It also points out that the recent enactment of similar laws has occurred in other States such as Georgia, Montana, Oklahoma, South Carolina and Texas, my home State. Louisiana argues that it is compelling evidence of a national trend toward treating child rape as a distinct type of crime from other types of crimes.

But the issue will be whether the Supreme Court will allow States to make this decision for themselves, or will the Supreme Court continue to mistakenly go down the path and rely on international law, as it did when it barred the death penalty for 17-year-olds in a case called Roper v. Simmons. In Texas, 17-year-olds are adults, but the Supreme Court said no longer can 17-year-olds be executed for any crime. Hopefully, the Supreme Court will quit using international law and decide whether it is constitutional or not to execute someone for raping a child under the age of 12 based on American jurisprudence and our Constitution.

Madam Speaker, a death sentence fits the crime of child rape because a child rape victim suffers for the rest of their natural lives. Madam Speaker,

before I came to Congress, I was a judge for 22 years in Texas, and before that I was a prosecutor.

Many years ago, when I prosecuted cases, I prosecuted an individual who raped a 9-year-old. When her mother testified on the witness stand, she would not refer to the crime as rape or as sexual assault. She referred to that crime as a fate worse than death. And when she explained to the jury what that meant, she was saying that being sexually assaulted as a child is a fate worse than death. Hopefully our Supreme Court will not require a child victim to be murdered before the Supreme Court will allow the death penalty for the perpetrator, because it is, as this lady has testified many years ago, a fate worse than death. When a person commits a crime of sexual assault, they try to steal the soul of a victim.

So, Madam Speaker, I support a State's right to decide for itself whether or not a child rapist should be executed or not, because children are more important than rapists.

And that's just the way it is.

BEGIN IMPEACHMENT HEARINGS ON RESOLUTION OF IMPEACHMENT OF VICE PRESIDENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. WEXLER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WEXLER. Madam Speaker, on November 7, 2007, this House voted to refer Congressman KUCINICH's resolution of impeachment of Vice President CHENEY to the House Judiciary Committee. As a member of the Judiciary Committee, I now ask that we immediately begin impeachment hearings.

The issues at hand are far too serious to ignore. DICK CHENEY faces credible allegations of abuse of power that if proven may well constitute high crimes and misdemeanors.

Did the Vice President manipulate intelligence to push this Nation into war based on false pretense?

Did the Vice President unmask a covert CIA agent for political purposes?

Did the Vice President order the illegal surveillance of Americans and the illegal use of torture?

These questions must be answered.

Just recently, former White House Press Secretary Scott McClellan revealed that the Vice President and his staff purposely gave him false information to report to the American people, a clear obstruction of justice.

This administration has undermined the checks and balances of our government by brazenly ignoring congressional subpoenas and recklessly claiming executive privilege. Impeachment hearings are the only way to force the Bush administration to answer questions and tell the truth.

Congress must take the first step by enforcing the subpoenas against Harriet Miers and the President's Chief of Staff and hold them in contempt of

Congress. In this time, at this moment, Congress must stand for the truth. If we fail to act, history may well judge us complicit in the alleged crimes of Vice President CHENEY.

Madam Speaker, a growing chorus of Americans are calling for accountability. The response from Congress thus far has been silence and denial.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Florida is reminded to refrain from personal references toward the Vice President.

Mr. WEXLER. Madam Speaker, not long ago I launched a Web site in support of my call for hearings. The people responded en masse. After only 4 weeks, over 189,000 Americans have registered their support for hearings, names I now hold in my hand. These frustrated and patriotic Americans come from all 50 States and share one common goal: accountability for the Bush-Cheney administration and a rebirth of Congress as an equal branch of government.

So many have been working on this cause before me. Groups like Democrats.com, AfterDowningStreet.org, CodePink, ImpeachBush.org, Impeach for Peace and others. All told, there have been well over 1 million signatures urging us to take action.

Tomorrow, I will deliver these names to my colleagues on the Judiciary Committee with a letter to my friend Chairman CONYERS calling for hearings. I will ask my colleagues to sign this letter. In addition, tomorrow, and continuing every day for months, I will publish in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD several thousand names of supporters who have signed up.

History demands that we take action, because the case against Vice President CHENEY is far stronger than the illegalities surrounding Watergate. When compared to the partisan and petty allegations made against President Clinton by Ken Starr and the GOP Congress, the true gravity of the case against the Vice President appears in its devastating clarity. In fact, in the history of our Nation, we have never encountered a moment where the actions of a President or a Vice President have more strongly demanded the use of the power of impeachment.

I have heard the arguments that it is too late, that we have run out of time, and that we don't have the votes. While today there may not be enough votes to impeach, it is premature to think that such support would not exist after hearings. Let us remember that it wasn't until after hearings began that the Watergate tapes emerged. Who knows what facts will comfort when the full truth is told in this case?

Arguing that it is too late signals to future administrations that in the waning months in office they are immune from constitutional accountability. Hold hearings which will put the evidence on the table, and the evidence alone must determine the outcome.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Visitors in the gallery are guests of the House and shall refrain from displays of approval or disapproval.

□ 2030

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. CUMMINGS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. LEWIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. LEWIS of California addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

COMMEMORATING THE 79TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BIRTH OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, today marks the 79th anniversary of the birth of history's greatest champion of peace, Dr. King, who became the youngest person ever to win the Nobel Peace Prize when he received that great honor at age 35.

At the King Center in Atlanta, visitors are asked to take a pledge that includes the words: "I pledge to do everything I can to make America and the world a place where equality and justice, freedom and peace will grow and flourish."

Today, Madam Speaker, America needs to hear Dr. King's message of peace more than ever before, because our Nation's leaders continue to take reckless actions to put the world on the road to ever-widening conflicts. We have seen many new examples of war-mongering in just the past few days and weeks. Twelve days ago, a leading Republican candidate for President said it would be fine for him if the American occupation of Iraq continued for another 100 years. Think about that. He would ask babies born 80 years from now to go to Baghdad for a commitment that the American people want to end right now.

Now, President Bush continues his saber-rattling over Iran. Days ago, he warned that the world must take action against that country before it is too late. Isn't this a clear signal that the administration is still considering an attack against Iran, even though we know that it is not developing nuclear weapons that can threaten the United States?

Therefore, as a lesson to be learned, we don't know all the facts about the

incident with the Iranian boats yet; but until we know the whole story, I would advise my colleagues to be wary of coming to any conclusions too soon.

And as if that weren't enough, the administration told us again that the occupation of Iraq will continue indefinitely, right into the next Presidency. But this morning we learned that it could last through several more Presidencies. The Iraqi defense minister was quoted in the press as saying that Iraq will not be able to take full responsibility for its internal security until the year 2012, nor responsibility for defending its borders until at least 2018. Yet, it has been over 2½ years since this administration announced that its strategy in Iraq is: as the Iraqis stand up, we will stand down. And it has been over a year since the President's famous surge speech where he said: "I have made it clear that America's commitment is not open-ended." But, Madam Speaker, it is.

Madam Speaker, America loses its moral authority every day that our occupation of Iraq continues. According to a study conducted by the Iraqi Government and the World Health Organization that was published last week, 151,000 Iraqis died of violence in the first 3 years of our occupation. The study also found that there was a 60 percent increase in nonviolent deaths in Iraq, including deaths from childhood infections.

Martin Luther King understood that, if America is to lead the world, we must be more than a powerhouse; we must be a moral powerhouse.

I ask my colleagues to devote this session of the 110th Congress to the responsible redeployment of our troops out of Iraq and the creation of a new foreign policy committed to the values that Dr. King espoused: equality and justice, freedom and peace.

100-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA SORORITY, INC.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. WATSON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WATSON. Today, Madam Speaker, January 15, 2008, is an auspicious day for Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, as it celebrates its 100th birthday anniversary. Founded in 1908 on the campus of Howard University in Washington, D.C., Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority is the first Greek-letter organization founded by African American college women. Alpha Kappa Alpha is a sisterhood of women who have consciously chosen to improve the socioeconomic conditions in their city, State, Nation, and the world.

Its history tells a story of changing patterns of human relations in America in the 20th century. The small group who organized the sorority was just one generation removed from slavery. The sorority has directed its efforts toward improving the quality of life for all mankind while living the sorority motto: by culture and by merit.

I am proud to count myself as a member of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority; and throughout the years I have witnessed firsthand how the power, vision, and commitment of our founders and members have inspired AKA to endure and prosper through 10 decades. Our membership includes high-profile women from all walks of life and from all disciplines, including the astronaut and physician Dr. Mae Jemison, poet Maya Angelou, actress Phylicia Rashad, entertainer Gladys Knight, entrepreneur Suzanne de Passe, U.K. member of Parliament Diane Abbot, performing artist Alicia Keys, Indira Gandhi, and a host of other regional, national, and international political leaders. My colleagues SHEILA JACKSON-LEE and EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON, also retired Congresswoman Eva Clayton, and the late Juanita Millender-McDonald are sorors, too.

Alpha Kappa Alpha led the way with such programs as Vocational Guidance, Foreign Fellowship, the Mississippi Health Project, Health Programs, Non-partisan Council, the American Council on Human Rights, Sickle Cell Anemia, Job Corps, the purchase of Martin Luther King's birthplace, the establishment of Educational Advancement Foundation, and the African Village Development Program, among a few.

The AKAs have always understood that the world's greatest asset is its youth, and developed several integral programs in an effort to increase their opportunities. These programs include PIMS, or Partnership in Mathematics and Science; ON TRACK: Organizing Nurturing, Team-building, Respecting, Achieving, Counseling, and Knowing; Ivy AKAdemy; and the Young Authors Program.

Inspired by the vision, Celebrating Our Past, Serving Our Community, Honoring Our Sisterhood, women from around the world have gathered in our Nation's Capital today to honor this anniversary, celebrate our achievements, and resolve to build on the legacy of our founders by strengthening our commitment. Today, the sorority donated \$1 million to Howard University and \$10,000 to the Andrew Rankin Chapel.

On July 10-11, 2008, the AKAs, under the astute leadership of Dr. Barbara A. McKinzie, Centennial International president, will host its Centennial Boule here in the United States Capital, the sorority's birthplace. More than 20,000 members of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority will tell the Nation and the world the story of 20 women who started a movement which advanced a people and changed the course of history.

And I ask all of you to join me in acknowledging this great milestone as Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority embarks on its second century of service, the bedrock of our sorority, and excellence. It was true in 1908 and it is true today.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gen-

tleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DEFAZIO addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

HONORING THOR HESLA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. WU) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WU. Madam Speaker, America has lost a great public servant. Thor Hesla died in Kabul, Afghanistan last night, a victim of the Taliban.

That Thor should pass at the hands of religious extremists is perhaps one of the great ironies of life because he was such a strong proponent of the humane, human virtues in life. He worked in tough places, tough jobs in America, in Kosovo, in Afghanistan, always promoting peace, democracy, and the general public welfare. He worked so many hard, dangerous jobs, and he was such a colorful person that he was larger than life. And I guess there are some of us who came to believe that the bullets would always go around him, and in his own particularly human way, Thor had become a touch immortal.

I owe him a deep debt of friendship and gratitude. He was my 1998 campaign manager, and we won a hard-fought campaign under his leadership. But that was the least of it. It was what he did afterwards. His friendship, his support, and his wise advice, which I was sometimes wise enough to accept, that was what for me set him apart and built our deep relationship. And I believe that there are hundreds of people across this country and perhaps thousands of people around the world who similarly feel this bond of friendship and this debt of gratitude to Thor. America and the world are better for his life and his work.

Earlier, I used the word "victim" in connection with Thor; and I misspoke, because Thor was no one's victim. He chose his life, he chose his work, and he chose Kabul.

Because of events earlier during the recess, I had an opportunity to speak with my son about life and its end. And while there are many ways to live well, to live a good life, there are few, if any, good ways to pass on. But if there are any, it is to pass on in the company of friends and family or to pass on for a cause. Now, Thor wasn't with his family in Atlanta or here in Washington, his sister, his brother-in-law, his nieces, or his parents; but he was with a family and a circle of friends, the family of those who care, the friends of those who care for others and who care to risk for others. He died in the cause of bringing some small measure of peace, prosperity, and democracy to those who are in dire need of those things.

So tonight we mourn, we remember, we celebrate the life of Thor Hesla. America has lost a fine public servant, but he is now a public servant for all

those in all the ages who care to remember those who care and sacrifice for others.

CENTENNIAL FOUNDING OF THE ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA SORORITY, INC.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, this evening I rise to commemorate the centennial of the founding of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., the first Greek-letter organization established by black college women in America. This prestigious organization, founded at Howard University by nine visionary women in 1908, at a period when Jim Crow laws flourished in the law books, knew the rigors of their journey during the early 1900s. The organization, which has grown to 200,000 members in 975 chapters worldwide, includes an extraordinary collection of women, who now encompass diverse ethnicities and nationalities and are united by a bond of sisterhood and a commitment to service.

As a member of the Alpha Kappa Omega Graduate Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority in Houston, Texas, I am proud to honor this historic milestone and welcome my sorors to the birthplace of Alpha Kappa Alpha at Howard University in Washington, DC. This evening, the sorority will conclude a 4-day salute that culminated in a gala week of tributes, salutes, and praise. Today, one hundred years ago, amazing sisterhood, the passion for humanitarian service, and the campaign for education brought nine ardent women together to form Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

Alpha Kappa Alpha was founded to touch lives, improve the stature of women and serve humankind. Its mission is to develop leaders, expand Alpha Kappa Alpha's economic achievements, and ensure that the Sorority is fully engaged in achieving its possible goals. Sojourner Truth once said, that "If women want any rights more than [they've] got, why don't they just take them and not be talking about it." This quote embodies the spirit that the determined women of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. exhibit in order to attain the long-awaited goals of freedom and equality.

The sorority is "home" to college presidents, deans, directors of Fortune 500 companies, judges, mayors, Members of Congress, state legislatures, city councils, and school boards. This sorority has provided the foundation for intellectuals such as Sharon Pratt Kelly, the first woman to serve as mayor of Washington, DC, Angie Brookes, the first woman President of the United Nations, the long revered Rosa Parks, mother of the Civil Rights Movement, Azie Taylor Morton, the only African-American to hold the position of Treasurer of the United States, and First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt. Alpha Kappa Alpha women have served in the United States Armed Services and devoted their lives to saving ours. I salute those women today who are active or retired military personnel. They and women such as Lt. Col. Anita McMiller, Deputy Legislative Assistant to Chairman of Joint Chiefs of Staff, are the heroes that should be emulated by the next generation.

AKA's have long referred to founder Ethel Hedgeman Lyle as the "guiding light," a figu-

rative phrase that insists upon one's aptitude, resilience, unwavering service, and valor. President George W. Bush, in his address at the 55th Inauguration, stated that:

Our nation relies on men and women who look after a neighbor and surround the lost with love. Americans, at our best, value the life we see in one another, and must always remember that even the unwanted have worth.

At a time when our Nation, in fact the world, has experienced unprecedented upheavals, Alpha Kappa Alpha has stayed the course of its mission and provided an anchor for scores of individuals and families by empowering communities through our committed service. A service that has endured 100 years because Barbara A. McKinzie, the Centennial International President, declares that it was built on bedrock of strength.

I am proud to stand on the floor of the House tonight and pay tribute to this extraordinary organization, which has been helping our young women find the support, courage, and passion they need to become leaders in our society.

□ 2045

OVERRIDE THE VETO OF PRESIDENT BUSH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SESTAK) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SESTAK. Madam Speaker, tomorrow the House will vote on whether to override the veto of President Bush on the Defense authorization bill. He vetoed this bill because, within it, it permitted a servicemember who had been tortured in the first Gulf War to not only successfully sue the Iraqi Government, but having won that case, to be able to be given what the court awarded him or her.

I am concerned and fear that tomorrow this House will vote to recommit to send that bill back to the House Armed Services Committee and to put a waiver in that bill which will permit President Bush to be able to overrule a court that has now awarded, as it has, a servicemember, having been tortured, the judgment that that court gave of Iraqi monies that are held here in the United States.

The reason for that is the Iraqi Government has threatened to pull out of the United States \$25 billion that it has invested over here. Every month we put almost \$12 billion into Iraq in addition to those that wear the cloth of this Nation.

This is a good bill in many ways, providing a pay raise of 3.5 percent that is needed for the men and women that serve our Nation, but I do not understand how this President nor how this Congress could ever permit a man or a woman who has worn the cloth of this Nation in a war to have sued successfully, having been tortured, as law permits, to now not be permitted to gain the judgment that a court has given him or her merely because the Iraqi Government, obligated under inter-

national law for anything that prior governments in Iraq or any country that another successive government has succeeded to be responsible for merely because that government has threatened to take out of this country \$25 billion.

We should vote to try to override this veto with the many good things in this bill. Many of us talk about taking care of our men and women. How can those who have not only come close to giving the ultimate sacrifice by torture, and who have continued to serve this Nation as they have come home, not be successful in being given what the court has provided them in their judgment?

AMERICAN HEALTH CARE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. LEE). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I come to the House floor tonight to talk, like I often do, a little bit about health care. And this is the first day that the Congress is back in session after the December recess. And legitimately, someone might ask is it maybe a little early to begin this type of discussion. But the reality is, since we didn't finish our work in the last year, it is entirely appropriate for us to begin this year talking about some of those same things that were left undone at the end of 2007. Specifically, the reauthorization of the State Children's Health Insurance Program. An 18-month extension was passed at the end of the last Congress. I was grateful for that. I voted in favor of that. But the reality is this Congress should do its work and reauthorize this program for the full 10 years as it was intended when the reauthorization was up last September.

We had a lot of opportunities to do this in my committee, the Committee on Energy and Commerce, but we failed to have a markup in subcommittee. We had a markup in full committee that was little more than a charade. We brought a very bad bill to the House floor in August. It was passed, but was not taken up by the Senate because the bill was so flawed.

Then we had the Senate bill come to the House floor and it was a new bill, not a conference committee report. We had ample opportunity to debate that and take it back to committee and have a subcommittee hearing and subcommittee markup, a full committee hearing and a full committee markup, but we chose not to do that. We brought that same bill to the floor and voted on it. The House passed because they have a majority on the other side, and the President vetoed it and the veto was sustained.

The same bill was brought up a second time in early October. The same result. The bill was passed, and the bill was vetoed and the veto was sustained.

In the interim, many of us worked to try to overcome some of the obstacles to passage for this bill because we felt this was the correct thing to do. But the reality was that politics trumped policy. And at the end of the day, the best we could muster, at the end of December, at the very last minute, was to pass an 18-month extension.

Madam Speaker, perhaps I should be grateful for that, because with an 18-month extension we will be past the next Presidential election before we are forced to look at this bill again. But I hope this Congress does not take that tactic. I hope this Congress takes seriously its obligation to study this problem and find out where the difficulties occurred last time and see if we can't come to the floor with a bill that could be broadly supported by both sides of the aisle. I think that is a possibility. But the reality, again last fall, some people thought the politics were more important than the policy. And the end result, well, we saw what the end result was.

The same thing happened with our Medicare proposals. We have every year this mad scramble at the end of the year. If Congress doesn't do something because of the odd formulas by which we pay physicians in this country, physicians that we have asked to take care of our Medicare patients, but we have a very odd formula by which we reimburse those physicians. And as a consequence, every year at the last minute we are left scrambling, seeing if we can't do something. It is called the physician fix. It is almost like something that will happen on the winter solstice every single year, because if we don't do something by January 1, massive pay cuts are administered to the physician corps in this country. Again, the very physicians whom we have asked to take care of some of our sickest and most complex patients, and these physicians this past year faced a 10 percent pay cut.

Now, at the last minute, we did do something to forestall the pay cut. We passed a rather modest bill to give a one-half percent positive update to physicians who take care of Medicare patients. But we only did it for 6 months' time, which means we literally kicked the can down the field. And the reality is we will have to face this again in June. And guess what? The deeper we go into this year, the more politics will take over, because it is a Presidential election year, and it is a Presidential election year the likes of which this country has not seen since 1952, or perhaps even 1928, when both sides are running for essentially what is an open seat in the United States Presidency.

Well, I did come to the floor tonight because I wanted to have a candid conversation about health care. I think many in this Congress know I had a life before Congress. I was actually a practicing physician for 25 years back in my home State of Texas. So I feel I can approach this problem from both the

provider level, on the basis of that 25 years in practice, as well now as the policymaking level, the legislative level, because obviously we do deal with a lot of health care here on the floor of the House of Representatives.

I want to talk in some greater detail about the issues pertaining to Medicare, and I will get to that, but let me step back and talk about where the status of health care is in this country, because when you watch the Presidential debate, it seems everyone is talking about health care. Perhaps that is a good thing. In reality, the conflict in Iraq is not as divisive as it was a year ago. And as a consequence, you hear less talk about this country's involvement in Iraq. And as a consequence, you hear more talk about domestic issues. Health care and the economy have replaced some of the rhetoric that we heard during the 2006 fall election and some of the rhetoric that we heard on the floor of the House a scant year ago regarding this country's foreign policy. In reality, that is a good thing.

It is a strange phenomenon when this country is prevailing in a conflict that we stop talking about it. I can't think of any other time in American history when that was the mindset. Nevertheless, that is what is occurring now. Again, as a consequence, we are talking a good deal more about health care.

When you hear the talk about health care out on the campaign trail, you recognize there are some fairly different ideas that are out there and being talked about. And it is not that one person has any quarter on the best ideas, but it certainly lays the issue at the feet of the American people that there are very different ways of dealing with this problem, very different ways of setting the goal, very different ideas about what the goal should be, and obviously very, very different ideas about how to accomplish that.

In fact, there is a lot of discussion about should we talk in terms of reform of our system of health care or is, in fact, the situation beyond the reform and we need to talk about actually transforming our method of health care in this country. And we will hear that debate play out. We will hear talk about things like mandates and universal coverage. Those are debates we should have at the national level, and those are debates where there should be broad participation.

Madam Speaker, we lost a very good friend in Texas at the end of December. Ric Williamson was the chairman of our Texas Department of Transportation. He died rather suddenly at the end of year, an individual who was younger than I am; so needless to say, it was unexpected. During the memorial service that was held for Mr. Williamson later that week, a lot of discussion of how he had been a State legislator before he took the position with the Texas Department of Transportation, and many of his friends and former colleagues got up to talk about

Ric Williamson's life. And almost to a person they talked about how Ric Williamson regarded politics as a full contact sport. That is you went at it with everything you had, but you do it openly. You do it in the committee room. You do it in the light of day. You don't do it behind closed doors in some secret conference in the middle of the night and cut a deal one side with the other.

That is what this debate should be. It may be hard. We may come at each other again with full body contact in this debate, but it should be done on the floor of the House. It should be done on the floor of the committee rooms and not in a back room where a deal is cut at the last minute.

Many options face us in this country. And again, we will hear a great deal of debate about things like universal coverage and mandates. We will hear a great deal about things like do we in fact craft policies that people actually want, or do we decide what policies people want and then administer them accordingly.

But, Madam Speaker, freedom is the foundation of life. In my home State of Texas, that is very much the case. We thrive on unlimited options. Two years ago when we had the great Medicare part D debates, I remember at first there was a lot of criticism that no one will sign up to deliver these plans. There will be no plans. There will be a default government plan.

So guess what happened? In my home State of Texas, we had 45, 46, 47 companies sign up to provide these drug plans. And then we were told there were too many choices. The reality is Americans thrive on choices. And choices are what this debate, in my opinion, a lot of what this debate should be about. It is what has made this country great. And, in fairness, it is what has made, at least from a scientific basis, the health care in this country the envy of the world.

Well, again, the same kinds of options are going to be out there facing Americans during the debates, and I urge them to pay attention at every level. I know I must direct my remarks to the Chair, Madam Speaker, but if I could speak directly to the American people, I would encourage them to pay a great deal of attention to what is talked about, who is offering what, are they believable, and, in the end, do we think anything will really change no matter how many times they mention the word.

When it comes to innovation, the United States of America is undisputably the world's leader. In the last 25 years, 17 of the past 25 Nobel Prizes in medicine have been awarded to American scientists working in labs. That is a phenomenal record. Four out of the six most important discoveries of the last 25 years have occurred in this country, things like advanced scanning techniques, things like statin drugs to lower cholesterol, things like coronary artery stents and bypasses,

things that have extended life to citizens who 30 years ago, quite frankly, there might not have been any help, there might not have been any hope.

Now, innovations can improve health and life expectancy. It certainly does not mean that can't improve on a good thing, that we step back and rest on the accomplishments that are already there. But it certainly means in the environment that we provide in this country, quite honestly an environment that tolerates uncertainty from time to time, an environment that rewards risk-taking from time to time, that environment is a good thing for the furtherance of the science of medicine and ultimately a good thing for health care in this country.

Madam Speaker, one of the lead articles in this week's *New England Journal of Medicine*, and I apologize, I have forgotten the author's name. I just read it briefly on my way up here this morning, but it talked about how doctors now need to be prepared for a patient coming into their office and saying, I just had extensive genetic testing done on my own at a low cost, and now I have some information about my own human genome, and I would like you to help me interpret that.

□ 2100

Indeed, that day has arrived. And doctors in this country do need to be aware of these changes and do need to be prepared to answer their patients' questions and provide insight and direction where insight and direction occur, and be able to provide the type of environment that will allow continued learning about this new science that has just arrived on our doorstep.

Two companies now offer genetic testing, genomic testing, more appropriately, simply taking a swab of the inside of a cheek and sending it off to a company and waiting a few weeks and they come back and tell you all kinds of things about what your genomic makeup is.

Madam Speaker, when I think back to when I first entered the doors of Parkland Hospital in July of 1977, I would have never believed, never believed that this type of technology would be available in my lifetime, let alone that this type of technology would be available for a reasonable cost, and such a reasonable cost that people just simply elect to have it done to find out a little bit more about themselves and perhaps underscore some risk factors that they already knew were there and perhaps alleviate some concern about risk factors that may not carry the weight that the patient thought they did.

It's a phenomenal time that we've entered into, truly a transformational time in medicine.

And it has happened before. During the last century, I can think of three times when the scientific advances were so rapid and so solid, and at the same time, there was so much social change brought by bodies that legis-

late, bodies that govern, that the practice of medicine was forever changed.

Look what happened back around 1910. We were coming from a time where blistering, burning and bleeding were thought to be the peer-reviewed, the evidence-based proper treatments to administer to patients who were in distress. And very abruptly, the world changed. And the world changed because we found out more about the practice of anesthesiology. The world changed because we found out a little bit about blood-banking. The world changed because we found out a great deal more about the science and manufacture of vaccines. And then at the same time when all of that science was consolidating in the practice of medicine, we had the Flexner Commission and subsequently the Flexner Report commissioned by the United States Congress. And those activities now administered more at the State level; but suddenly we had that consolidation of medical school curricula across the country. Medical schools used to be able to teach all manner of things. Suddenly, they were conscripted or somewhat conscribed in what they could teach, but they began to teach evidence-based scientific fact in the medical schools. And it was just at the right time, because the scientific body of information was changing very rapidly.

And if we fast forward to the middle of the 1940s, a country at war, 10 or 12 years before, Sir Alexander Fleming had found an unusual curiosity in his laboratory petri dish: a penicillin mold could inhibit the growth of bacteria. Well, that was an astounding discovery, but it was really little more than a laboratory curiosity until an American company came up with a method of producing large quantities of this substance that inhibited bacterial growth, and thus began the modern pharmaceutical industry in this country. But it was a good thing, because we were a country at war. And, indeed, that infection-fighting antibiotic went from a laboratory curiosity that was intensely labor intensive to produce and intensely expensive to administer, and it went to something that was available to the average person in this country. And, indeed, antibiotics were available to treat our soldiers who were injured during the landing at Normandy, and I dare say many life and limb were spared because of the availability and the inexpensive availability of that antibiotic.

Another rather astounding scientific accomplishment that occurred at the same time, cortisone had been discovered several years before but cortisone was not commercially available. The way they got cortisone back then was to extract it from the adrenal gland of an ox. Well, if the ox was not anxious to give up their adrenal gland, you can imagine that was a pretty labor-intensive process.

But an individual that we honored on the floor of this House during the last

Congress, Dr. Percy Julian, a Ph.D. biochemist, came up with a way of producing cortisone from a plant precursor, from a soybean precursor. Again, same situation: suddenly you had a medicine that was profoundly useful, but only in limited application because it was so expensive and so hard to obtain in the amounts necessary to treat a patient, and now suddenly it was readily available and it was available at a very low cost because it now could be mass produced.

Well, these two striking phenomena occurred in the 1940s. And what else happened in the 1940s? Again, we're a country at war. The President wanted to prevent an inflationary spiral, or an inflationary cycle; so he enacted wage and price controls. Employers wanted to keep their employees working. They didn't want someone else stealing their employees away, because employees were at a premium. The vast majority of Americans were off involved in fighting the war. So employers came up with the idea of maybe let's offer some fringe benefits, health insurance, retirement benefits. And wait a minute. Don't think we can do that because of the wage and price controls. But a court case ensued, as so often-times happened, and the Supreme Court ruled that indeed these benefits could be offered, and not only were they not in violation of the wage and price control statutes, but they also could be administered as pre-tax expenses. So suddenly we had the vast social change of employer-derived health insurance arriving rather suddenly in the 1940s; and at the same time you, doctors, for the first time in the history of medicine had a cheap, inexpensive way of combating infection and treating people with other inflammatory conditions with cortisone.

Again, fast forward to the 1960s. Big changes were on the horizon. In fact, in 1945, President Roosevelt died of malignant hypertension, died of a stroke.

In the mid-1960s we were beginning to develop medicines that treated accelerated hypertension, or malignant hypertension. We were developing medicines that could treat psychoses. We were developing the first medicines that were now known as antidepressants; a lot of changes on the horizon.

And what else changed in the mid-1960s? For the first time, the Federal Government got involved in a big way, in a big way, in paying for health care with the passage of Medicare in 1965 and, subsequently, Medicaid thereafter. And now we're at a time in our country's history, where almost 50 cents out of every health care dollar that's spent originates right here on the floor of the House of Representatives, because of the vast expansions of the expenditures in Medicare, Medicaid, VA system, Federal prison system, Indian Health Service, a lot of different ways where the Federal Government has a participatory role in health care, one that quite frankly was never envisioned 40 years ago.

So the world indeed has changed because of some of the social changes that was brought about by changes in this Congress.

Well, I submit, Madam Speaker, that the world of medicine is on the brink of another such transformational change. I've already alluded to the changes that are going to happen in the realm of genomic medicine, a lot of advances in the types of scanning that are available, the types of imaging that are available. Medical care in this country is going to become a great deal more personalized with the development of genomic medicine. It is of necessity going to be more participatory, but at the same time more preventive. And these are good things. These are reasons to make one excited about a career in health care and in some ways I'm envious of the young people today who look up from their desk in high school or college and say, I want to do that; I want a career in health care. I know it takes a long time, I know the government's interfering at a lot of different levels, but I want a career in health care because it's so exciting. And there's still that basic altruistic feeling inside of a lot of us in health care that we want to do that because it's the right thing to do.

Well, we are on the cusp of a true transformational time in health care in this country. Now, can Congress properly interact with that transformation as it occurs? It's very difficult, and our history is not great in that regard because Congress is inherently a transactional body. We take money from here and we move it over here. We create winners and losers in this system. And all too often the transactional can be the enemy of the transformational. And it is our job, our job, every one of us who sits here in a seat in this House of Representatives, to ensure that our transactional bias does not interfere with the transformation as it's occurring under our very feet.

Congress can't legislate the transformations going on in health care. It's happening anyway. It's happening whether we want it to or not. But Congress can certainly interfere with that transformation if we don't set the proper regulatory tone, if we don't provide the proper liability environment, if we don't provide the proper incentives. Congress can actually be the enemy of transformation.

And, Madam Speaker, there are several more things that I want to cover this evening. But I see I'm joined by one of my colleagues, one of my colleagues in the House of medicine as well as one of my colleagues in the House of Representatives. And I would like to yield to the gentleman from Georgia such time as he may consume to likely address the issue of medical liability, because that is a big aspect of when we talk about health care reform in this country. It's a big part of the equation. So I'll yield to my friend from Georgia.

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Texas, my col-

league; and as he pointed out, we're both in our prior life MDs and both in the same specialty, OB/GYN. I practiced a little bit longer than the gentleman from Texas, Dr. BURGESS; but we certainly know of what we speak in regard to the stress and strain of everyday life, a work day in a physician practice across this country, whatever specialty it might be.

I was listening in my office just a few minutes ago, Mr. Speaker, to the gentleman from Texas, Dr. BURGESS, as he talked about some of the things that we failed to do in the first session of this 110th Congress last year, 2007. He started off his discussion talking a little bit about that, the SCHIP program. I think most people, all of our colleagues of course, understand SCHIP is an acronym for State Children's Health Insurance Program, as Representative BURGESS pointed out, enacted 10 years ago. It was a good, a good program. I think 1997, a 10-year authorization for this program, and it would expire. We wanted to see, of course, how it would work, was it going to be a good thing. So when you put sunsets on programs that makes sense, because sometimes ideas don't turn out so good. But this one really did.

And the basic concept, Mr. Speaker, as we all know, was to try to help parents have health insurance for their children when they were in a situation where their income was too much to qualify for safety-net programs, in particular the Medicaid program; they were making more than that minimum amount. But, yet, in no way were they coming close to having enough income, discretionary income to pay even their portion of a health insurance premium for their children if their employer happened to cover part of it. And, of course, many didn't.

So this program was a wildly successful program covering about 6 million children a year, Mr. Speaker, and spending about \$5 billion a year in the process. And it was a Federal/State matching program, more generous on the part of the Federal Government, the taxpayers across this country, than the Medicaid program, which was more a 55/45 sharing. The SCHIP program was a better deal, if you will, for State governments. And it worked so well, of course, that there were 6 million children covered, I stated, and it was estimated that in some States that there were children that were falling through the safety net and not getting the coverage because States like my own of Georgia, and my own district, the 11th of Georgia, we were running out of money.

So I think clearly, as this program came to its expiration date this past year, everybody in this body, in this House and in the other body, in the Senate, I think all 435 Members realized we wanted to reauthorize this program and we needed to spend a little bit more money to make sure that those children that were eligible, needed the coverage, there would be enough money available for them.

□ 2115

Most people estimated that about 1 million additional children, 750,000 to 1 million children, we have some of them in the State of Georgia, needed that coverage. So President Bush in his wisdom said let's reauthorize this program and let's increase the spending by 20 percent, and I thought that was a pretty generous thing; that would cover these additional children.

But as Dr. BURGESS pointed out, Mr. Speaker, the Democratic majority came to the floor with a bill that was not even vetted in committee, certainly no Member of the minority party had much chance at all to see this bill, that wanted to increase coverage to up to 10 million children. Now, we were covering 6 million, and they arbitrarily wanted to increase that coverage to 10 million. So that's an additional 4 million children, Mr. Speaker, when by anybody's estimate there were no more than 1 million that were in this range that warrant getting coverage.

So I honestly believe that the Democratic majority wanted to bring forward a piece of legislation that in no way could any fiscally responsible Member of this body vote in favor of. And it's hard to stand up here and say what people's motives are, but I think the gentleman from Texas alluded to it earlier. There are a lot of politics involved in this one, Mr. Speaker, and of course, here we are now, we ultimately we have an 18-month extension. But we need to come together. This is just a perfect example, in the health care arena in particular, where we can and should come together in a bipartisan way to do things for the benefit of the American people to provide better health care.

We like to tout that we have the greatest health care system in the world. Maybe we do. But sometimes I wonder, and clearly, I think there are things that we could do in a bipartisan way to improve it, and Dr. BURGESS has mentioned it. He's talked about the payment formula, that flawed formula, in regard to paying our physicians, and so it's no surprise that not only are more and more of them unwilling to accept Medicare patients because they're not even being reimbursed enough to cover their expenses, there's no surprise to me when I picked up the Sunday newspaper, the Atlanta newspaper in my hometown of Marietta this past weekend, and there's this big full page ad where one of the chain drugstores is now opening up these clinics, manned and "womanned" by men and women who are not MD's, but they're nurse practitioners. They're very skilled. They're trained. They certainly are dedicated, and the fees for seeing them are anywhere from \$60 to \$75 for a 15- or 20-minute visit.

So what you're seeing is so much of medicine is not an MD providing the care. It's these situations like these drop-in clinics in chain drugstores. I don't think this is the way it should be,

and I think we can do things like enact tort reform to take some of the pressure off of the physicians so that there's not so much defensive medicine. And of course, that runs up the costs tremendously.

Tort reform is hugely important. Dr. BURGESS and I, Mr. Speaker, have worked very hard in the 5 years into our 6 years as Members of this body trying to get that passed. We have been trying to get association health plans where people can come together in an industry and purchase health insurance across State lines, free of all these mandates of the individual States. Fifty different States have all these mandates on health insurance policies that drive up the premiums.

I thank Dr. BURGESS for taking the time tonight on our first day back in this second session of the 110th to continue to talk about health care. This is clearly a passion of his. It's certainly a passion of mine, not just physician Members of this body, but a lot of very, very good, experienced Members who are concerned with this.

Before I yield the time back to my colleague and I continue hopefully during the remaining time tonight to engage in a colloquy with him on these issues, I think one of the most important things we could do and we could do it now is to enact electronic medical records, say a complete fully integrated system and incentivize doctors. We can do it through the tax code to give them an opportunity, particularly the small group practices, the primary care physicians so they can get electronic medical records. This would clearly save a lot of the money that Dr. BURGESS was talking about. My friend has done some good work on that in his committee assignment on Energy and Commerce, Health Subcommittee, as well as the ranking member there, my colleague from Georgia, Representative NATHAN DEAL. We'll continue the discussion.

Mr. BURGESS. I appreciate my friend coming to the floor tonight. In fact, let's stay on the concept of electronic health records, electronic medical records for just a moment.

I have a confession to make to my friend from Georgia. I haven't always been a big proponent of electronic medical records. There has been some debate from time to time in our literature as to whether the savings is actually as great as what is anticipated. I've used the two separate prescribing platforms in my private practice back in Lewisville, Texas, with sort of marginal success, but became a believer in the availability of an electronic medical record sometime after Labor Day in 2005.

And the reason I became a believer was because after Hurricane Katrina ravaged the Louisiana and Mississippi gulf coasts, I had an opportunity on several occasions to travel to the city of New Orleans. In January of 2006, in fact, we had a field hearing in New Orleans. As part of that field hearing, we

visited Charity Hospital, Charity Hospital one of the venerable old hospitals in this country, one of the hospitals that is responsible for training some of our medical pioneers. In fact, through good fortune, I had a chance to sit down with Dr. DeBakey late last fall, and he talked a little bit about his time of training in the city of New Orleans.

Charity Hospital, again, one of the venerable old institutions, now likely lost to us forever. And down in the basement of Charity Hospital was a room that had been underwater for weeks. In fact, there was still water on the floor. This photograph doesn't really do that justice. There was still water on the floor after the city had been dewatered. I didn't know "dewatered" was a verb. But after the Corps of Engineers had dewatered the city and they were able to go back down to the records room of Charity Hospital, this is what they encountered. These are records that had been submerged for weeks in brackish water, water contaminated with goodness knows what, and what we see here is now smoke or soot damage on these medical records. This is, in fact, black mold that is growing on the medical records. And the reality is you could not send anyone in there to retrieve this information because it would simply be too hazardous, but also, the records themselves had been submerged for weeks at a time in seawater, brackish water, and the ink itself, many of these records were written in ballpoint pen by people over decades. And that ink washed off the pages so those that aren't ruined by the black mold are rendered illegible. Doctors' handwriting is hard to read anyway, but you submerge it for several weeks in brackish waters, and it truly becomes something you cannot read.

Mr. GINGREY. I also had an opportunity over that Labor Day weekend to go down on an angel flight to Baton Rouge and to try to help man, staff an emergency Red Cross clinic there. I think it was called the River Center, a huge clinic that had been set up. And as we began to see patients, I realized the enormity of this situation, as Dr. BURGESS points out with his poster. One patient in particular was HIV positive and seven months pregnant and had not received any medication, retrovirus medication in 2 weeks, and this is the kind of thing that is life or death.

This situation in New Orleans really pointed it out. But suppose someone from this country is traveling in another country where they don't speak the language, and all of a sudden some catastrophic event occurs, a stroke, where the person cannot communicate. There's no way that the physicians, no matter how skilled they might be in the emergency room, and in the Ukraine they're not going to be able to take care of somebody from the United States that cannot communicate.

But with electronic medical records, it's just a matter of a swipe of a card,

just like you do your American Express card where the radio frequency, identification system, secure, absolutely secure, privacy maintained, guaranteed, a system set up by our Federal Government where the standards are the same across the board. It, without question, would save a tremendous amount of money. The Rand Corporation estimates something like \$175 to \$200 billion a year out of that \$1.6 trillion medical expenditures each year, \$200 billion savings. But more important than the cost saving, of course, is the life savings aspect of it.

So I'm so glad the gentleman from Texas (Dr. BURGESS) brought that up and showed that very, very telling poster.

Mr. BURGESS. Let me just point out, though, one aspect of the Federal Government's involvement in electronic medical records and one of the reasons we have to be so careful.

When I said earlier that the Congress, being a transactional body, can sometimes be the enemy of transformation, a year ago a lot of us heard stories about some difficulties out of Walter Reed Hospital here in the city of Washington, DC.

And I traveled out to Walter Reed and visited that Building 18, and indeed, there were some significant problems. But the young man who showed me around Building 18, Master Sergeant Blades, said, You know what's really, really at the heart of a lot of this frustration is that my guys here on medical hold have to go through their medical records. They will go through this long arduous process of compiling their record, yellow highlighting the important features, all done on paper, and that will be delivered to someone's desk where it sits for 2 weeks and then gets lost, and they've got to start all over again, which increased the frustration to be sure, but also increased the time that these young men who were at Walter Reed on medical hold trying to decide whether they went back with their unit or whether they were going to be discharged and cared for in the VA system, while all of that was sorted out, the paper record did indeed seem to be an impediment to that process.

But we do have an electronic medical record system at the VA, and one I've never used it myself, the Vista system, multisource software. I understand it works very well. And we also have an electronic medical record at the Department of Defense, but the problem is that the two won't talk to each other, and as a consequence, our soldiers are caught in between. And the result, at least a year ago at Walter Reed Hospital, was concerning to many of us here, and it has taken a good deal more time than I would have thought necessary to get this problem solved to bridge that gap between one set of electronic medical records and another.

□ 2130

So we do have to be careful at the Federal level. We don't always have the best solutions.

So sometimes what our approach needs to be is to provide the right regulatory environment, to provide the right liability environment, to provide the right incentives, perhaps establish some standards, as Dr. GINGREY said, and then get out of the way and let the people who know how to develop these things actually be in charge and not have Members of Congress responsible for writing software.

The gentleman also brought up some very good points about the formula by which we reimburse physicians under the Medicare system. I thought the gentleman would enjoy seeing, and I know I'm not supposed to go through this because I'm accused of being too much into the process, but this is the formula by which we pay physicians, by which we reimburse physicians under Medicare. It's called the Sustainable Growth Rate Formula. It's been around for a while. It looks a little daunting, but it's, perhaps, understandable when you look at it. We have a relative value unit for work, plus a geographic modifier, another relative value unit for practice expenses and another geographic modifier, and a relative value unit for liability insurance, and a geographic multiplier.

And then we see all these terms defined here. There is actually a misprint on this page, and it's the fault of the Congressional Research Service, not the person who made this poster for me. But it's almost applied at the end by CF, which is a conversion factor, referred to here as CV, the conversion factor. Well, that's an interesting thing. How do we get the conversion factor? Well, we've got to go to another formula. And here we're going to be able to calculate the conversion factor. And I won't go through all of this because I'm told I shouldn't, but at the very bottom of the page you see we need to know the UAF before we can calculate the conversion factor, the update adjustment factor. And how do we get the update adjustment factor? I'm glad you asked. The update adjustment factor is here, yet another formula.

Now, I don't show these to impress people with my ability to go through the mathematical formula, but I do use this to point out that the system by which we reimburse physicians, it needs some attention.

Mr. GINGREY. If the gentleman will yield, I will point out that my 2 years of calculus at Georgia Tech, when I was getting that degree in chemistry, has not helped me one bit with figuring out this formula. So I appreciate the fact that the gentleman agrees it is an absolutely impossible, arcane system to ever figure out. And how they came up with it is Greek to me.

I yield back to the gentleman.

Mr. BURGESS. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

And here's the deal with this formula: what it results in is a vastly dif-

ferent universe for physicians who are providing care to our Medicare patients when you compare them with hospitals, nursing homes, HMOs, drug companies. Each one of those entities receives a positive update every year based on, guess what? It's kind of like a cost-of-living adjustment; it's called a market basket update. The physicians formula, though, unless Congress intervenes, which it did on every one of these years, unless Congress intervenes, this adjustment factor is going to go down, and it's projected to go down year over year for the next 10 years' time to the tune of approximately 35 to 37 percent, clearly an untenable factor.

You know, if a doctor goes into his banker's office and says, here is my business plan, Mr. Banker, and I want you to help me get my business established, I've got this business plan where I'm going to earn about 10 percent less each year over the next 10 years' time, do you think you will be able to fund me some money? No, sir, I don't think that would happen. In no business would we ask someone to stay in business where the cost of reimbursement is going to go down year over year. And we all know, is it going to cost any less for energy to heat and cool that physician's office over those years? No. The answer is, of course not. Is it going to cost any less to have the employees in the office? Is it going to cost any less for the liability insurance? And the answer is "no" to all of those questions.

Mr. Speaker, I know we're running a little short on time, but I wanted to give the gentleman from Georgia a chance just to talk a little bit about what is happening in the arena of liability reform in the House of Representatives, because I know that is an issue that's been important to both of us.

We have done some things in Texas over the last 4 years' time which I think, from my perspective, have been very positive. There are other concepts out there that are talked about, concepts such as medical courts, concept such as earlier offer. We had a bill similar to the Texas bill that came through the House of Representatives, as the gentleman pointed out, for the 108th and 109th Congress; but I would like to yield to the gentleman just for a moment to talk a little bit about liability reform.

Mr. GINGREY. I thank Dr. BURGESS for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, the issue of medical liability reform is something that we've been talking about for a long time in this House of Representatives and in the other body, and it's time that we do something about it. I remember back in 2004, during the Presidential debate between our current President Bush and the Democratic nominee, Senator KERRY, and on one particular debate they were talking about the cost of medical malpractice insurance. And Senator KERRY made the state-

ment that, well, you know, if a doctor has to pay \$40,000, \$50,000 a year, some can afford it; that's just a very small amount in the big scheme of things. And I thought President Bush did such a great job of responding to that and he said, you know, Senator, I believe you missed the point. Yeah, some doctors can afford to pay \$50,000, some can afford to pay \$75,000 a year, depending on their specialty, for medical malpractice coverage; other doctors can't. But that is really not the point.

The point that causes the cost of medicine to go up so much is that all of these physicians practice in a defensive mode, and they order tests in many instances that are absolutely unnecessary, way too expensive, and, indeed, can be harmful to the patient.

You know, I would imagine today, Mr. Speaker, if you went to any emergency room in this country with a headache, you are not going to get out of there without a CT scan being performed. And that particular procedure, by the time it is done and the radiologist reads the film, you're talking about \$500, \$600, when it would be obvious to a clinician, a skilled clinician in physical diagnosis that this patient is suffering from a tension headache or maybe a migraine headache. So this is where that cost goes up so much.

I appreciate the gentleman giving me an opportunity to talk about it because the model for tort reform is what the State of California did back in 1978; the acronym is MICRA. But basically what we're talking about is to say that no patient who is injured by a physician practicing below the standard of care or a health care facility practicing below the standard of care that results in direct harm to the patient, they should have every opportunity for their day in court.

Dr. BURGESS and I probably have seen situations where we are pulling for the plaintiff because we know what happened in the particular setting and maybe in our community. But the judgments for so-called pain and suffering that can be up into the millions of dollars, which are totally unrelated to the degree of injury, is inappropriate. And that's basically what was passed in California and it has worked. The State of Texas, my State of Georgia, the State of Florida, several States have done this; but the vast majority of States are in situations where you don't see any neurosurgeons covering the emergency room. You see very few OB/GYN doctors staying in practice beyond the age of 50. They're all either getting out of the practice completely or they're going over to just a GYN practice. So I thank my colleague for bringing this issue up.

And as I finish my remarks and yield back to the gentleman from Texas, I want to say, Mr. Speaker, that what happens so many times in what we do, we're constrained because of the cost. And we base cost on programs like Medicare part D, by this so-called static scoring that it cost too much money

when so often programs like that have the potential to, in the long run, save money, but would get no credit for it. So we don't do things that we should be doing. Just like, as we were talking about earlier in the evening on electronic medical records, yes, it would cost some money, Mr. Speaker; the Federal Government would have to spend some money. I think that the new Democratic leadership has made a mistake in enacting these PAYGO rules which make it impossible in some instances to do things like the physician payment fix that Dr. BURGESS is talking about, the repeal of the alternative minimum tax, which clearly was a mistake, an oversight 35 years ago when it wasn't indexed for inflation.

And so now the Democratic leadership has put themselves in a position where we can't get things done because of those PAYGO rules when in the long run the program that we would enact would save money; it wouldn't cost money. So you would be paying for it doubly by cutting another program and raising taxes to pay for something that will eventually pay for itself. And, certainly, I think that's true with Medicare part D, and I absolutely believe it is true with the electronic medical records system that we need in this country, and I think it's true in regard to medical liability reform that Dr. BURGESS is talking about. So I thank the gentleman for bringing that up, and I yield back.

Mr. BURGESS. I thank the gentleman for his participation this evening. I actually thank you for bringing up the issue about Congressional Budget Office scoring. We're about to the time in this Congress where you hear us talk a lot about the budget, and we will be developing the parameters of the congressional budget shortly after the President gives his State of the Union message here in a few weeks. The President delivers his budget, and then we come up with a congressional version of the budget.

The last year when we were working on the budget, I brought essentially what was the Texas medical liability reform model to the Budget Committee, had it scored by the Congressional Budget Office, and it scored in a savings just under \$4 billion over the 5-year budgetary window, not an enormous amount of money; but for a body that spends \$3 trillion a year, it was savings worth looking at. And the Texas legislation, as the gentleman from Georgia pointed out, the law passed in California back in 1975 seems like forever ago. The Medical Injury Compensation Reform Act of 1975 passed in the State of California, signed by the Governor, who at the time was Jerry Brown. This same concept in Texas was developed. And the Medical Injury Compensation Reform Act of 1975 in California capped noneconomic damages at \$250,000. The Texas bill was a little more flexible than that: it allowed for a trifurcated cap of \$250,000 on the physician and

\$250,000 on the hospital, and \$250,000 on a second hospital or nursing home if one was involved.

But that trifurcated cap allowed for a little more flexibility in trying to establish just compensation for a patient who, indeed, had been injured; but it also acknowledged the reality of our system in that you cannot have an open-ended amount of compensation for noneconomic damages because it throws so much indecision into the system that people can't make rational decisions.

So by trifurcating the cap, and interestingly enough, in the State of Texas punitive damages were still allowed to stand, we also had periodic payments for large settlements, and we also had a Good Samaritan rule. This bill passed in 2003. It was upheld under a constitutional amendment election in September of 2003 and has now been the law of the land since that time. And we have seen phenomenal success in Texas, not only with holding down the cost of medical liability premiums, which were going up year after year after year, but we also saw medical liability insurers leaving the State in vast numbers. In fact, we've gone from 17 down to two. And you just don't get very good competition between insurance companies when you only have two of them.

So we now have brought more insurers back into the State. They've come back into the State without an increase in premiums. In fact, Texas Medical Liability Trust, my last insurer of record, has reduced premiums by 22 percent over the last 4 years compared to double-digit increases for each of the last 5 years prior to 2003.

So it really is a phenomenal success story. Smaller, mid-sized not-for-profit community hospitals have had to put less money into their contingency funds to cover possible liability payouts, and as a consequence they've been able to return more money to capital investment, hiring nurses, just the kinds of things you want your smaller community not-for-profit hospital to be able to do when released from some of the constraints of the liability system.

I'm not saying that this is perfect; I'm not saying that this is what we should all aspire to. Certainly there are reasons to consider concepts like medical courts. Certainly there are reasons to consider concepts like early offer. But the fact of the matter is we can do a lot better than what we're doing today because the system that we have today only compensates a small number of the patients who are actually injured. And, moreover, the time it takes for a patient to recover money under the current system is far too long.

□ 2145

And if you will, the administrative costs, that is, costs of the medical experts and the legal system and the lawyers' costs, consume about 55 to 58 percent of every dollar that's awarded in a

settlement. Well, we wouldn't tolerate a health insurance company that had an administrative cost of 58 percent. We'd call them profiteers and we'd bring them up before hearings, but yet we tolerate it in our medical justice system every day of the week. And it's not right.

I want to so much thank my friend from Georgia for joining me here tonight. This is an issue that we will get to talk about a lot over this next year. Obviously, we have got a 6-month window of opportunity on getting the physician payment formula right. I believe that means taking a short-term, mid-term, and long-term approach to the problem, which I have tried to do in the past. And we will be working with other people here in the House of Representatives, I hope on both sides of the aisle, to try to craft a solution to this problem, which has vexed this Congress for a number of years. But suffice it to say, we will be able to be back here on several more occasions talking about this and other issues as they relate to health care in this country.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I would ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of my Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Tennessee?

There was no objection.

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ALTMIRE). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. COHEN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, the subject of my Special Order today is the birthday of one of America's greatest citizens, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Dr. King's birthday will be celebrated next week with the national holiday on Monday, one of the only men or women to have a holiday named for them in this country. At one time, of course, we celebrated the birthdays of George Washington and Abraham Lincoln, and now we celebrate Presidents Day. But we celebrate Dr. King's Day, a great American and an individual who changed this country for the better and whose life is a testament to fortitude and courage, faith, and a desire to make America better.

On April 4, 1968, 40 years ago this year, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated in my hometown of Memphis, Tennessee. That was a defining moment in the history of America, indeed, in the history of the world. While Dr. King's death should not and will not ever be forgotten, I think that today on what would have been his 79th

birthday, we should remember his life because it was his life, his actions and his eloquent words, that truly challenged us as a Nation to consider where we were and where we could go.

Martin Luther King, Jr. was born in Atlanta, Georgia, on January 15, 1929, the son of the Reverend Martin Luther King, Sr. and Alberta King. As we all know, Dr. King followed in his father's footsteps and became a minister at the age of 24 in Montgomery, Alabama, where just 2 years later Rosa Parks refused to comply with the Jim Crow laws, which required her to give up her seat on the bus to a white man. The subsequent Montgomery Bus Boycott, led by Rev. King, changed America. The boycott lasted over a year but resulted in the Supreme Court decision outlawing racial discrimination on public transportation. Only in his mid-20s, Martin Luther King's passion and commitment were already affecting the laws of our Nation.

During his life, Dr. King's house was bombed and his government wiretapped his conversations. But Dr. King never wavered from his commitment to non-violent change. Dr. King turned a mirror on America, and the reflection was not good. It was ugly. America was not the land of the free but it was a land built by the enslaved. The very Capitol Building in which I speak and in which we make our laws was built by slaves. Dr. King pulled back the quasi-fiction that has so often been touted as patriotism as if to say, "but what about these Americans?" And those are his words: "But what about these Americans?" Jim Crow laws, which had created two Americas, which had denied access and opportunity for so long were held up for examination, and they failed the examination, as they should have.

We are not there, ladies and gentlemen. I wish we were. I wish we had achieved the dream where the content of one's character is what each person is judged by, not by the color of one's skin. We are not there, but the good news, the positive message that Dr. King has etched into our national conscience is that one man can make a difference. One young man can step forward and live his life with purpose and dignity, can become the voice of all those whose voices have been stilled, whose hope has been lost. No assassin's bullet could stop what Martin Luther King had begun. Today, as we celebrate a birth which has changed us and which continues to challenge us, let us remember his dream.

Dr. King's words are what he's best remembered for. And in his hometown of Memphis, Tennessee, his words will be played constantly over the weekend and through Monday as we remember how he challenged us, how he inspired us in the 1950s and in the 1960s. Radio station WLOK will be, I know, having a tribute to him in Memphis, and other places all over the country will do the same. And in Memphis there will be a basketball game, a national basketball

game, that will celebrate civil rights victories of this country. Particularly Bob Lanier will be there and Kareem Abdul-Jabbar and others. And we look at the steps which we have taken in this country to make the country better through sports and basketball, and I commend David Stern and the NBA for having that game in Memphis on Dr. King's birthday.

At this time I would like to read some quotes from Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., as will be read and as will be heard throughout this country in the coming week and the coming weekend. Many of them resonate with the issues of today.

"A genuine leader is not a searcher for consensus but a molder of consensus." And we need more leaders like that today who mold consensus.

"A nation that continues year after year to spend more money on military defense than on programs of social uplift is approaching spiritual doom." Remember, Mr. Speaker, Dr. King was speaking during the time of the Vietnam War. We have another Vietnam, I think, today in Iraq, and we are spending more money not on military defense but on military offense and leaving programs of social importance behind. And I question the spirituality of where this country presently is, spending so much in Iraq and so little in America.

"A right delayed is a right denied." And there are so many rights which have not been granted to people and not just on the basis of race and religion and national origin but also of sexual orientation. "A right delayed," Dr. King said, "is a right denied."

Dr. King said, "Almost always the creative, dedicated minority has made the world better." And indeed they have. We are a country of minorities making for a great majority, and when we don't respect the rights of the minorities, we endanger ourselves.

Dr. King said, "An individual has not started living until he can rise above the narrow confines of his individualistic concerns to the broader concerns of all humanity." And I would ask each of my colleagues to hold that thought in their minds when they vote and to realize it's not just the nature of their districts and their individual concerns which are important but the broader concerns of this country, as Dr. King said, "the broader concerns of all humanity."

Dr. King said, "An individual who breaks a law that conscience tells him is unjust and who willingly accepts the penalty of imprisonment in order to arouse the conscience of the community over its injustice is in reality expressing the highest respect for the law."

Dr. King and many civil rights workers violated the law, the law of the country, mostly in the South, Jim Crow laws, that said people were separate and inherently unequal. He did that with Rosa Parks when they challenged the laws that said African

Americans were to ride on the back of the bus. And he challenged, along with President Johnson and this Nation in the 1960s, the law that said there could be separate establishments and would be by law for people based on race for entertainment, different public facilities, eating establishments, hotels and motels, colleges and schools. Those were wrong laws. They needed to be challenged, and they were challenged by Dr. King and many civil rights leaders, and the world changed in the 1960s.

Dr. King said, "At the center of non-violence stands the principle of love." He also said, "Have we not come to such an impasse in the modern world that we must love our enemies or else? The chain reaction of evil, hate begetting hate, wars producing more wars, must be broken or else we shall be plunged into the dark abyss of annihilation." And, Mr. Speaker, I reflect on this when I think about what we are doing in the Middle East. Hate begets hate. Wars produce more wars. And we are in an abyss.

Dr. King said, "He who passively accepts evil is as much involved in it as he who helps perpetrate it. He who accepts evil without protesting against it is really cooperating with it." One must actively oppose evil. And oftentimes in the debates in Congress, you have to remember Dante, and Dr. King has a quote similar to Dante, that the warmest spots in hell are reserved for people who in times of controversy stand on the sidelines. Certainly something Dr. King did not do.

In Dr. King's great speech just outside the Capitol on the mall, which I recall watching on television and which I am thrilled to be a Member of this House of Representatives so near to the mall where Dr. King gave his "I have a dream" speech, he said, "I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a Nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character."

"I have a dream that one day every valley shall be exalted, every hill and mountain shall be made low, the rough places will be made straight, and the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together."

"I have a dream that one day on the red hills of Georgia, the sons of former slaves and the sons of former slave owners will be able to sit down together at the table of brotherhood."

As I said earlier, Dr. King's dream has not totally been achieved, but we are getting closer to it. We are engaged in a Presidential debate where his words and actions are subject of much debate. But I have no doubt that Dr. King would be proud of all the candidates in the Democratic column who are running for this office and know that they are children of Dr. King's dream. To see an African American gentleman have a legitimate chance to be President of the United States and to see a woman have that same opportunity is what Dr. King talked about.

And they should be judged not by the color of their skin or by their gender but by the content of their character.

"Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere," Dr. King said. And that's something to be remembered when we see nooses hung in small towns or people being shot, tied behind cars because of aspects of their personage of which they had no choice.

"It may be true," Dr. King said, "that the law cannot make a man love me, but it can keep him from lynching me, and I think that's pretty important." And that is important. We have a Senate and a House that passed a condemnation of the lynching that took place in this country in the 20th century. And this House, hopefully, will pass another proposition that says that we apologize for having been part of a Nation that allowed for slavery to occur and had laws that permitted it and for Jim Crow laws that saddled this country with injustice for 100 years thereafter.

Dr. King said, "Life's most persistent and urgent question is what are you doing for others?" And that's a question that my friend Irbin Salky has often said to me, that the purpose of why we are here on Earth is to help others. And it's part of the Judeo-Christian religion and creed to care for others, and that's why we are here.

Again, Iraq and Vietnam, they are parallels, and Dr. King's words ring true today. He said, "One of the greatest casualties of the war in Vietnam is the Casual Society shot down on the battlefield of Vietnam."

□ 2200

Indeed, many of the hopes of people in our inner cities, people that are left behind by what has been considered a great economic opportunity for many Americans, mostly the richest, have been left behind because of the moneys we have spent in Iraq rather than spending them on the people in this country.

There are many parallels, and I think I know where Dr. King would be on the issue of war and peace, on the issue of choosing Iraq rather than choosing America, the cities that have been neglected, the inner cities, Appalachia, Katrina victims, and others. Dr. King said: "The moral arc of the universe bends at the elbow of justice." He always felt that the arc was bending in the right direction, although slowly. And justice and change do move slowly but they do move. We have change. Change is not revolutionary; it's evolutionary. It happens, but it happens in increments. But Dr. King and people like him made it move at a stronger pace, and it's necessary to have agents of change. Agents of change have moved the society forward.

One of the most prophetic quotes that I think I saw, and there are so many to review in thinking about Dr. King, he said: "The Negro needs the white man to free him from his fears. The white man needs the Negro to free

him from his guilt." I know from my sponsorship of an apology for slavery and Jim Crow and some of the comments I have read, there's a lot of guilt in this country and it's making it difficult for people to engage in a dialog and understand and honestly see what slavery did for many people's lives. Not only did it cause the African Americans and have them be enslaved, but it caused a lot of people to make a lot of money and have a lot of great economic fortune at the expense of the enslaved, and then of the Jim Crow citizen that served their needs for 100 years.

The quality, not the longevity, of one's life is what is important. I think about Martin Luther King, who died at the age of 39; I think of John Kennedy, who served in this House and lived to the age of 46; I think of his brother, Robert Kennedy, who died at age 42, but affected so many of us. All of these three men affected me in a great way. Their assassinations in 1963 and 1968 affected this world, but it affected me in a great way. It was the quality, not the longevity, of their lives that was important. And they didn't wait for tomorrow. They had the fierce urgency of now that Dr. King talked about to make a change, to make a change and a difference while they were on this Earth and to affect their fellow man and fellow woman.

"The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy." Once again, Dr. King implores us to have moral character and fiber and to stand up for what is important for America. And he said: "We must learn to live together as brothers or perish together as fools."

Dr. Martin Luther King was a special man. He took his talents and he used them for his fellow man. He inspired us all. This country and this world is much the greater for his life. It is indeed a testament to him that this Congress under the unyielding leadership of Representative JOHN CONYERS passed a bill to make his birthday a national holiday. It's a national holiday that should be held in high esteem by all men and women in this country, because Dr. King was special and unique and stood up for all people and stood for the height of American ideals.

I hope that everybody will take a moment over the weekend and on Monday on the celebration of his birthday to think about some of the things that Dr. King stood for: challenging the system to make it better; for peace; for people who have been left behind in our society; doing for the least of these and trying to make the world a better place.

My city bears great scars for his death having taken place there. There was nothing unique to my city. It was something wrong with this country that somebody out there put a reward up for Dr. King's death and that somebody wanted to claim that reward and

didn't have a regard for the humanity of Dr. King. In Memphis now there's a National Civil Rights Museum dedicated to the civil rights movement and to Dr. King's life and ideals, and I invite and encourage everyone to come to Memphis to visit the civil rights museum, which is at the spot where Dr. King was killed at the Lorraine Motel, which has been preserved, and to celebrate his life and to celebrate his values, not only on his birthday but on every day, for Dr. King was a great American. I am just lucky, as we all are, that he came my way.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you for the time, and I know that you, like me, will reflect on Dr. King's works and will keep him in our hearts as we try to do what's right for America in this 110th Congress.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. King's legacy and recognize the innumerable Americans who continue along the path he paved towards justice and liberty for all citizens.

It is rare that one person can change the fate of our Nation; however Dr. King was able to do just that. Dr. King relied on his relationship with God and his faith in justice to articulate his vision for America in a way that touched the hearts and minds of the American public.

Dr. King called on all of us to no longer stand alone in silence, but to stand up together as a voice against injustice. He inspired us to fight for change through nonviolent means, and paved the road for us to continue that fight even after his death.

Few people would sacrifice time and energy for loved ones, fewer for strangers, yet Dr. King humbled himself to do just that. He ultimately sacrificed his life and his family sacrificed their patriarch for the struggle towards political justice for all Americans. Today we pay homage for their selflessness and publicly thank them for their commitments to humanity.

Dr. King left us with the challenge to courageously fight and secure the civil rights for all, from the impoverished and disenfranchised underclass to the politically and economically endowed. Although his challenge was issued 40 years ago, we still have not fully realized his noble request.

Today's Martin Luther King Day is as much about the past as it is about the future. Dr. King's dream is truly timeless, and I hope that our next generation will find inspiration in his faith and vision.

OMISSION FROM THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD OF FRIDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2007 AT PAGE H16953

HOUSE BILLS APPROVED BY THE PRESIDENT AFTER SINE DIE ADJOURNMENT

The President notified the Clerk of the House that on the following dates, he had approved and signed bills of the following titles:

December 18, 2007:

H.R. 3315. An act to provide that the great hall of the Capitol Visitor Center shall be known as Emancipation Hall.

H.R. 4252. An act to provide for an additional temporary extension of programs

under the Small Business Act and the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 through May 23, 2008, and for other purposes.

December 19, 2007:

H.R. 4118. An act to exclude from gross income payments from the Hokie Spirit Memorial Fund to the victims of the tragic event at Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University.

H.R. 6. An act to move the United States toward greater energy independence and security, to increase the production of clean renewable fuels, to protect consumers, to increase the efficiency of products, buildings, and vehicles, to promote research on and deploy greenhouse gas capture and storage options, and to improve the energy performance of the Federal Government, and for other purposes.

December 20, 2007:

H.R. 3648. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude discharges of indebtedness on principal residences from gross income, and for other purposes.

December 21, 2007:

H.J. Res. 72. An act making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2008, and for other purposes.

H.R. 365. An act to provide for a research program for remediation of closed methamphetamine production laboratories, and for other purposes.

H.R. 710. An act to amend the National Organ Transplant Act to provide that criminal penalties do not apply to human organ paired donation, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2408. An act to designate the Department of Veterans Affairs outpatient clinic in Green Bay, Wisconsin, as the "Milo C. Huempfer Department of Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic".

H.R. 2671. An act to designate the United States courthouse located at 301 North Miami Avenue, Miami, Florida, as the "C. Clyde Atkins United States Courthouse".

H.R. 3703. An act to amend section 5112(p)(1)(A) of title 31, United States Code, to allow an exception from the \$1 coin dispensing capability requirement for certain vending machines.

H.R. 3739. An act to amend the Arizona Water Settlements Act to modify the requirements for the statement of findings.

December 26, 2007:

H.R. 366. An act to designate the Department of Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic in Tulsa, Oklahoma, as the "Ernest Childers Department of Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic".

H.R. 797. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve low-vision benefits matters, matters relating to burial and memorial affairs, and other matters under the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1045. An act to designate the Federal building located at 210 Walnut Street in Des Moines, Iowa, as the "Neal Smith Federal Building".

H.R. 2011. An act to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 100 East 8th Avenue in Pine Bluff, Arkansas, as the "George Howard, Jr. Federal Building and United States Courthouse".

H.R. 2761. An act to extend the Terrorism Insurance Program of the Department of the Treasury, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2764. An act making appropriations for the Department of State, foreign operations, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3470. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 744 West Oglethorpe Highway in Hinesville, Georgia, as the "John Sidney 'Sid' Flowers Post Office Building".

H.R. 3569. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 16731 Santa Ana Avenue in Fontana, California, as the "Beatrice E. Watson Post Office Building".

H.R. 3571. An act to amend the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 to permit individuals who have served as employees of the Office of Compliance to serve as Executive Director, Deputy Executive Director, or General Counsel of the Office, and to permit individuals appointed to such positions to serve one additional term.

H.R. 3974. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 797 Sam Bass Road in Round Rock, Texas, as the "Marine Corps Corporal Steven P. Gill Post Office Building".

H.R. 3996. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend certain expiring provisions, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4009. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 567 West Nepeessing Street in Lapeer, Michigan, as the "Turrill Post Office Building".

OMISSION FROM THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD OF FRIDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2007 AT PAGE H16953

SENATE BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS APPROVED BY THE PRESIDENT AFTER SINE DIE ADJOURNMENT

The President notified the Clerk of the House that on the following dates, he had approved and signed Senate bills and joint resolutions of the following titles:

December 21, 2007:

S. 597. An act to amend title 39, United States Code, to extend the authority of the United States Postal Service to issue a semipostal to raise funds for breast cancer research.

S. 888. An act to amend section 1091 of title 18, United States Code, to allow the prosecution of genocide in appropriate circumstances.

S. 2174. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 175 South Monroe Street in Tiffin, Ohio, as the "Paul E. Gillmor Post Office Building".

S. 2371. An act to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to make technical corrections.

S. 2484. An act to rename the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development as the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development.

S.J. Res. 8. An act providing for the reappointment of Patricia Q. Stonesifer as a citizen regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution.

December 26, 2007:

S. 1396. An act to authorize a major medical facility project to modernize inpatient wards at the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Atlanta, Georgia.

S. 1896. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 11 Central Street in Hillsborough, New Hampshire, as the "Officer Jeremy Todd Charron Post Office".

S. 1916. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act to modify the program for the sanctuary system for surplus chimpanzees by terminating the authority for the removal of chimpanzees from the system for research purposes.

S.J. Res. 13. An act granting the consent of Congress to the International Emergency

Management Assistance Memorandum of Understanding.

OMISSION FROM THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD OF FRIDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2007 AT PAGE H16954

BILLS PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT AFTER SINE DIE ADJOURNMENT

Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk of the House reported that on December 20, 2007 she presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bills.

H.J. Res. 72. Making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2008, and for other purposes.

H.R. 366. To designate the Department of Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic in Tulsa, Oklahoma, as the "Ernest Childers Department of Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic".

H.R. 1045. To designate the Federal building located at 210 Walnut Street in Des Moines, Iowa, as the "Neal Smith Federal Building".

H.R. 2011. To designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 100 East 8th Avenue in Pine Bluff, Arkansas, as the "George Howard, Jr. Federal Building and United States Courthouse".

H.R. 3470. To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 744 West Oglethorpe Highway in Hinesville, Georgia, as the "John Sidney 'Sid' Flowers Post Office Building".

H.R. 3569. To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 16731 Santa Ana Avenue in Fontana, California, as the "Beatrice E. Watson Post Office Building".

H.R. 3571. To amend the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 to permit individuals who have served as employees of the Office of Compliance to serve as Executive Director, Deputy Executive Director, or General Counsel of the Office, and to permit individuals appointed to such positions to serve one additional term.

H.R. 3974. To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 797 Sam Bass Road in Round Rock, Texas, as the "Marine Corps Corporal Steven P. Gill Post Office Building".

H.R. 3996. To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend certain expiring provisions, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4009. To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 567 West Nepeessing Street in Lapeer, Michigan, as the "Turrill Post Office Building".

Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk of the House further reported that on December 24, 2007 she presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bills.

H.R. 2764. Making appropriations for the Department of State, foreign operations, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes.

Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk of the House further reported that on December 27, 2007 she presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bills.

H.R. 660. To amend title 18, United States Code, to protect judges, prosecutors, witnesses, victims, and their family members, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3690. To provide for the transfer of the Library of Congress police to the United

States Capitol Police, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4839. To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make technical corrections, and for other purposes.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. BACA (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today on account of personal business.

Mr. HONDA (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today and January 16 on account of personal business.

Mr. CULBERSON (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today on account of illness.

Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today and the balance of the week on account of personal reasons due to family matters.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Ms. WOOLSEY) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. WEXLER, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. CUMMINGS, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AFTER SINE DIE ADJOURNMENT OF THE 110TH CONGRESS FIRST SESSION AND FOLLOWING PUB- LICATION OF THE FINAL EDITION OF THE CON- GRESSIONAL RECORD OF THE 110TH CONGRESS FIRST SESSION

HOUSE BILL APPROVED BY THE PRESIDENT AFTER SINE DIE AD- JOURNMENT

The President notified the Clerk of the House that on the following date, he had approved and signed a bill of the following title:

December 29, 2007:

H.R. 4839. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make technical corrections, and for other purposes.

SENATE BILLS APPROVED BY THE PRESIDENT AFTER SINE DIE AD- JOURNMENT

The President notified the Clerk of the House that on the following dates he had approved and signed bills of the Senate of the following titles:

December 29, 2007:

S. 2499. An act to amend title XVIII, XIX, and XXI of the Social Security Act to extend provisions under the Medicare, Medicaid, and SCHIP programs, and for other purposes.

Ms. WATSON, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DEFazio, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. WU, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. POE) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. POE, for 5 minutes, today and January 16, 17, 18, and 22.

Mr. JONES of North Carolina, for 5 minutes, today and January 16, 17, 18, and 22.

Mr. LEWIS of California, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, for 5 minutes, January 22.

Mr. WELDON of Florida, for 5 minutes, January 16 and 17.

Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania, for 5 minutes, January 17.

(The following Member (at his own request) to revise and extend his remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. SESTAK, for 5 minutes, today.

SENATE BILL REFERRED

A bill of the Senate of the following title was taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 2478. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 59 Colby Corner in East Hampstead, New

Hampshire, as the "Captain Jonathan D. Grassbaugh Post Office"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

Ms. Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled a bill of the House of the following title, which was thereupon signed by the Speaker pro tempore, Mr. Van Hollen:

H.R. 2640. An act to improve the National Instant Criminal Background Check System, and for other purposes.

BILL PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk of the House reported that on January 4, 2008 she presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bill.

H.R. 2640. To improve the National Instant Criminal Background Check System, and for other purposes.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 5 minutes p.m.) the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, January 16, 2008, at 10 a.m.

December 31, 2007:

S. 2271. An act to authorize State and local governments to divest assets in companies that conduct business operations in Sudan, to prohibit United States Government contracts with such companies, and for other purposes.

S. 2488. An act to promote accessibility, accountability, and openness in Government by strengthening section 552 of title 5, United States Code (commonly referred to as the Freedom of Information Act), and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

4840. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Viruses, Serums, Toxins, and Analogous Products; Standard Requirements for Live Vaccines [Docket No. APHIS-2006-0079] (RIN: 0579-AC30) received January 8, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

4841. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Addition of Armenia to the List of Regions Where African Swine Fever Exists [Docket No. APHIS-2007-0142] received January 8, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

4842. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Mgmt. Staff, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Secondary Direct Food Additives Permitted in Food for Human Consumption [Docket No. 2006F-0409] received January 10, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

4843. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting a report of a violation of the Antideficiency Act by the Health Resources and Services Administration's National Health Service Corps between fiscal years 2001 and 2006, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1517(b) and 1351; to the Committee on Appropriations.

4844. A letter from the Director, Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement; Research and Development Contract Type Determination [DFARS Case 2006-D053] (RIN: 0750-AF79) received January 10, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Armed Services.

4845. A letter from the Deputy Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's report for the fourth quarter of fiscal year 2007 as required by the Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Fund provision in Title IX of the Department of Defense Appropriations Act of 2007, Pub. L. 109-289; to the Committee on Armed Services.

4846. A letter from the Deputy Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's report for the fourth quarter of fiscal year 2007 as required by the Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Fund provision in Title IX of the Department of Defense Appropriations Act of 2007, Pub. L. 109-289; to the Committee on Armed Services.

4847. A letter from the Counsel for Legislation and Regulations, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting the Department's final rule — Implementation of OMB Guidance on Nonprocurement Debarment and Suspension [Docket No. FR-5071-F-02] (RIN: 2501-AD29) received January 10, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

4848. A letter from the Counsel for Legislation and Regulations, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting the Department's final rule — Revisions to the Hospital Mortgage Insurance Program [Docket No. FR-4927-F-02] (RIN: 2502-AI22) received December 20, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

4849. A letter from the Regulations Coordinator, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Head Start Program (RIN: 0970-AB90) received January 8, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and Labor.

4850. A letter from the Director, Regulations and Mgmt. Staff, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Medical Devices; Hematology and Pathology Devices: Reclassification of Automated Blood Cell Separator Device Operating by Centrifugal Separation Principle [Docket No. 2005N-0017] received January 10, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

4851. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Mgmt. Staff, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment to the Current Good Manufacturing Practice Regulations for Finished Pharmaceuticals [Docket No. 2007N-0280] received January 10, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

4852. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Mgmt. Staff, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Over-the-Counter Vaginal Contraceptive and Spermicide Drug Products Containing Nonoxonyl 9; Required Labeling [Docket No. 1980N-0280] (formerly Docket No. 80N-0280) (RIN: 0910-AF44) received January 10, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

4853. A letter from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — In the Matter of Creation of A Low Power Radio Service [MM Docket No. 99-25] received January 10, 2008, pursuant to 5

U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

4854. A letter from the Acting General Counsel, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Facilities Design, Connections and Maintenance Reliability Standards [Docket No. RM07-3-000; Order No. 705] received January 14, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

4855. A letter from the Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — List of Approved Spent Fuel Storage Casks: HI-STORM 100 Revision 5 (RIN: 3150-AI24) received January 14, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

4856. A letter from the Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Notice of Availability; NUREG-1574, Rev. 2, "Standard Review Plan on Transfer and Amendment of Antitrust License Conditions and Antitrust Enforcement" [7590-01-P] received January 11, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

4857. A letter from the Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Incorporation by Reference of American Society of Mechanical Engineers Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code Cases (RIN: 3150-AH80) received January 11, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

4858. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Education, transmitting the thirty-seventh Semiannual Report to Congress on Audit Follow-Up, covering the period April 1, 2007 through September 30, 2007 in compliance with the Inspector General Act Amendments of 1988, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

4859. A letter from the Chairman of the Board, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting the semiannual report on activities of the Inspector General of the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation for the period April 1, 2007 through September 30, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act), section 8G(h)(2); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

4860. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 17-236, "Arbitration Act of 2007," pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

4861. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 17-237, "Multi-Unit Real Estate Tax Rate Clarification Act of 2007," pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

4862. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 17-238, "Georgia Commons Real Property Tax Exemption and Abatement Act of 2007," pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

4863. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 17-227, "Department of Health Care Finance Establishment Act of 2007," pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

4864. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 17-228, "District of Columbia Emancipation Day Parade Clarification Amendment Act of 2007," pursuant to D.C.

Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

4865. A letter from the Federal Co-Chair, Appalachian Regional Commission, transmitting the semiannual report on the activities of the Office of Inspector General for the period April 1, 2007, through September 30, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 8G(h)(2); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

4866. A letter from the Associate General Counsel for General Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

4867. A letter from the Associate General Counsel for General Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

4868. A letter from the Associate General Counsel for General Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

4869. A letter from the Associate General Counsel for General Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

4870. A letter from the Deputy Assistant General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

4871. A letter from the White House Liaison, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

4872. A letter from the White House Liaison, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

4873. A letter from the White House Liaison, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

4874. A letter from the Acting Secretary, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Department's Annual Performance and Accountability Report for FY 2007; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

4875. A letter from the White House Liaison, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

4876. A letter from the White House Liaison, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

4877. A letter from the White House Liaison, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

4878. A letter from the White House Liaison, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

4879. A letter from the White House Liaison, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

4880. A letter from the White House Liaison, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

4881. A letter from the Chair, Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, transmitting the Commission's Performance and Accountability Report for FY 2007; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

4882. A letter from the Chair, Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, transmitting the semiannual report on the activities of the Inspector General and management's report for the period ending September 30, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act), section 5(b); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

4883. A letter from the Deputy General Counsel, Executive Office of the President, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

4884. A letter from the Deputy General Counsel, Executive Office of the President, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

4885. A letter from the Deputy General Counsel, Executive Office of the President, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

4886. A letter from the Chairman and President, Export-Import Bank, transmitting the Bank's semiannual report for the period ending September 30, 2007, in accordance with Section 5(b) of the Inspector General Act of 1978; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

4887. A letter from the Inspector General, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's Semiannual Report presenting significant activities of the Office of Inspector General during the 6-month period ending September 30, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

4888. A letter from the Administrator, General Services Administration, transmitting the FY 2007 Annual Performance and Accountability Report in accordance with the Report Consolidation Act of 2000; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

4889. A letter from the Director and Chief Financial Officer, Holocaust Memorial Museum, transmitting the Performance and Accountability Report (PAR) for Fiscal Year 2007 for the Museum as required under the Accountability of Tax Dollars (ATD) Act; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

4890. A letter from the Chairman, National Capital Planning Commission, transmitting the Commission's FY 2007 Performance and Accountability Report; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

4891. A letter from the Director of Administration, National Labor Relations Board, transmitting the Board's Performance and Accountability Report for FY 2007; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

4892. A letter from the Chairman and General Counsel, National Labor Relations Board, transmitting the semiannual report on the activities of the Office of Inspector General of the National Labor Relations Board for the period April 1, 2007 through September 30, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 8G(h)(2); to the Com-

mittee on Oversight and Government Reform.

4893. A letter from the Chairman and General Counsel, National Labor Relations Board, transmitting the semiannual report on the activities of the Office of Inspector General of the National Labor Relations Board for the period April 1, 2007 through September 30, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 8G(h)(2); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

4894. A letter from the Senior Associate General Counsel, Office of the Director of National Intelligence, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

4895. A letter from the Senior Associate General Counsel, Office of the Director of National Intelligence, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

4896. A letter from the Senior Associate General Counsel, Office of the Director of National Intelligence, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

4897. A letter from the Senior Associate General Counsel, Office of the Director of National Intelligence, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

4898. A letter from the Director, Peace Corps, transmitting the semiannual report on the activities of the Office of Inspector General for the period April 1, 2007 through September 30, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act), section 5(b); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

4899. A letter from the Inspector General, Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting the semiannual report on activities of the Office of Inspector General for the period April 1, 2007, through September 30, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(d); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

4900. A letter from the Secretary to the Board, Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting in accordance with Section 647(b) of Division F of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, FY 2004, Pub. L. 108-199, the Board's report on competitive sourcing efforts for FY 2007; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

4901. A letter from the Administrator, Small Business Administration, transmitting the semiannual report of the Office of Inspector General for the period April 1, 2007 through September 30, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

4902. A letter from the Chief Administrative Officer, transmitting the quarterly report of receipts and expenditures of appropriations and other funds for the period October 1, 2007 through December 31, 2007 as compiled by the Chief Administrative Officer, pursuant to 2 U.S.C. 104a; (H. Doc. No. 110-87); to the Committee on House Administration and ordered to be printed.

4903. A letter from the Clerk, U.S. House of Representatives, transmitting list of reports pursuant to clause 2, Rule II of the Rules of the House of Representatives, pursuant to Rule II, clause 2(b), of the Rules of the House; (H. Doc. No. 110-85); to the Committee on House Administration and ordered to be printed.

4904. A letter from the Acting Director Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administra-

tion, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Magnuson-Stevens Act Provisions; Fisheries Off West Coast States; Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery; Biennial Specifications and Management Measures; Inseason Adjustments [Docket No. 060824226 6322 02] (RIN: 0648-AW34) received January 14, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

4905. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator For Regulatory Programs, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries off West Coast States; Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery; Vessel Monitoring System; Open Access Fishery [Docket No. 070703215-7530-02] (RIN: 0648-AU08) received January 14, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

4906. A letter from the Acting Director Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Atlantic Bluefish Fishery; Quota Transfer [Docket No. 061109296-7009-02] (RIN: 0648-XE18) received January 14, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

4907. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator For Regulatory Programs, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Northeast (NE) Multispecies Fishery; Regulatory Amendment to Adopt Fishing Gear Standards for the NE Multispecies Regular B Day-At-Sea (DAS) Program and the Eastern U.S./Canada Haddock Special Access Program (SAP) [Docket No. 070808450-7714-02] (RIN: 0648-AV83) received January 14, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

4908. A letter from the Deputy Assistant For Regulatory Programs, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Individual Fishing Quota Program; Community Development Quota Program [Docket No. 0612242964-7332-02; I.D. 080106C] (RIN: 0648-AS84) received January 14, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

4909. A letter from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Coastal Migratory Pelagic Resources of the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic; Trip Limit Reduction [Docket No. 001005281-0369-02] (RIN: 0648-XE53) received January 14, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

4910. A letter from the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Atlantic Sea Scallop Fishery; Framework Adjustment 20 [Docket No. 070817468-7715-02] (RIN: 0648-AV91) received January 14, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

4911. A letter from the Assistant Administrator, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; 2008 Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Quota Specifications and Effort Controls [Docket No. 070612190-7684-02] (RIN: 0648-AV58) received January 14, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

4912. A letter from the Acting Director Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Atlantic Bluefish Fishery; Commercial Quota Harvested for New York [Docket No. 061109296-7009-02] (RIN: 0648-XD64) received January 10, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

4913. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Northeast Multispecies Fishery; Framework Adjustment 42 [Docket No. 070809451-7644-02] (RIN: 0648-AV79) received January 10, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

4914. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator For Regulatory Programs, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Revision of Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) Requirements for Commercial Gulf Reef Fish Vessels [Docket No. 070719385-7574-02] (RIN: 0648-AV59) received January 10, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

4915. A letter from the Director of Regulations Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Department's final rule — Veterans Education: Incorporation of Miscellaneous Statutory Provisions (RIN: 2900-AL28) received January 10, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

4916. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Publications Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Part III.—Administrative, Procedural, and Miscellaneous 26 CFR 601.201: Rulings and determination letters. (Rev. Proc. 2008-6) received January 8, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

4917. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Publications Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Part III.—Administrative, Procedural, and Miscellaneous Matters 26 CFR 601.201: Rulings and determination letters. (Rev. Proc. 2008-5) received January 8, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

4918. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Publications Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Part III.—Administrative, Procedural, and Miscellaneous 26 CFR 601.201: Rulings and determination letters. (Rev. Proc. 2008-4) received January 8, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

4919. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Publications, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — 26 CFR 601.201: Rulings and determination letters. (Rev. Proc. 2008-8) received January 8, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

4920. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Part III Administrative, Procedural, and Miscellaneous 26 CFR 601.201: Rulings and determination letters. (Rev. Proc. 2008-3) received January 8, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

4921. A letter from the Branch Chief, Publications and Regulations, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule

— Organization Treated as a Donee [Notice 2008-16] received January 11, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

4922. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Transportation Worker Identification Credential (TWIC) Implementation in the Maritime Sector; Hazardous Materials Endorsement for a Commercial Driver's License [Docket Nos. TSA-2006-24191; USCG-2006-24196] (RIN: 1652-AA41) received January 2, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Homeland Security.

4923. A letter from the Director, Office of Management and Budget, transmitting a report identifying accounts containing unvouchered expenditures that are potentially subject to audit by the Comptroller General, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3524(b); jointly to the Committees on the Budget, Appropriations, and Oversight and Government Reform.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Ms. SLAUGHTER: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 918. A resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2768) to establish improved mandatory standards to protect miners during emergencies, and for other purposes (Rept. 110-508). Referred to the House Calendar.

DISCHARGE OF COMMITTEE

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XII, the Committee on Armed Services discharged from further consideration. H.R. 29 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XII, the Committee on Agriculture discharged from further consideration. H.R. 3058 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

TIME LIMITATION OF REFERRED BILL PURSUANT TO RULE XII

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XII the following action was taken by the Speaker:

H.R. 135. Referral to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure extended for a period ending not later than February 29, 2008.

H.R. 275. Referral to the Committee on Energy and Commerce extended for a period ending not later than February 1, 2008.

H.R. 2830. Referral to the Committee on Energy and Commerce extended for a period ending not later than January 23, 2008.

H.R. 3111. Referral to the Committee on Armed Services extended for a period ending not later than February 1, 2008.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. McDERMOTT:

H.R. 4934. A bill to provide for a program of emergency unemployment compensation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. GONZALEZ (for himself, Mr. MEEK of Florida, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, and Mr. BURGESS):

H.R. 4935. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to exempt negative pressure wound therapy pumps and related supplies and accessories from the Medicare competitive acquisition program until the clinical comparability of such products can be validated; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. ACKERMAN:

H.R. 4936. A bill to amend the Federal Hazardous Substances Act to require engine coolant and antifreeze to contain a bittering agent so as to render it unpalatable; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. BLUMENAUER:

H.R. 4937. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on bicycle speedometers; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BLUMENAUER:

H.R. 4938. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on child carriers, chain tension adjusters, chain covers, and certain other articles designed for use on bicycles; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BLUMENAUER:

H.R. 4939. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on unicycles; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BLUMENAUER:

H.R. 4940. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on sets of steel tubing for bicycle frames; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BLUMENAUER:

H.R. 4941. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on bicycle wheel rims; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BLUMENAUER:

H.R. 4942. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on crank-gear and parts thereof; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BLUMENAUER:

H.R. 4943. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on brakes designed for bicycles; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BLUMENAUER:

H.R. 4944. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on nesoi hubs; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BLUMENAUER:

H.R. 4945. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on variable speed hubs (except 2- and 3-speed); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BLUMENAUER:

H.R. 4946. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on bells designed for use on bicycles; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. DAVID DAVIS of Tennessee:

H.R. 4947. A bill to extend the duty suspension on Benzoic acid, 3,4,5-trihydroxy-, propyl ester; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. DAVID DAVIS of Tennessee:

H.R. 4948. A bill to extend the duty suspension on Crotonaldehyde (2-butenaldehyde); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. DAVID DAVIS of Tennessee:

H.R. 4949. A bill to extend the duty suspension on o-Anisidine; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. DAVID DAVIS of Tennessee:

H.R. 4950. A bill to extend the duty suspension on Phenyl salicylate (benzoic acid, 2-hydroxy-, phenyl ester); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. DAVID DAVIS of Tennessee:

H.R. 4951. A bill to extend the duty suspension on Titanium Mononitride; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. DAVID DAVIS of Tennessee:

H.R. 4952. A bill to extend the duty suspension on 1,4-Benzoquinone; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. DAVID DAVIS of Tennessee:

H.R. 4953. A bill to extend the duty suspension on 1-Fluoro-2-nitrobenzene; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. DAVID DAVIS of Tennessee:

H.R. 4954. A bill to extend the duty suspension on 2,4-Xylidine; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. DAVID DAVIS of Tennessee:

H.R. 4955. A bill to extend the duty suspension on 2-Methylhydroquinone; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. DAVID DAVIS of Tennessee:

H.R. 4956. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on dimerized gum; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. DAVID DAVIS of Tennessee:

H.R. 4957. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on polyethylene glycol branched-nonylphenyl ether phosphate; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. DAVID DAVIS of Tennessee:

H.R. 4958. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on glycerol ester of dimerized gum; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. DELAURO (for herself, Mr. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota, Mr. OBERSTAR, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, and Mr. GUTIERREZ):

H.R. 4959. A bill to provide for congressional consultation with respect to any long-term security, economic, or political agreement with the Government of Iraq and to ensure that any such agreement is in the form of a treaty with respect to which the Senate has given its advice and consent to ratification under Article II of the Constitution of the United States; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. MARSHALL:

H.R. 4960. A bill to repeal various provisions of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2008, relating to immigration and border security fencing; to the Committee on Appropriations, and in addition to the Committee on Homeland Security, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. MYRICK:

H.R. 4961. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on 7,7; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. MYRICK:

H.R. 4962. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on Vat Black 25; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. MYRICK:

H.R. 4963. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on Chloroacetic acid, sodium salt; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. MYRICK:

H.R. 4964. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on esters and sodium esters of parahydroxybenzoic acid; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. MYRICK:

H.R. 4965. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on Glyoxylic acid; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. MYRICK:

H.R. 4966. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on Isobutyl 4-hydroxybenzoate and its sodium salt; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. MYRICK:

H.R. 4967. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on sodium petroleum sul-

fonic acids, sodium salts; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. MYRICK:

H.R. 4968. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on Tetraacetylenediamine; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. MYRICK:

H.R. 4969. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on Maleic Hydrazide Technical; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. MYRICK:

H.R. 4970. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on 1, 4-Benzenedisulfonic acid, 2,2',-[1-methyl-1,2-ethanediy] bis[imino(6-fluoro-1,3,5-triazine-4,2-diyl)imino(1-hydroxy-3-sulfo-6,2-naphthalenediy]azo]]bis[5-methoxy-sodium salt; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. MYRICK:

H.R. 4971. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on Cobaltate(2-), [6-amino-.kappa.N)-5-[[2hydroxy-.kappa.O)-4-nitrophenyl]azo-kappa.N]1-N-methyl-2-naphthalenesulfonamidato(2-)]6-(amino-kappa.N)-5-[[2-(hydroxy-.kappa.O)-4-nitrophenyl]azo-.kappa.N]-2-naphthalenesulfonato(3-)], disodium.; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. MYRICK:

H.R. 4972. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on 2,7-Naphthalenedisulfonic acid, 5-[[4-chloro-6-[[2-[[4-chloro-6-[[7-[[4-(ethenylsulfonyl)phe yl]azo]-8-hydroxy-3,6-disulfo-1-naphthalenyl]amino]-1,3,5-triazin-2-yl]amino]ethyl](2-hydroxyethyl)amino]-1,3,5-triazin-2 yl]amino]-3-[[4-(ethenylsulfonyl)phenyl]azo]-4-hydroxy-.sodium salt; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. POE (for himself and Mr. BURTON of Indiana):

H.R. 4973. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide criminal penalties for the destruction of memorials, headstones, markers, and graves commemorating persons serving in the Armed Forces on private property; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. RAMSTAD:

H.R. 4974. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on certain perfluorocarbons; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. RAMSTAD:

H.R. 4975. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on perfluorobutane sulfonyl fluoride; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. RAMSTAD:

H.R. 4976. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on certain cathode-ray tubes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. RAMSTAD:

H.R. 4977. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on an infrared absorbing dye; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. RAMSTAD:

H.R. 4978. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on a certain specialty monomer; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. RAMSTAD:

H.R. 4979. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on an ultraviolet dye; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. RAMSTAD:

H.R. 4980. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on THV; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. RAMSTAD:

H.R. 4981. A bill to extend and modify the temporary suspension of duty on certain catalytic converter mats of ceramic fibers; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California:

H.R. 4982. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on certain refracting and reflecting telescopes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. WEINER (for himself, Mr. ALTMIRE, Mr. BACA, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. BERKLEY, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. BOSWELL, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. BRALEY of Iowa, Ms. CASTOR, Mr. COHEN, Mr. COSTELLO, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. CUMMINGS, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. FERGUSON, Mr. FILNER, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. HALL of New York, Mr. HARE, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. HINCHAY, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. HOLT, Mr. JONES of North Carolina, Mr. KAGEN, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. KLEIN of Florida, Mr. KUCINICH, Ms. LEE, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mrs. MALONEY of New York, Mr. MICHAUD, Mrs. MYRICK, Mr. NADLER, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. ROTHMAN, Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. SCHWARTZ, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Mr. STARK, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. TOWNS, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Ms. WATERS, Mr. WEXLER, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. WU, and Mrs. TAUSCHER):

H.J. Res. 76. A joint resolution disapproving the issuance of a letter of offer with respect to a certain proposed sale of defense articles and defense services to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. ACKERMAN (for himself, Mr. PENCE, Mr. LANTOS, Ms. ROSLEHTINEN, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. HONDA, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mrs. TAUSCHER, Mr. POE, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. ELLISON, Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. DREIER, Mrs. MILLER of Michigan, and Mr. PASCRELL):

H. Res. 912. A resolution condemning the assassination of former Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto and reaffirming the commitment of the United States to assist the people of Pakistan in combating terrorist activity and promoting a free and democratic Pakistan; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. HOYER:

H. Res. 913. A resolution providing for a committee to notify the President of the assembly of the Congress; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. HOYER:

H. Res. 914. A resolution to inform the Senate that a quorum of the House has assembled; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. HOYER:

H. Res. 915. A resolution providing for the hour of meeting of the House; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. LIPINSKI (for himself, Mr. FOSSELLA, Mr. DOYLE, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. HOLT, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. HOLDEN, Mr. AKIN, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania, Mr. MCHENRY, Mr. EHLERS, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky, Mr. FERGUSON, Mr. WALBERG, Mr. LAHOOD, Mr. FARR, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. CARNEY, Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota, Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. KING of Iowa, and Mr. FORTENBERRY):

H. Res. 916. A resolution honoring the contributions of Catholic schools; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. LIPINSKI (for himself, Mr. INGALLIS of South Carolina, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. HOLT, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. EHLERS, Mr. GORDON, Mr. BAIRD, Mr. LAMPSON, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. WU, Mr.

BARTLETT of Maryland, Mr. AKIN, Mr. WAMP, Mr. CHANDLER, Mr. COSTELLO, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. ROHRBACHER, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, and Mr. SMITH of Nebraska);

H. Res. 917. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of National Engineers Week, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science and Technology.

By Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky (for himself, Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky, Mr. CHANDLER, Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. WHITFIELD of Kentucky, and Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky):

H. Res. 919. A resolution congratulating Kentucky on being selected to host the Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games 2010; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. MARSHALL:

H. Res. 920. A resolution amending the Rules of the House of Representatives to strengthen the earmark point of order; to the Committee on Rules.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions as follows:

[Omitted from the Record of January 3, 2008.]

H.R. 1084: Mr. STARK and Mr. THORNBERRY.
H.R. 2320: Mr. THOMPSON of California and Mrs. LOWEY.

H. Res. 543: Mr. LARSEN of Washington.
H. Res. 909: Mr. CAPUANO, Ms. CLARKE, Mr. DELAHUNT, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. HONDA of California, Mr. JEFFERSON, Ms. KILPATRICK, Mr. MURTHA, Mr. PAYNE, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. TOWNS, and Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.

[January 15, 2008]

H.R. 40: Mr. COHEN.
H.R. 41: Mr. SHERMAN.
H.R. 45: Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California.
H.R. 111: Mr. MURTHA.
H.R. 171: Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California and Mr. SESTAK.
H.R. 211: Mr. KAGEN.
H.R. 248: Mr. COHEN and Mr. WALSH of New York.
H.R. 351: Mr. KUCINICH.
H.R. 368: Mr. HARE and Mr. BILIRAKIS.
H.R. 371: Mr. BISHOP of New York.
H.R. 406: Mrs. TAUSCHER.
H.R. 411: Mr. BISHOP of Utah.
H.R. 464: Mr. KUCINICH.
H.R. 618: Ms. FALLIN.
H.R. 661: Ms. SOLIS.
H.R. 728: Mr. KLEIN of Florida.
H.R. 741: Mr. WELDON of Florida.
H.R. 971: Mr. SESTAK.
H.R. 992: Mr. MCDERMOTT.
H.R. 997: Mr. BUCHANAN.
H.R. 1000: Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Ms. DEGETTE, Mrs. BIGGERT, Ms. BEAN, Mr. KILDEE, Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota, Mr. MCHUGH, Mr. SOUDER, and Mr. TURNER.
H.R. 1043: Mr. WAXMAN and Ms. DEGETTE.
H.R. 1076: Mr. ROGERS of Michigan.
H.R. 1093: Mr. SESTAK and Mr. FATTAH.
H.R. 1108: Mr. REYES.
H.R. 1110: Mr. SALAZAR.
H.R. 1201: Mr. TIAHRT.
H.R. 1222: Mr. MELANCON, Mr. SHERMAN, and Mr. ROTHMAN.
H.R. 1223: Mrs. TAUSCHER, Mr. MELANCON, Mr. ROTHMAN, and Mr. RUSH.
H.R. 1246: Mr. RUSH.
H.R. 1299: Mrs. GILLIBRAND.
H.R. 1330: Mr. ELLISON.
H.R. 1386: Mr. GRIJALVA.
H.R. 1422: Mr. MILLER of North Carolina.
H.R. 1464: Mr. BRALEY of Iowa, Mr. GUTIERREZ, and Mr. UPTON.

H.R. 1540: Mr. WAXMAN.
H.R. 1553: Mr. MELANCON, Mr. WALZ of Minnesota, Mr. OBERSTAR, Mr. KAGEN, Mr. HINCHEY, and Mr. DAVID DAVIS of Tennessee.
H.R. 1589: Mr. MICHAUD and Mr. BONNER.
H.R. 1621: Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. DOYLE, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. FARR, and Mr. LAMPSON.
H.R. 1671: Mr. DICKS.
H.R. 1691: Mr. ROTHMAN, Mrs. MALONEY of New York, Mr. CUMMINGS, and Mr. MOORE of Kansas.
H.R. 1701: Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 1713: Mr. UDALL of Colorado.
H.R. 1738: Mr. MCDERMOTT.
H.R. 1742: Mr. KAGEN, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, and Mr. WAMP.
H.R. 1748: Mr. MOORE of Kansas and Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky.
H.R. 1846: Mr. BUTTERFIELD.
H.R. 1847: Mr. MORAN of Virginia.
H.R. 1869: Mr. BRALEY of Iowa.
H.R. 1921: Mr. PAYNE.
H.R. 1927: Mr. BONNER.
H.R. 2016: Mr. REICHERT and Ms. DEGETTE.
H.R. 2040: Ms. SUTTON, Mrs. MALONEY of New York, Ms. CLARKE, Mr. MEEK of Florida, Mr. KINGSTON, Mr. BOSWELL, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. MARSHALL, and Mr. BACHUS.
H.R. 2131: Mr. PEARCE, Mr. MICHAUD, and Mr. ROSS.
H.R. 2188: Ms. SOLIS.
H.R. 2266: Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California.
H.R. 2267: Mr. GOODE, Mr. WALSH of New York, and Mr. RUSH.
H.R. 2343: Mr. DOGGETT.
H.R. 2436: Mr. WALDEN of Oregon.
H.R. 2468: Mr. SESTAK.
H.R. 2609: Mr. KIND.
H.R. 2620: Mr. BLUMENAUER.
H.R. 2676: Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California.
H.R. 2694: Mr. MILLER of North Carolina.
H.R. 2695: Mr. WAXMAN, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. BROWN of South Carolina, and Mr. CLYBURN.
H.R. 2702: Mr. HONDA.
H.R. 2734: Mr. RAMSTAD and Mr. ALEXANDER.
H.R. 2738: Mr. YOUNG of Alaska.
H.R. 2818: Mr. RUSH.
H.R. 2892: Mr. ROTHMAN.
H.R. 2910: Ms. SHEA-PORTER.
H.R. 2914: Mr. WOLF.
H.R. 3008: Mr. RUSH.
H.R. 3036: Ms. DEGETTE.
H.R. 3167: Mr. RUSH and Mrs. MUSGRAVE.
H.R. 3186: Mr. GRAVES, Mr. HELLER, Mr. KIRK, Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Mr. CAMP of Michigan, and Mr. WALBERG.
H.R. 3195: Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas and Mr. FORTUÑO.
H.R. 3219: Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. KUCINICH, and Mr. CUMMINGS.
H.R. 3229: Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas.
H.R. 3251: Ms. SOLIS.
H.R. 3255: Mr. BOOZMAN.
H.R. 3257: Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. ROTHMAN, Mr. BERMAN, and Ms. BALDWIN.
H.R. 3317: Mr. AL GREEN of Texas.
H.R. 3337: Mr. MARKEY.
H.R. 3394: Mr. LAMPSON.
H.R. 3395: Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia and Mr. MORAN of Virginia.
H.R. 3450: Mr. SESTAK.
H.R. 3453: Mr. DOYLE.
H.R. 3479: Mr. KLINE of Minnesota.
H.R. 3544: Ms. BORDALLO.
H.R. 3609: Mr. KIND.
H.R. 3627: Mr. WILSON of Ohio.
H.R. 3646: Mr. RUSH and Mr. SENSENBRENNER.
H.R. 3679: Mr. WELDON of Florida.
H.R. 3681: Mr. MITCHELL and Mr. BARROW.

H.R. 3689: Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California and Mr. HINCHEY.
H.R. 3698: Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin.
H.R. 3700: Mr. ROTHMAN and Mr. PORTER.
H.R. 3797: Ms. NORTON and Mr. OBERSTAR.
H.R. 3812: Mr. ROTHMAN.
H.R. 3829: Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California.
H.R. 3905: Mr. MORAN of Virginia and Mr. MOORE of Kansas.
H.R. 3989: Ms. SLAUGHTER.
H.R. 4011: Mrs. CUBIN.
H.R. 4116: Mr. HENSARLING, Mr. ROGERS of Michigan, and Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota.
H.R. 4133: Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. HUNTER, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mrs. SCHMIDT, and Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky.
H.R. 4139: Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. POMEROY, and Mr. GORDON.
H.R. 4188: Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California and Mrs. NAPOLITANO.
H.R. 4204: Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. MILLER of North Carolina, and Mr. WALZ of Minnesota.
H.R. 4251: Mr. MEEKS of New York, Mr. WAXMAN, Ms. LEE, and Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 4255: Mr. RUSH.
H.R. 4296: Mr. BACA and Mr. CUMMINGS.
H.R. 4304: Mr. BOREN.
H.R. 4328: Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, and Mr. KAGEN.
H.R. 4336: Mr. COHEN.
H.R. 4338: Mr. SALI.
H.R. 4464: Mr. CULBERSON, Mr. KELLER, Mr. WOLF, Mr. WELDON of Florida, Mr. SALI, and Mr. GILCHREST.
H.R. 4544: Mr. LEWIS of California, Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota, Mr. FARR, Mr. ROHRBACHER, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. MCCOTTER, Mr. HARE, Ms. SOLIS, and Mr. RUSH.
H.R. 4627: Mr. MCCOTTER and Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland.
H.R. 4660: Mr. GRIJALVA.
H.R. 4807: Mr. MCINTYRE.
H.R. 4838: Mr. FATTAH, Ms. MATSUI, Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, Mr. HOLT, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. HINCHEY, and Mrs. DAVIS of California.
H.R. 4845: Mr. PAUL.
H.R. 4914: Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota.
H.R. 4926: Mr. HONDA and Ms. DELAULO.
H.J. Res. 70: Mr. TIAHRT, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina, Mr. WU, and Ms. BEAN.
H. Con. Res. 163: Mr. GONZALEZ, Mr. KLINE of Minnesota, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. WAXMAN, and Mr. UPTON.
H. Con. Res. 198: Mr. MICHAUD, Mr. MOORE of Kansas, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. SESTAK, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. DAVIS of Alabama, Mr. NADLER, and Mrs. MALONEY of New York.
H. Con. Res. 247: Mr. VAN HOLLEN.
H. Con. Res. 250: Ms. BERKLEY.
H. Con. Res. 265: Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ OF CALIFORNIA.
H. Con. Res. 273: Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Ms. BERKLEY, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. HOLDEN, Mr. PASTOR, Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota, and Mr. MCGOVERN.
H. Res. 259: Mr. HASTINGS of Florida.
H. Res. 653: Ms. BALDWIN and Mr. RUSH.
H. Res. 753: Mr. REYES and Mr. SESTAK.
H. Res. 769: Mr. ROSKAM.
H. Res. 821: Mr. FRANKS of Arizona.
H. Res. 852: Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN.
H. Res. 854: Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California.
H. Res. 866: Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. POE, and Mr. GILCHREST.
H. Res. 874: Mr. PAUL and Mr. ABERCROMBIE.
H. Res. 883: Mr. HASTINGS of Florida and Mr. BACHUS.
H. Res. 908: Mr. HONDA, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. COHEN, Mr. MARKEY,

Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. EHLERS, Ms. BORDALLO, Ms. SUTTON, Mr. SNYDER, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. MOORE of Kansas, Mr. RAMSTAD, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, and Mr. SENSENBRENNER.

H. Res. 909: Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. FORTUÑO, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. LANTOS, Mr. MEEKS of New York, and Ms. WATSON.

CONGRESSIONAL EARMARKS, LIMITED TAX BENEFITS, OR LIMITED TARIFF BENEFITS

Under clause 9 of rule XXI, lists or statements on congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits were submitted as follows:

OFFERED BY MR. GEORGE MILLER OF CALIFORNIA

H.R. 2768, the Supplemental Mine Improvement and New Emergency Response Act of 2007, does not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9(d), (9e), or 9(f) of Rule XXI.