

Before making a decision to exempt a project from NEPA review, the Forest Service or Interior Department would have to consult with relevant Federal and State agencies, seek comments from the public, and follow existing procedures for such decisions.

HONORING THE COCKE COUNTY
NAVAL JUNIOR RESERVE OFFICER
TRAINING CORPS

HON. DAVID DAVIS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 6, 2008

Mr. DAVID DAVIS of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Cocke County Naval Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps (NJROTC) program for their achievements this past year. In 2007, the Cocke County NJROTC program was ranked number one in the State of Tennessee and number six in the United States in competitions including academics, athletics, and military drill.

In addition to achieving such great accolades in competitions, the Cocke County NJROTC planned, coordinated, and completed 2,153 community service hours in the Cocke County, Hamblen County and Knox County areas during the 2006 to 2007 school year.

The Cocke County NJROTC is a citizen leadership program designed to develop informed and responsible young men and women who embody honor, self-reliance, self-discipline, and respect to authority in a democratic society.

This achievement is a true honor to all the young men and women involved in the Cocke County NJROTC program. The rankings, each respectively, show the dedication and commitment to service and our Nation.

It is exciting for me to see the young men and women of Cocke County NJROTC establishing such high standards at a young age and it bestows great promise for the State of Tennessee and our Nation alike.

Madam Speaker, I ask that the House join me this evening honoring the Cocke County NJROTC program for their commitment to excellence, dedication, and promise as future leaders of America.

HONORING NANCY HILTON FOR
ENCOURAGING OUR NATION'S
MILITARY

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 6, 2008

Mr. HENSARLING. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize a talented and patriotic citizen, Nancy Hilton, for her efforts to honor and encourage our Nation's military.

Overwhelmed with the sacrifices made by our men and women in uniform. Ms. Hilton sought a unique way in which she could personally honor the military. On a road trip to the East Coast, Ms. Hilton decided to hand-stitch an American flag and wasted no time in doing so. On the road with no pattern, she purchased a store-made American flag and created a self-made pattern. Three years later,

after investing 214.5 hours and over 20 miles of yarn, Ms. Hilton proudly displays the 24-by-13 foot, 43 pound flag at her home in Athens, Texas.

In between stitching stripes, Ms. Hilton developed her crocheting ministry, The Love Stitchers. The Love Stitchers dedicate their time and efforts to making lap afghans for people in nursing homes and hospice centers. They also make special red, white, and blue starred and striped blankets for veterans. With 100 members in three cities, The Love Stitchers have made over 1,500 afghans.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the Fifth District of Texas, I am honored to recognize Ms. Nancy Hilton not only for her talent, but for her thoughtfulness and devotion in caring for our military, veterans, and seniors.

RECOGNIZING THE LATINA STYLE
50 AWARDS

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 6, 2008

Mr. BACA. Madam Speaker, in 1998, a unique program was launched with the purpose of creating awareness in corporate America and its connection to the growing world of professional Hispanic women. LATINA Style Magazine serves as a reflection of this increasing diversity. Because of the magazine's dedication to informing its readers on career opportunities in corporate America, it was the catalyst for creating a prestigious analysis of Hispanic women's presence there. It serves to show the continued efforts for promoting diversity and providing career advancement for these Latina professionals.

Today we celebrate the LATINA Style 50 Awards, a program which highlights the 50 best companies for Latinas to work for in our country. LATINA Style recruits up to 800 Fortune 1000 companies to participate in a survey regarding their role in increasing the number of Latina professionals in America's workplace. The reports highlight each company's leadership programs, employee benefits and Latina representation in senior positions. This past August, the tenth publication of these studies went to print. Today I stand here honoring this 10th year anniversary of a highly notable and beneficial publication.

Because of the dream of its late founder, Anna Maria Arias, the LATINA Style 50 provides today to Latina professionals a resource when looking for information on mentoring programs, education opportunities, employee benefits, women's issues, and more in corporate America. With these resources we can continue to shed light and improve the status of Hispanic professionals in America's growing corporate world. LATINA Style's passion helps more Hispanic women become aware of companies that are providing nurturing environments, where they can continue to climb the corporate ladder. I commend LATINA Style on their commitment to open more doors to Hispanic women, and for their continued inspiration to all Latinas and Latinos in the United States who seek to serve the vital roles in America's social, political, and economic communities.

HONORING BAHAI COMMUNITY OF
SAN JOSE

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 6, 2008

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Madam Speaker, I rise to acknowledge and honor Bahá'i Community of San Jose's 50th anniversary. The Bahá'i Faith, in just 150 years, has become an independent, second most widespread world religion whose five million followers are made up of more than 2,100 diverse ethnic, racial and tribal groups. The organization has more than 157,000 members in the United States.

The Bahá'i Faith includes teachings that promote the principle of equal rights for men and women, advocate compulsory education, abolish extremes of poverty and wealth, honor work performed in the spirit of service to the rank of worship, recommend the adoption of an auxiliary international language, and provide the necessary agencies for the establishment and safeguarding of a permanent and universal peace. The Bahá'i Communities of San Jose and of the United States operate more than one thousand grassroots social and economic development projects throughout the world.

This faith-based organization not only provides spiritual guidance for their members, but they also provide charitable work to the community at large. Some of their local civic activities include the membership in the Martin Luther King, Jr. Association, membership in the Network for a Hate Free Community, Juneteenth Festival, Second Harvest Food Collections, highway cleanup, and 22 years sponsorship of a service awards banquet recognizing notable individuals and organizations for their community service based on Bahá'i principles. Bahá'i Community of San Jose provides these valuable services at no cost to the Bahá'i Communities of the South Bay and the Santa Clara Valley Community at large.

In their 50 years of dedication and hard work. Bahá'i Community of San Jose has assisted thousands of people. Bahá'i Community of San Jose serves people of all beliefs, cultures, ethnicities and ages and serves a diverse population from various ethnic backgrounds.

It is indeed an honor and a privilege to have a warm, welcoming, and nurturing organization in my district that appreciates and honors the diversity that makes America, and specifically San Jose, California a most desirable place to live, work and raise a family.

FREEDOM FOR JUAN PEDROSO
ESQUIVEL

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 6, 2008

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise to bring to the attention of our colleagues the unjustified arrest of yet another dissident, Juan Pedroso Esquivel, by the totalitarian dictatorship in Cuba.

Recently dictatorship thugs working to stifle free speech raided Mr. Pedroso's home after

someone in the city of Colón posted stickers declaring “CAMBIO,” meaning change in Spanish. The regime charged Mr. Pedrosa on January 7 with the crime of possessing “subversive propaganda.” It is not known yet how long a sentence Mr. Pedrosa will face for this so-called crime. This may be because the tyrannical regime is attempting to scare other peaceful political dissenters by making an example with the unjust arrest of Mr. Pedrosa.

Mr. Pedrosa is a member of the Pedro Luis Boitel Democratic Party. He has a long history of nonviolent political dissent and has previously faced time inside the repressive gulags of the Cuban tyranny.

Even outside prison the regime’s thugs have repeatedly harassed Mr. Pedrosa. According to reports, in September 1998, Mr. Pedrosa was threatened by the despot chief of police in San José de los Ramos, Matanzas province. The policeman publicly said that he had orders to shoot Mr. Pedrosa in the head and then a few days later said he had his gun ready.

A few months later Mr. Pedrosa was summoned to the headquarters of the Sistema Unico de Vigilancia y Protección, SUVP, Unified Vigilance and Protection System, where he was told that he needed to stop his human rights work and “get a job” or he would be charged with the crime of “dangerousness.” However, Mr. Pedrosa was unable to find employment because of his past peaceful political activities. One week later, he was arrested and “convicted” of “dangerousness” and received a two-year sentence in the gulag.

My colleagues, it is unconscionable that someone can be sent to a gulag just because a dictatorship suspected he was posting stickers with the word “CAMBIO.” Why are they so afraid of the word “change”? What has them so scared of such a simple and peaceful word? What they are really scared of is anyone in any way challenging their tenuous grip on the Cuban people and putting a spotlight on their condemnable, abhorrent treatment of the Cuban people.

Madam Speaker, the arrest of Mr. Pedrosa is yet another example of the totalitarian dictatorship’s total disregard for human rights in that enslaved island. My colleagues, we must demand the immediate and unconditional release of Juan Pedrosa Esquivel and every political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

HONORING SCOTTY LIPPERT, JR.

HON. GEOFF DAVIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 6, 2008

Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a dedicated community servant and a national leader in his profession.

Scotty Lippert, Jr., is a standout in his field. For twenty-one years, he has worked for Clopay Plastics Products, a global leader in specialty films, extrusion coatings, custom-printing and engineered laminations. As a planned maintenance specialist and lubrication systems leader, he is one of only 745 people worldwide to meet the education, training, and examination standards required to achieve Machinery Lubrication Technician Certification.

Scotty Lippert helped design and construct a lube room that was judged best in the world

by a panel of national and international lubrication engineers. He is beyond doubt an expert in his field, authoring training books on lube-room construction and articles on lubrication systems and lending his services to a number of Fortune 500 companies. Just as importantly, Scotty Lippert’s best practices in the field of lubrication, inspired, designed and implemented at Clopay, are now being used by the U.S. Navy.

On November 2, 2007, Scotty Lippert was chosen as the 2007 Kentucky Manufacturing Employee of the Year. He was chosen by a panel of judges on account of his innovation, teamwork, community service, and leadership credentials.

In addition to his dedication to his company and profession, Scotty Lippert serves his community as a magistrate in Bracken County.

Scotty Lippert deserves praise for his contributions to his vocation and community, and I know the citizens of Bracken County and the Fourth Congressional District join me in recognizing his many achievements and contributions to our region.

INTRODUCTION OF EQUITABLE MINERAL LEASE REVENUE SHARING RESTORATION ACT

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 6, 2008

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, with my Colorado colleague, Representative JOHN SALAZAR, I am today introducing a bill to restore the equitable sharing between the Federal Government and the States of revenues from federal onshore mineral leases.

Leasing of federally-owned onshore minerals is governed by the Mineral Leasing Act, which provides that the royalties paid by the producers are split equally between the Federal Government and the government of the State where a lease is located.

This is very important for Colorado, which in recent years has received between \$30 million and \$60 million from this source. And many other States—especially in the West—have benefited as well. In fact, the most recent report by the Interior Department indicates that 34 States received a total of \$1.9 billion pursuant to this part of the Mineral Leasing Act in 2007.

Regrettably, the just-enacted appropriations bill for the Interior Department includes a provision that in effect amends this part of the Mineral Leasing Act by reducing the share of royalty funds going to affected States by 2 percent—so that Colorado and other States will get only 48 percent (instead of half) of the royalties from Federal leases within state boundaries.

My understanding is that this change was prompted—at least in part—as a way to offset some of the costs to the Interior Department of administering the leasing program and the distribution of royalty revenues.

But I do not think such a drastic change in the law should be accomplished by inclusion of such a provision in an appropriations bill, especially when it will have such a serious adverse effect on Colorado and our communities—especially those on the Western Slope—that are experiencing the impacts of

intensive development of Federally-owned natural gas and other energy resources.

Accordingly, our bill would reverse this recently-enacted change and so restore the equitable division of royalty revenues provided by the Mineral Leasing Act.

SUNSET MEMORIAL

HON. TRENT FRANKS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 6, 2008

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Madam Speaker, it is February 6, 2008, in the land of the free and the home of the brave and before the sun set today in America, almost 4,000 more defenseless unborn children were killed by abortion on demand—just today. That is more than the number of innocent American lives that we lost on September 11, only it happens every day.

It has now been exactly 12,798 days since the tragic judicial fiat called *Roe v. Wade* was handed down. Since then, the very foundation of this Nation has been stained by the blood of almost 50 million children. And all of them had at least four things in common.

They were each just little babies who had done nothing wrong to anyone. And each one of them died a nameless and lonely death. And each of their mothers, whether she realizes it immediately or not, will never be the same. And all the gifts that these children might have brought to humanity are now lost forever.

Madam Speaker, those noble heroes lying in frozen silence out in Arlington National Cemetery did not die so America could shred her own Constitution, as well as her own children, by the millions. It seems that we are never quite so eloquent as when we condemn the genocidal crimes of past generations, those who allowed their courts to strip the black man and the Jew of their constitutional personhood, and then proceeded to murderously desecrate millions of these, God’s own children.

Yet even in the full glare of such tragedy, this generation clings to blindness and invincible ignorance while history repeats itself and our own genocide mercilessly annihilates the most helpless of all victims to date, those yet unborn.

Perhaps it is important for those of us in this Chamber to remind ourselves again of why we are really all here.

Thomas Jefferson said, “The care of human life and its happiness and not its destruction is the chief and only object of good government.”

Madam Speaker, protecting the lives of our innocent citizens and their constitutional rights is why we are all here. It is our sworn oath. The phrase in the 14th amendment capsulizes our entire Constitution. It says: “No state shall deprive any person of life, liberty or property without due process of law.”

The bedrock foundation of this Republic is the Declaration, not the casual notion, but the Declaration of the self-evident truth that all human beings are created equal and endowed by their creator with the unalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Every conflict and battle our Nation has ever faced can be traced to our commitment to this