

created an enduring source of recreation and community for countless families. I join my colleagues in the United States Congress in offering a sincere congratulation on their 50th anniversary.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2008

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, on February 27, 2008, I was unavoidably detained and was not able to record my votes for rollcall Nos. 78–84.

Had I been present I would have voted:

Rollcall No. 78—“yes”—Providing for the consideration of H.R. 5351, Renewable Energy and Energy Conservation Tax Act. Rollcall No. 79—“yes”—On Approving the Journal. Rollcall No. 80—“yes”—Providing for the consideration of H.R. 5351, Renewable Energy and Energy Conservation Tax Act. Rollcall No. 81—“yes”—Providing for the consideration of H.R. 5351, Renewable Energy and Energy Conservation Tax Act. Rollcall No. 82—“yes”—Renewable Energy and Energy Conservation Tax Act of 2008. Rollcall No. 83—“no”—Renewable Energy and Energy Conservation Tax Act of 2008. Rollcall No. 84—“yes”—Renewable Energy and Energy Conservation Tax Act of 2008.

INTRODUCTION OF NATIONAL
MINER'S DAY RESOLUTION

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2008

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Speaker, an old mining song contains the powerful, but truthful verse:

A miner's life is like a sailor, aboard a ship
to cross the waves,
Every day his life's in danger, still he ventures,
being brave,
Unlike you or me, a miner goes to work
every day, knowing that he is placing
his life in grave danger.

A miner goes underground and works with thousands of tons of dirt and rock above him. He works every day knowing that he is surrounded by dangerous, potentially fatal gases. He works in conditions that many of us would never want to have to endure, that many of us cannot even imagine.

I come from a coal mining State, where hardworking, God-fearing miners and their families have helped to forge a proud history and a culture guided by American values.

Every minute a miner is at work, he knows that he is a spark or a slip of a tool away from eternity. He knows that with a spark or slip of a tool, he will not return home that night and never see his family again.

Every minute a miner is at work, he faces gas explosions, equipment failure, roof falls, and fires. Still, as the song says, he “ventures being brave.” He must.

Fatality rates in our Nation's coal fields once resembled the casualty lists from the battlefields when our Nation was at war.

December 1907 is remembered in the coal fields as “bloody December.” On December 1, a gas explosion killed all 34 men in a mine in Fayette City, Pennsylvania. Five days later, 362 miners perished in the Monongah disaster in West Virginia—the worst industrial accident in American history. Ten days later, an explosion in Yolande, Alabama, killed 57 men. On December 19, Jacobs Creek, Pennsylvania, an explosion killed 239 miners.

Laws, safety inspections, and better, safer equipment, thank God, have helped to reduce the casualty rates among our Nation's miners. But the tragedies in 2006 at Sago and Aracoma in West Virginia reminded Americans that mining is a dangerous profession. That, “every day his life's in danger, still he ventures, being brave.”

While facing these enormous dangers, these hard-working, patriotic Americans have continued to produce the raw materials that fueled the Industrial Revolution, the energy that heated our homes, and the resources that ensured our security. Today, miners continue to produce for the betterment of all Americans.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to join my colleague from West Virginia, ALAN MOLLOHAN, in offering this resolution that supports the goals and ideals of a National Miner's Day to celebrate and honor the contributions that miners have made to America throughout our history.

It is a simple, yet very important way a grateful Nation can acknowledge these men and women who have done so much for us, and will continue to do even more throughout our future.

HONORING THE BALTIMORE CITY
COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL CONCERT
CHOIR OF BALTIMORE, MARY-
LAND

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2008

Mr. CUMMINGS. Madam Speaker, today, I congratulate an exceptional high school choir in my district, the Baltimore City College High School Concert Choir of Baltimore, Maryland, which has been chosen to perform at New York City's legendary Carnegie Hall on March 10, 2008.

Baltimore City College High School Concert Choir was selected out of dozens of high school choirs across the country for this performance. The concert will feature 200 students from four states, and is the capstone of Carnegie Hall's yearlong National High School Choral Festival. The concert will be conducted by Dr. Craig Jessop, esteemed Music Director of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir, who has been working with the choirs and their conductors throughout the year. Apart from their world-renowned performances, Carnegie Hall brings innovative music education programs to students across the nation. I am delighted that these young constituents have been given this opportunity.

Led by Linda R. Hall, the Baltimore City College High School Concert Choir performs repertoire drawn from all periods and musical genres and has performed on television, radio, and stages all along the Eastern seaboard and in Canada. The choir has shared the stage with the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra,

the Morgan State University Choir, and the Baltimore Choral Arts, and has participated in numerous competitions and adjudications at which they have consistently received superior ratings and numerous awards. The choir has also traveled abroad, performing in Italy, France, and Spain. Choir members adhere to the standards of commitment, consistency, conditioning, cooperation, communication, character, and confidence.

I am honored to have one of the four schools in the nation chosen for the Carnegie Hall National High School Choral Festival residing in the 7th Congressional District of Maryland, which I represent. They should be proud not only of their musical achievement, but their embodiment of the quality musical education the State of Maryland provides. I commend these students and their leaders for their success, and wish them the best of luck on March 10 when they perform at Carnegie Hall.

HONORING CHIEF I. D. SMITH FOR
16 YEARS OF SERVICE AT THE
SEAGOVILLE POLICE DEPART-
MENT

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2008

Mr. HENSARLING. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize an outstanding citizen and public servant, Chief I. D. Smith, in honor of his retirement from 16 years of service with the Seagoville Police Department.

In 1971, Chief Smith began his law enforcement career as an officer with the West Tawakoni Police Department. Before coming to Seagoville, Chief Smith gained experience serving as a Deputy Chief, Captain, Investigator, and finally Chief for five different police departments.

Chief Smith will be remembered for bringing the police department into the 21st century by improving hiring standards and overseeing the implementation of contemporary law enforcement methods and technology. In addition, he achieved the always difficult, but highly admired, task of providing quality service and protection on a lean budget.

In addition to faithfully serving his community, Chief Smith is a husband to Shirley and proud father and grandfather.

I've been told that Chief Smith plans to spend a lot of time playing golf and fishing in retirement. I hope that he hits all the greens in regulation and that his livewell is always full.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the Fifth District of Texas, I am honored to recognize Chief I. D. Smith for his courage in protecting and serving the citizens of Seagoville.

GREAT LAKES DAY

HON. CANDICE S. MILLER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2008

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Madam Speaker, I rise to welcome all of the advocates that have come to Washington today for Great Lakes Day. Their goal is to advocate on behalf