

poverty tools in the United States. This is an opportunity to help people get out of poverty. To educate those who are eligible for the EITC, more tax centers have extended their hours of operation. I encourage my colleagues in Congress to inform their constituents of the available resources. To check one's eligibility and identify the nearest IRS Taxpayer Assistance Center one can go to IRS.gov.

CELEBRATING VERMONT'S PARTNERSHIP WITH THE REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA

**HON. PETER WELCH**

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 13, 2008*

Mr. WELCH of Vermont. Madam Speaker, Vermont is proud to welcome General Miroslav Stojanovski, Chief of Staff of the Army of the Republic of Macedonia. General Stojanovski's visit is the latest step in a long history of partnership between Vermont and Macedonia.

Established in 1995 through the State Partnership Program of the U.S.-European Command, the partnership began as primarily a military-to-military relationship between the Macedonian Army and the Vermont National Guard. This military partnership has resulted in over 540 joint events that have included over 6,000 members of the Macedonian Army. In September 2006, Vermont National Guard troops and their Macedonian Army counterparts carried out a major, 2-week-long, small-unit exchange exercise to support the professionalization of the Macedonian military in its transformation to meet NATO interoperability standards.

Vermonters' engagement with Macedonia has expanded into civil affairs as well, including the establishment of university partnerships, economic development discussions, and support for the Macedonian youth baseball organization.

In May 2007, the University of Vermont signed an agreement with the SS *Cyril* and *Methodius* University to promote collaborative scientific research, joint conferences and workshops, and faculty and student exchanges.

Vermonters have also played an important role in bringing baseball, our national pastime, to Macedonia. C.J. Knudsen, the general manager of the Vermont Lake Monsters minor league baseball team traveled to Macedonia to deliver gloves, balls, bats, uniforms, and other equipment to help start the country's first little league.

Macedonia has made incredible strides since its independence in 1991, achieving membership in the United Nations, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the World Trade Organization, and to NATO's Partnership for Peace and Membership Action Plan. Macedonia is a candidate for European Union membership and may soon be invited as a full member of NATO, hopefully as soon as April of this year. I look forward to the continued strengthening of the United States and especially Vermont's partnership with the Republic of Macedonia.

RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE NATIONAL DAY OF THE COWBOY

**HON. GABRIELLE GIFFORDS**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 13, 2008*

Ms. GIFFORDS. Madam Speaker, today I introduced a resolution officially designating July 26, 2008, as the "National Day of the Cowboy." Americans are encouraged to observe the national contribution of Cowboys and Cowgirls with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

This resolution declares Congress support for honoring working Cowboys and their ongoing contributions to our communities. It also recognizes the Cowboy as a central figure in literature, film and music, occupying an important place in the public imagination. The "National Day of the Cowboy" honors the livelihood of the Cowboy as one that spans race, gender and generations.

Our legendary Cowboy is embraced and respected by people the world over as a symbol of rugged individualism. He represents a commitment to get the job done and do it well while depending on his own ingenuity for survival. He is loyal to an honorable code of ethics as well as persistent and tenacious in the face of any challenge.

The Cowboy is indeed the ultimate western icon, reminding us of a special time in the heart of America's history.

I am proud to be introducing this resolution today, and I urge my colleagues to join me in declaring congressional support for the "National Day of the Cowboy."

CONGRATULATING LEE MYUNGBAK ON ELECTION TO PRESIDENCY OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA

SPEECH OF

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 6, 2008*

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 947 which welcomes the new President of the Republic of Korea, Lee Myung-Bak, and congratulates him on his upcoming inauguration later this month. I am pleased to be a cosponsor of this important resolution.

Madam Speaker, not a little more than a half century ago—within living memory of several Members of this House, most notably our distinguished Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, my dear friend Mr. RANGEL—the Republic of Korea was an impoverished casualty of imperialism and war. It has since grown to be affluent and productive beyond the wildest dreams of the American and South Korean soldiers who fought shoulder-to-shoulder for freedom and democracy during the Korean War.

There are over two million Americans of Korean descent living throughout the United States, from Hawaii, where the first Korean immigrants landed a little more than a century ago, to New York, which is home to one of the largest and most vibrant Korean American communities in the Nation. It is important to

note that Korean Americans have made significant contributions in New York politically, economically, culturally and through their various civic and religious organizations.

The newly elected President of the Republic of Korea is a distinguished statesman and prominent business leader. President-elect Lee Myung-Bak has served as a Member of the South Korean National Assembly; he was Mayor of Seoul, South Korea's largest city and capital; he has been a visiting scholar at the George Washington University; and he has been the chief executive officer of some of the Republic of Korea's most successful business corporations affiliated with the Hyundai Group. He has distinguished himself over the years in both the public and private sectors.

Madam Speaker, President-elect Lee has indicated, in several statements he has made since his election, a profound desire to strengthen the already strong friendship and partnership between the Republic of Korea and the United States. I applaud President-elect Lee for this commitment and look forward to working with him and administration to this end. I join my colleagues in congratulating and wishing him and his transition team well as they take up their new responsibilities.

HONORING THOMAS BASSANO OF TAMPA, FLORIDA

**HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 13, 2008*

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a man dedicated to turning the tragic abduction and murder of Citrus County child Jessica Lunsford into a rallying cause for child advocacy issues. On Saturday, March 1, 2008, Tom will set out from Marina Del Ray, California, on a cross country journey, running 3,000 miles to raise awareness for children's safety and help prevent future children from being harmed by sexual predators.

In the process of planning for his cross-country run, Tom established the Run for the Innocent to gather support for his endeavor. This group is working with Mark Lunsford, the father of Jessica, as well as the Citrus County Child Advocacy Center, Jessie's Place. All of the charity runs scheduled along Tom's path from California to Florida will be coordinated by staff and volunteers from the center, with all charity proceeds going to charity.

Since his daughter was abducted and killed in 2005, Mark Lunsford has led a 50-state effort to strengthen laws targeting sexual offenders and predators. I was proud to work with Mark to pass Federal legislation, the Jessica Lunsford Act, as part of comprehensive child welfare legislation. A man truly dedicated to improving the chances for children affected by abuse, neglect, and sexual predators, Mark established Jessie's Place as a center to serve children affected by child abuse or neglect.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join me in honoring Tom Bassano for making his commitment to American children and running across the United States to fight violence against children. Tom's effort shows the effect that one man can have on the lives of millions, and should be commended by this entire body for

his novel idea to raise money for this worthy cause. We wish Tom luck on his journey and look forward to welcoming him to Citrus County when he finishes his run.

HONORING FAMILY SERVICES INC.

**HON. BILL SHUSTER**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 13, 2008*

Mr. SHUSTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 80th anniversary of Family Services Incorporated, a non-profit organization located in Altoona, Pennsylvania. Family Services Incorporated has worked to provide vital services to the community.

Known at its founding as the Blair County Children's Aid Society, the organization was created to aid in the care and eventual adoption of abused and neglected children. A community-wide evaluation found that there was a need for a nonprofit agency to offer capable social work services aimed toward resolving individual, marital and family problems in 1967 and 1968. The United Way agency provided funding for Family and Children's Service of Blair County so it could provide programming and services to meet those needs. Throughout the 1970s, the agency established a residential program for individuals with developmental disabilities. Throughout the 1980s the agency served victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and runaway and homeless children. In 1997 the agency officially became Family Services Incorporated.

Led by a dedicated board of directors and management team, Family Services Incorporated is always willing to adjust programming for adults and children who seek its services. It has constantly endeavored to build healthier relationships within the community. Dedicated staff provide services through the Domestic Abuse Project, Crime Victim Support Services, Street Wise Outreach and Opportunity Program, Runaway and Homeless Youth Program, Emergency Shelter for Men, Men helping Men, Developmental Disabilities Program, Protection from Abuse Office, Women Aware and Counseling.

Family Services Incorporated has provided a trustworthy atmosphere which has worked to help a multitude of men, women, and children throughout its history. I look forward to celebrating the 80th anniversary of such a wonderful organization, as it has brought a greater appreciation to our area and has surely been an asset to the community. I would like to wish Family Services Incorporated all the best in its future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. PAUL RYAN**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 13, 2008*

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Madam Speaker, I was absent for legislative business conducted on February 12, 2008, due to inclement weather. As a result, I missed rollcall votes 43–45.

Had I been present, I would have voted: "aye" on rollcall vote 43—H. Res. 954, hon-

oring the life of senior Border Patrol agent Luis A. Aguilar who lost his life in the line of duty near Yuma, Arizona, on January 19, 2008; "aye" on rollcall vote 44—H. Res. 909, commemorating the courage of the Haitian soldiers that fought for American independence in the "Siege of Savannah" and for Haiti's independence and renunciation of slavery; and "aye" on rollcall vote 45—H. Con. Res. 238, celebrating the birth of Abraham Lincoln and recognizing the prominence the Declaration of Independence played in the development of Abraham Lincoln's beliefs.

ECONOMIC STIMULUS ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

**HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 7, 2008*

Mr. KANJORSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my appreciation to the House Democratic and Republican leadership and to our colleagues in the Senate for the bipartisan effort that has produced timely, targeted, and temporary legislation to stimulate our Nation's slowing economy. I am also pleased that the legislation we are about to consider ensures that our Nation's senior citizens and disabled veterans are not left out of this worthwhile package.

Because of my concerns that the bill we considered last week did not include low-income seniors and disabled, I led the effort in the House to ensure that those who depend entirely on their Social Security checks were included in the final version of this legislation. I am very pleased that the Senate agreed and expanded the economic stimulus package to provide these Americans with much-needed relief. I urge my colleagues in the House to do the same.

Our Nation's seniors and disabled veterans are facing difficult economic times. For years, these men and women have been forced to survive on less and less as their costs continue to increase and their incomes remain the same. These Americans need cash rebates just as much as the individuals originally included in the stimulus package.

I am also pleased to see that the legislation we are about to vote on includes language that would ensure that illegal immigrants do not receive cash benefits that should only go to those who rightfully deserve them. This language mirrors legislation that I introduced in the House today.

Finally, the bill before us contains an important provision that I helped to craft as the Chairman of the Subcommittee on Capital Markets, Insurance and Government Sponsored Enterprises. This reform will temporarily increase the conforming loan limits of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac to enhance the liquidity of our mortgage markets. I support this short-term change.

Madam Speaker, once again I wish to applaud the efforts of both the Members of the House and Senate in crafting legislation that will spur our economy, provide rebates to those that need them most, and ensure that those ineligible for federal benefits do not receive them.

COMPETING CURRENCIES

**HON. RON PAUL**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 13, 2008*

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, I rise to speak on the concept of competing currencies. Currency, or money, is what allows civilization to flourish. In the absence of money, barter is the name of the game; if the farmer needs shoes, he must trade his eggs and milk to the cobbler and hope that the cobbler needs eggs and milk. Money makes the transaction process far easier. Rather than having to search for someone with reciprocal wants, the farmer can exchange his milk and eggs for an agreed-upon medium of exchange with which he can then purchase shoes.

This medium of exchange should satisfy certain properties: It should be durable, that is to say, it does not wear out easily; it should be portable, that is, easily carried; it should be divisible into units usable for everyday transactions: it should be recognizable and uniform, so that one unit of money has the same properties as every other unit; it should be scarce, in the economic sense, so that the extant supply does not satisfy the wants of everyone demanding it; it should be stable, so that the value of its purchasing power does not fluctuate wildly; and it should be reproducible, so that enough units of money can be created to satisfy the needs of exchange.

Over millennia of human history, gold and silver have been the two metals that have most often satisfied these conditions, survived the market process, and gained the trust of billions of people. Gold and silver are difficult to counterfeit, a property which ensures they will always be accepted in commerce. It is precisely for this reason that gold and silver are anathema to governments. A supply of gold and silver that is limited in supply by nature cannot be inflated, and thus serves as a check on the growth of government. Without the ability to inflate the currency, governments find themselves constrained in their actions, unable to carry on wars of aggression or to appease their overtaxed citizens with bread and circuses.

At this country's founding, there was no government controlled national currency. While the Constitution established the Congressional power of minting coins, it was not until 1792 that the U.S. Mint was formally established. In the meantime, Americans made do with foreign silver and gold coins. Even after the Mint's operations got underway, foreign coins continued to circulate within the United States, and did so for several decades.

On the desk in my office I have a sign that says: "Don't steal—the government hates competition." Indeed, any power a government arrogates to itself, it is loathe to give back to the people. Just as we have gone from a constitutionally-instituted national defense consisting of a limited army and navy bolstered by militias and letters of marque and reprisal, we have moved from a system of competing currencies to a government-instituted banking cartel that monopolizes the issuance of currency. In order to introduce a system of competing currencies, there are three steps that must be taken to produce a legal climate favorable to competition.