

one of the diagnostic criteria of conduct disorder.

The link between animal abuse and domestic violence is a recognized fact. Each year, defenseless pets face the sad and disturbing reality that they will be victims of cruelty and abuse. Domestic abusers commonly torture or kill family pets as a method of exerting control and ensuring submission. This causes victims, children and adults alike, to remain in violent households in order to ensure their beloved pets are not harmed further.

Research indicates that children who are exposed to domestic violence are nearly three times more likely to mistreat animals than children who are not exposed to such violence. Tragically, this behavior is often symptomatic of future abuse toward other animals or human beings. Significant research documents a relationship between childhood histories of animal cruelty and patterns of chronic interpersonal aggression.

Due to the correlation between animal abuse and other forms of family and community violence, animal abuse must be taken very seriously. Human services, animal services, and law enforcement agencies must share resources and expertise to address animal and human related violence in communities. By effectively and comprehensively addressing the link between violence towards animals and other forms of societal violence, we can learn information that will help stop violence in the home as well as the community at large.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the designation of September 2008 as National Link Awareness Month so that more awareness will be brought to the link between animal cruelty and other forms of violence in society.

RECOGNIZING LINCOLN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN CLEAR LAKE, IOWA

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2008

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the 115 second grade students at Lincoln Elementary School in Clear Lake, Iowa, for their efforts in making the holidays brighter for our U.S. troops overseas.

The second grade class participated in a project called "Operation Stockings for Soldiers." The children donated their own time and money to fill stockings with video games, DVD's, razors, stationary and a variety of other items. Each student also wrote inspiring letters, thanking the soldiers for protecting America and wishing them happy holidays. Some of the students' families donated money for the postage on the stockings.

This collective effort at Lincoln Elementary School is a characteristic of what Iowa is all about—citizens motivated and dedicated to improving the lives of others. I commend all the students, their families and especially their teacher, Kim Williamson, who organized this heartwarming effort to help our Iowa soldiers overseas. The effort of Kim and her students has reinforced the importance and joy of giving to others. I consider it an honor to represent each of the second graders, teachers

and parents of the Lincoln Elementary School community involved in the "Operations Stockings for Soldiers" project in the U.S. Congress, and commend them for their great act of compassion. And I know my colleagues join me in thanking them for their wonderful work.

GENERATIONS INVIGORATING VOLUNTEERISM AND EDUCATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2008

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the GIVE Act and congratulate Speaker PELOSI and Chairman MILLER in bringing this important reauthorization to the floor.

National service builds character and communities. Volunteers in our communities help children succeed in schools, assist in providing social services, green our communities and rebuild after disasters. And the volunteers gain valuable experience and the satisfaction of having made a real difference.

H.R. 5563 strengthens national service opportunities by recruiting 25,000 more volunteers through a new Office of Outreach and Recruitment. This office will promote the recruitment of babyboomers and veterans. The bill also provides a new focus on youth opportunities. Too many youth in our communities are without positive activities during the summer. H.R. 5563 offers summer service opportunities, including a \$500 educational award for college expenses.

Volunteerism is also an important part of emergency preparedness efforts. This bill encourages more collaboration with national, state, and local units of government and creates a "Reserve Corps" of Americorps alumni for times of national need.

With the many challenges facing the United States—both at home and abroad—it is more important than ever that we provide incentives and opportunities for Americans to give back. We saw the best of ourselves in the outpouring of volunteers after 9/11, Hurricane Katrina, and the bridge collapse in Minneapolis. Reauthorization of the Corporation of National Service will provide that kind of help for families and communities on an ongoing basis in a very cost-effective way.

This is a bipartisan, widely supported bill. I urge my colleagues to support its passage.

ALTERNATIVE PUBLIC SPENDING: EFFECTS ON JOB CREATION

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2008

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, last week's report of the February jobs figures—a net loss of 63,000 jobs—is yet another sign that we need to act to spur employment. We need to stimulate the economy and to create the good jobs that will help working families across the country achieve the American dream.

I would like to bring my colleagues' attention to a recent study that gives us new information on how to achieve that goal. The study, completed by economists at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst, evaluates the economic relationship between public spending and job creation. The study, "The U.S. Employment Effect of Military and Domestic Spending Priorities," concludes that public dollars invested in health care, education, mass transit or construction for home weatherization and infrastructure create more jobs than investing an equivalent amount in either military or personal consumption through tax cuts.

The study evaluates the relative effects on job creation of investing an equivalent amount of federal dollars in three scenarios: (1) private consumption through tax cuts, (2) the military, and (3) domestic investments. This important study finds each billion dollars of federal funding would create: 10,799 jobs if spent on tax cuts designed to spur personal consumption; 8,555 jobs if allocated for military spending; 12,883 jobs if invested in health care; 17,687 jobs if invested in education; 19,795 jobs if invested in mass transit; 12,804 jobs if invested in home weatherization and infrastructure.

The bottom line is that public dollars invested in health care, education, mass transit, or construction for home weatherization and infrastructure create more jobs than investing an equivalent amount in either the military or personal consumption.

I hope that my colleagues will review this study, and I would like to thank the Women's Action for New Directions (WAND), the Institute for Policy Studies, and the Political Economy Research Institute at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst for their work in this area.

INTRODUCTION OF TRANSITIONAL HEALTH CARE FOR THE SELECTED RESERVES

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2008

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today, along with Representatives STEVE BUYER, GENE TAYLOR, JEFF MILLER and 41 additional members, to introduce legislation to provide transitional health care for the Selected Reserves.

When an active duty soldier is involuntarily separated from the Army, he or she is afforded 180 days of transitional health care at no cost. Unfortunately, those soldiers who have served honorably and simply leave active duty at the end of their contractual agreement with one of the military services are not afforded transitional health care.

The brave men and women who join the ranks of our proud military deserve every consideration upon their release from active duty. This legislation provides an important measure to the servicemembers and their families as they move to civilian life. It seeks to keep the skilled military members in the Guard and Reserves.

Without our dedicated Guard and Reserves forces, it is impossible to keep the threat of terrorism at bay and sustain the Global War on Terrorism. Retaining these highly skilled men and women is paramount in maintaining

our Nation's security. Skills learned while serving on active duty and carried to the Guard and Reserves will provide for future national and world threats. This small incentive allows departing service members a period of adjustment without worrying about a sudden illness or a health emergency.

It is interesting to note that since September 11, 2001, we have had over 600,000 members of the Guard and Reserves called to active duty. Without the Selected Ready Reserves, our ability to defend against enemies foreign and domestic would be greatly reduced. The strength of our Guard and Reserves has always been those former active duty servicemembers who join their ranks.

Those servicemembers also represent a trained pool of military talent available to serve our Guard and Reserves in a different capacity . . . a citizen patriot. Congress should act quickly to help support our Guard and Reserves by passing this bill. I am proud to sponsor this bill along with the many co-sponsors and encourage you to support this important measure.

RECOGNIZING AMES, IOWA POLICE OFFICER CLINT HERTZ AND LT. JEFF BRINKLEY

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2008

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ames, Iowa Police Officer Clint Hertz and Lt. Jeff Brinkley as recipients of The Sullivan Brothers' Award of Valor for saving another's life by risking their own.

The Sullivan Brothers' Award of Valor Program was established in 1977 to recognize peace officers and firefighters, who while serving in an official capacity, distinguished themselves by performing a heroic act while fully aware of a threat to his/her personal safety. The strict nomination process includes background investigations, and the final determination is made by the Governor of Iowa.

On December 27, 2007, Lt. Brinkley and Officer Hertz responded to a 911 call of a car on fire in the North Grand Mall parking lot. When Lt. Brinkley arrived, he realized the inside of the car was full of black smoke and the back half of the car was in flames. He quickly ran to the car and broke the passenger window, but because of the thickness of the smoke, he was unable to see if there were any passengers inside the car. Officer Hertz then arrived and also ran to the car to check for passengers and found a man trapped inside the car. Officer Hertz then opened the passenger-side door and Lt. Brinkley helped him pull the man to safety. Moments later the car was completely engulfed in flames.

Lt. Brinkley's and Officer Hertz's bravery goes above and beyond what we are asked of as citizens of this country. Their courage illustrates the compassion of Iowans; willing to risk their own lives for the safety of their fellow citizens. For this I offer them my utmost congratulations and thanks.

I commend Lt. Jeff Brinkley and Officer Clint Hertz for their heroism. I am honored to represent them in Congress and I wish them the best in their future service with the Ames Police Department.

INTRODUCTION OF THE PHYSICAL ACTIVITY GUIDELINES FOR AMERICANS ACT OF 2008

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2008

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, today, along with my colleague and co-chair of the Congressional Fitness Caucus, Representative ZACH WAMP, I am introducing the "Physical Activity Guidelines for Americans Act of 2008." If enacted, this bill will make important improvements in the way that we measure and promote health and fitness in our communities.

Health care has become one of the most prominent issues of our time, and coming up with solutions to curb rising costs and address the growing numbers of uninsured Americans will take a great deal of hard work and debate. Whatever our disagreements about the best ways to fix these problems, there are simple principles upon which we can all agree. This bill focuses on one of those simple principles: that exercise makes Americans healthier.

Many of us are familiar with Dietary Guidelines for Americans, a report released every five years by the Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Agriculture. These are recommendations that help guide the way that physicians and nutritionists talk to their patients and clients about their diets and how to think of healthy food as a way of life. Similarly, HHS also releases a report entitled Physical Activity Guidelines, which summarizes current knowledge about the relationship between exercise and fitness.

I would argue that these publications are of equal importance, as diet and exercise are the pillars of a healthy lifestyle. There is one difference, though, that I believe by fixing we can further promote healthy living for Americans. The difference is this: where Dietary Guidelines is mandated to be updated every five years. Physical Activity Guidelines has no such requirement. Fixing this difference will ensure that Americans have the most up-to-date information about the role and importance of exercise in their lives, just as they do now for their diets.

This bill seeks to accomplish that fix. It would equalize the way that the federal government dispenses information about diet and exercise, and it would benefit ordinary people by giving them relevant information about how to become healthier. As I said, curing all of our health care ills will require a great deal of work, thought, and debate, but I believe that we can get off to a good start simply by helping Americans exercise more and, by staying healthy, go to the doctor a little less. Madam Speaker, I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting this simple measure to help achieve that simple goal.

RECOGNIZING DEBBIE BRACKIN SMITH AS FLORIDA'S SCHOOL-RELATED EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2008

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it is an honor for me to rise today in recognition of Debbie Smith, Florida's School-Related Employee of the Year.

As the Physical Education Assistant at Shalimar Elementary School, Ms. Smith works with hundreds of children everyday. Expanding upon the opportunities provided by her position, she has constructed several new physical education programs that heighten student exercise. The "Miler Club," a new program in which students earn "toe tokens" for every five miles that they run, promotes athleticism and encourages students towards physical activity. Ms. Smith is also instrumental in the school's Field Day, a day devoted to outdoor activity.

In addition to teaching physical education, Ms. Smith also assists in the classroom. Utilizing small group instruction, she works with students requiring extra attention in reading and math.

Ms. Smith's instruction has unbounded influence. Her dedication and devotion have led countless students to a greater understanding of physical education and fitness. Ms. Smith's outstanding accomplishments have distinguished her as one of the great educators in Northwest Florida, and the Okaloosa County School District is honored to have her as one of their own.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am proud to recognize Debbie Smith on her exemplary service in Northwest Florida.

MARCH: CRIMINAL JUSTICE MONTH

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2008

Mr. REICHERT. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 945, a resolution that establishes March 2008 as "National Criminal Justice Month."

Prior to joining this body, I worked for 33 years as a member of the King County Sheriff's Office, eventually becoming the elected Sheriff of King County in 1997. I could not agree more with the sentiments of this Resolution and want to personally thank each one of the approximately three million Americans working within our nation's criminal justice system today.

I know a job in the criminal justice system, no matter what it is, can often be thankless and tiring. The pressures of family, life and service can be overwhelming. I also know the physical and mental toughness that is required to perform these duties. However, the excitement of a job well done and the respect given to these heroic men and women outweigh the sometimes unpleasant challenges they face.