

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PHIL ENGLISH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 15, 2008

Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 185, H.R. 3548, the Plain Language in Government Communications Act of 2007, I would have voted in favor of the bill. I was held up in Pennsylvania due to a car accident that shut down the PA Turnpike.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea".

HONORING AND RECOGNIZING THE DIOCESE OF ST. CLOUD CATHOLIC CHARITIES' MEALS ON WHEELS PROGRAM

HON. MICHELE BACHMANN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 15, 2008

Mrs. BACHMANN. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize and pay honor to the immense service the Meals on Wheels Association of America, MOWAA, has made to the most vulnerable senior citizens of our Nation. The MOWAA represents a number of member senior nutrition programs in each State throughout the country, including several in Minnesota.

This organization represents America's commitment to community service by restoring dignity and respect to all citizens, regardless of race or religion. In addition, their annual March for Meals campaigns have served as a platform to raise funds, create awareness, and increase the number of volunteers to enhance the association and its critical objectives.

I would particularly like to commend the Meals on Wheels program run by Catholic Charities of the Diocese of St. Cloud. They provide hot, nutritious meals and deliver them to frail, homebound seniors.

Since its humble beginnings in Great Britain during World War II and the first American home-delivered meal program in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, in January of 1954, Meals on Wheels has provided vulnerable senior Americans with not only a warm meal, but also a warm heart. There is nothing greater in life than a person's self-respect, and the MOWAA has made that ideal a cornerstone of their mission and organization.

Madam Speaker, it is my honor to recognize today the selfless commitment of the Meals on Wheels Association of America and its dedicated volunteers across the country. It is through their service that we can be proud to call ourselves Americans.

CELEBRATING THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF WEBSTER, TEXAS

HON. NICK LAMPSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 15, 2008

Mr. LAMPSON. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to stand before you today in celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the City of Webster, Texas. Webster was incorporated on April 19th, 1958, almost 80 years after it was settled by James W. Webster.

Since its settlement in 1879, Webster has enjoyed a rich and varied history. Its temperate climate and the dedicated work of its residents nursed the fledgling Texas rice industry, now a multimillion-dollar economic success. In more recent years, Webster has become home for much of the aerospace industry and serves as the gateway to Johnson Space Center. Its population has blossomed, from a handful of ranching settlers in 1879 to over 9000 residents.

Webster has also served as a vital connector for the Bay Area. Its official emblem, an unbroken chain, reflects its role as a link in the Bay Area economy and between the cities of Houston and Galveston, as well as the Johnson Space Center. The emblem also symbolizes Webster's constant progress and growth, a connection between the past and the future.

As Webster enters its next 50 years, I have no doubt that it will continue to achieve success. I am proud to celebrate with the residents of Webster their legacy and hopes for the years ahead. I wish the City of Webster a bright future and congratulate them on this golden anniversary.

GAGE CARTER HERRINGTON

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 15, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Gage Carter Herrington, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 45, and by earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Gage has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Gage participated in the National Youth Leadership Training in Boy Scouts of America. Gage is also a Brave in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say.

Gage has also excelled academically, ranking 11th in his class of 201 at Lafayette High School. Gage participated in the National Geography Bee at the State level, earned a double varsity letter on the debate team, and earned medals at the Science Fair and Science Olympiad.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Gage Carter Herrington for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

TRIBUTE TO THE CLARION PUBLIC LIBRARY

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 15, 2008

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Clarion Public Library on its 100th year anniversary. The Clarion Public Library serves over 3,000 residents of Clarion, Iowa as well as residents of the surrounding areas in Wright County.

In February 1907, the Clarion City Council voted to contribute \$5,000 to erect and maintain a public library after Mr. Morgan Everts, a pioneer of Webster City, Iowa, offered to supplement the project with a \$10,000 donation. The structure of the library was erected by F.F. McManus at the contract price of \$9,921, without a furnace or furnishings, and was built in the same style of architecture as the Carnegie libraries around the country. The building was opened to the public in April 1908.

The 5,000 square-foot library contains a large basement where the heating plant, store rooms and auditorium are located. A high flagstaff is set in front of the building, designed to hold "Old Glory," which was the gift of Captain Terrell.

From April 1908 to January 1913, Mrs. G.T. Eldridge served as the first librarian and was subsequently followed by Mrs. Irving E. Nagle. Mrs. Marrian Gannon was the longest serving head librarian from 1967 to 1996, and the current head librarian, Nola Waddingham, has served since 1996.

In 1984, a total remodeling of the library was completed. With a grant from the Kinney-Lindstrom Fund and help from the city council, the children's library was moved to the basement, an elevator was installed, and a meeting room for cultural events was constructed. Today the Clarion Library Board and the City of Clarion are raising funds to expand and renovate this historic library.

Throughout the many years the Clarion Public Library staff has strived to meet the needs of the people in the area by providing excellent information and encouraging citizens to read. I congratulate the Clarion Public Library on this historic anniversary. It is an honor to represent Nola Waddingham, the library board of trustees, and all of the Clarion Library staff in the United States Congress, and I wish the Clarion Public Library continued success well into the future.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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

PAYING TRIBUTE TO DAN
McPARTLAND

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 15, 2008

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to rise today to honor Dan McPartland by entering his name in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, the official record of the proceedings and debates of the United States Congress since 1873. Today I honor Dan McPartland, who is retiring after 27 years of service to the Clark County School District Department of Food Services.

Mr. McPartland has been a resident of southern Nevada since 1968. Throughout his service, Dan has provided leadership and stability to a vital department of southern Nevada's education system. During his time as director of food services, Dan led numerous projects to effectively feed and nourish Clark County students. Such projects included technology upgrades in every school cafeteria networked to the main food service office as well as the implementation of a strict nutrition policy that regulated all foods sold in schools during business hours. Mr. McPartland expanded the department to keep up with rapid growth and maintained a financially sound budget while doing so. Dan was recognized with the Golden Carrot in 2004 for his exceptional innovation and leadership in promoting child health and nutrition through school food service.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Dan McPartland. His dedication and commitment to the students of Clark County is commendable and his efforts have enriched countless lives. I congratulate Mr. McPartland on his much deserved retirement and wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. THOMAS H. ALLEN

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 15, 2008

Mr. ALLEN. Madam Speaker, on April 14, 2008, I was unavoidably absent from the House due to a family illness.

If I had been present, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall vote No. 183, a motion by Mr. ELLSWORTH of Indiana to suspend the rules and agree to the passage of H. Res. 886, a resolution expressing sympathy to the victims and families of the tragic acts of violence in Colorado Springs, Colorado and Arvada, Colorado.

I would have also voted "yes" on rollcall vote No. 184, a motion by Mr. DAVIS of Illinois to suspend the rules and agree to the passage of H. Res. 994, a resolution expressing support for designation of a National Glanzmann's Thrombasthenia Awareness Day.

I would have also voted "yes" on rollcall vote No. 185, a motion by Mr. BRALEY of Iowa to suspend the rules and agree to the passage of H.R. 3548, the Plain Language in Government Communications Act of 2007.

I ask unanimous consent that this statement be inserted in the appropriate place in the RECORD.

CONGRATULATING TAIWANESE
PRESIDENT-ELECT MR. MA YING-
JEOU

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 15, 2008

Mr. LIPINSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Ma Ying-jeou on his success in the March 22 presidential election in Taiwan, as well as applaud the democratic process that led to his election. The success of the fair and peaceful Taiwanese presidential election and the transfer of power from one party to another demonstrate that Taiwan is a genuine democracy and a shining example of freedom for the rest of the region.

As Mr. Ma is inaugurated on May 20th, I look forward to continuing the exceptional relationship between the United States and Taiwan. Taiwan is one of America's strongest partners in the region and a true friend of the United States. Similarly, I am pleased to know of Mr. Ma's pledged support for strengthening ties with the U.S. and I am confident that our relationship will grow stronger.

I also applaud the president-elect's initiatives to improve relations between Taiwan and China through increased dialogues on proposals that would greatly benefit the people of Taiwan and China. Increased communication and commerce between the people of China and Taiwan will greatly assist in reducing tensions in the region while allowing the Chinese to see firsthand the success of democracy in Taiwan.

I rise today, Madam Speaker, to commend the democratic process that led to the free and fair election of Mr. Ma Ying-jeou, whom I heartily congratulate on his attainment of this high office.

I sincerely hope that the rest of the world has taken note of the historic events that have transpired in these free and transparent elections. May this democratic spirit reach far and wide and inspire a desire to foster democracy all around the world. Again, I congratulate Mr. Ma in his election and wish him the very best.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PHIL ENGLISH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 15, 2008

Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 184, H. Res. 994, Expressing support for designation of a National Glanzmann's Thrombasthenia Awareness Day, I would have voted in favor of the resolution. I was held up in Pennsylvania due to a car accident that shut down the PA Turnpike. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

IN HONOR OF BRENNY TRANSPORTATION'S COMMITMENT TO OUR HOMELAND SECURITY

HON. MICHELE BACHMANN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 15, 2008

Mrs. BACHMANN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend Todd and Joyce Brenny,

owners of Brenny's Transportation and Brenny Specialized in St. Cloud, Minnesota, for their participation in the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Highway Watch program. By dedicating the time and effort of their drivers, Todd and Joyce Brenny are helping to keep our Nation safe.

Highway Watch is a program through which truck drivers are trained to spot suspicious activity while on the roads and to report it to a national call center so that public safety officials can both address a particular issue and detect early if a pattern is arising. Minnesota was one of the first three states to join this program when it was first started by the American Trucking Association, ATA, in 1998. Then it was a safety awareness program, teaching drivers to report road hazards and accidents.

Following 9/11, the Department of Homeland Security worked with ATA to add an anti-terrorism component to the program's curriculum. Since 2004, about 800,000 drivers, State transportation workers, and toll booth operators, including 9,921 drivers in Minnesota alone, have been trained. That turns out to be a cost of about \$31 per driver. In 2007, more than 3,000 calls were logged as part of the program nationwide, including 1,700 security-related calls.

All 60 of Brenny's drivers and office employees participate in Highway Watch. They have taken a real interest in supporting our efforts to keep our Nation safe and I commend them and all their fellow trucking companies who take part in this program for their efforts.

LOPEZ SIBLINGS TO ALL
COMPETE IN OLYMPIC GAMES

HON. NICK LAMPSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 15, 2008

Mr. LAMPSON. Madam Speaker, this summer, the United States will be sending three siblings to compete in the Olympic Games. This outstanding feat has not occurred since 1904, and I am honored to recognize these individuals from the Houston area: Steven Lopez, Mark Anthony Lopez, and Diana Lopez.

Each of the three is an exceptional athlete and will be representing the United States in the sport of taekwondo this summer. Steven Lopez spent the majority of his life in his hometown of Sugar Land, Texas, and is a two-time Olympic Gold Medalist and four-time world champion. Mark Lopez was born in Houston, Texas, and is a recipient of three World Championship Medals including a Gold Medal in 2005. Diana Lopez is the youngest of the three and was also born in Houston, Texas, and received a Gold Medal in 2005.

These extraordinary individuals deserve America's utmost appreciation and support. I am proud to have such remarkable citizens in my district, and I wish them the best in the 2008 Summer Olympics and in the years ahead.

CORY S. ADAMS

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 15, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Cory Adams, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 60, and by earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Cory has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Cory has shown an extraordinary commitment to Scouting as evidenced by earning 45 merit badges. Cory is also a Brave in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say.

Cory's Eagle Scout service project was placing two swinging benches at the ponds located at Duncan park in Savannah, Missouri. Cory performed the majority of the work, and supervised other Scouts, friends and family that helped with the project. This project continued the tradition of community service established by the Boy Scouts of America.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Cory Adams for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TRENT FRANKS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 15, 2008

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 182 I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea".

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR DESIGNATION OF APRIL 2008 AS NATIONAL CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

SPEECH OF

HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 14, 2008

Mr. SHULER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 1097 to support National Child Abuse Prevention Month. I am committed to preventing child abuse and neglect so that all children can grow and prosper in a safe, nurturing, and healthy environment.

As a father of two children, nothing is more important to me than protecting the welfare of all children. Safe, nurturing, and healthy environments are necessary for the well-being of children and their families. All children need to know that they are special and that they are loved by their parents.

By raising awareness of child abuse and neglect, parents and teachers can protect children from the risks associated with abuse and neglect. By supporting National Child Abuse Prevention Month, Congress can take a strong stand against child abuse and neglect.

My heart goes out to all children and families that have experienced abuse and neglect in their homes.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues today to vote for this important resolution that will support the establishment of National Child Abuse Prevention Month.

QUESTIONS ABOUT DESIGN OF PROPOSED FLIGHT 93 MEMORIAL

HON. JIM RAMSTAD

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 15, 2008

Mr. RAMSTAD. Madam Speaker, Tom Burnett, Jr. was a true American hero. All Americans owe Tom and the other passengers on United Flight 93 a deep debt of gratitude for their bravery on September 11, 2001. Indeed, the Members of this body may owe their very lives to Tom Burnett, Jr. and the other courageous passengers. Tom Burnett, Jr. grew up in Bloomington, Minnesota, in the 3rd Congressional District, which I am privileged to represent.

Tom was among the small group of passengers who confronted the hijackers that fateful morning. Department of Defense officials believe Flight 93 was headed for a target here in Washington, most likely the White House or the Capitol.

Tom's father, Tom Burnett, Sr., has long-held and serious concerns about the design of the Flight 93 Memorial Project proposed for the site where the plane crashed in Pennsylvania.

Madam Speaker, I would like to insert comments from Tom Burnett, Sr., regarding what he believes to be serious problems with the design of the memorial to his beloved son and the other passengers. Here are Tom Burnett, Sr.'s important concerns about the Flight 93 Memorial:

"I am the father of Tom Burnett, Jr., a passenger on Flight 93 on 9-11-2001. Tom Jr. led the effort to take that flight back from the hijackers, and he and 39 passengers and crew almost succeeded.

"My son confronted a terrible moment of truth. Faced with a plot against our nation, he and the other heroes of Flight 93 fought back, and at the cost of their lives, foiled that plot to destroy the White House or the Capitol. Now it is time for the rest of us to face our moment of truth. Flight 93 has been re hijacked, and I am requesting that, if you can, demand that a proper investigation of the Memorial Project be conducted.

"This was no accident. The Memorial Project held an open design competition in time of war, inviting the entire world to enter. Guess who joined in? That group of trees that sits roughly in the position of the star on an Islamic flag is the crash site. What do you think is being memorialized here?

"A second Islamic feature that I also protested when I served on the Stage II jury is the minaret-like Tower of Voices, formed in the shape of a crescent, with its top cut at an angle so that its crescent arms reach up into the sky. Uprturned crescents are a standard mosque adornment in many Muslim countries.

"Every iota of this original Crescent of Embrace design remains completely intact in the so-called 'redesign.' That is why Congressman Tancredo asked the Park Service to scrap the existing design entirely. Instead of getting rid of the giant crescent as Tancredo demanded back in 2005, architect Paul Murdoch only disguised it with a few surrounding trees.

"Also remaining are those 44 glass blocks on the flight path. (There were 40 passengers and crew and four Islamic terrorists on Flight 93.) The Memorial Project acknowledges the 40 blocks inscribed with the names of my son and the other heroes, and they acknowledge the three inscribed with the 9/11 date, but they pretend not to know about this one: the huge glass block that dedicates the entire site.

"When this 44th glass block is pointed out, Project Partners say that it can't be counted with the other blocks because it is not the same size. What? Because the capstone to the terrorist memorializing block count is magnificent, that is supposed to make it okay?

"For every Islamic or terrorist memorializing feature of the crescent design, the Park Service has another equally phony excuse.

"What do we have to do to convince those opponents that the proposed Flight 93 Red Crescent still doesn't cut it? It is terribly flawed and should be thrown out to begin the quest for an entirely new design worthy of their efforts, those heroic Americans who were on that plane that fateful day.

"I was on the second jury in August, 2005, that approved that design over my objections. I objected then, in August 2005, and I am still adamantly opposed today to a design that is riddled with Islamic symbols.

"By consensus, the Stage II jury forwards this selection to the partner (architect Paul Murdoch) with the full and unqualified support of each juror, says the report that was issued.

"No, to the contrary, the vote was not unanimous, it was 9 to 6, and we, the minority, had no veto power. This is my effort to get back in the game.

"I don't want that design that has been redesigned several times by its originator and a design committee. In addition to the Red Crescent being a giant mosque, the proposed 'Tower of Voices' looks like an Islamic minaret.

"Millions of Americans and I find the 'Red Crescent of Embrace' an insult to my son and the others on Flight 93 who engaged in a violent struggle to take that plane back from the Islamic hijackers and were suddenly placed in the vanguard of the war on terrorism. Facing unfathomable choices, Tom was calm, clear headed, decisive and fearless. I can only hope that in the years to come the rest of us live up to the standard of heroism that he and others set on 9/11.

"What I am preeminently concerned about is what our countrymen will feel and learn when they visit the site.

"The story, when properly presented, will honor and reverberate in history. What those heroes accomplished for their fellow Americans, and for the entire Western World.

"I would want them to feel the desperation of those aboard Flight 93 as they became aware of what was happening, and their cold realization of what they had to do. I want them to ask themselves, what would I have done had I been aboard that flight? We know that in very little time the passengers got out of their seats, and attempted to take back the airplane.

"I do not want my son's name used anywhere on that Memorial, which is an insult to him and the other passengers and crew, and what is needed is a thorough, honest and objective investigation of the process during its selection, how and why.

"I am confused but undaunted by the attacks on me and anybody else who is against this design centered around Islamic symbolism.

"Those who have opposed me in many efforts to be heard includes some of the victims family members (thankfully, few), officials in the National Park Service, a few newspapers and some others.

"The possibility of them prevailing to railroad the acceptance of this flawed design worries me! But I am undaunted in my attempt to start over, to scrap it, and get a new design. That doesn't include a bow to the Islamic fanatics.

"An investigation is needed to avoid a cataclysmic mistake. It must be now, or else the flawed design could come about. Let us get at the truth. Their stubborn persistence is terribly misguided. Maybe well intentioned, but flawed in telling me that I don't see what I see.

"Designer Paul Murdoch (and others) are engaging in personal attacks on anyone opposed, including Alec Rawls who has written widely damning the Memorial. His latest, a book, "Crescent of Betrayal," gives a reasoned and thorough explanation for scrapping it.

"I am suggesting that it is past time to start over with a new design, one that will truly be worthy of those 40 heroes."

Madam Speaker, may God bless Tom Burnett and his family. And may God bless America and all the heroes like Tom who gave their lives to save others on September 11.

TRIBUTE TO COMMISSIONER PAUL ELIZONDO, FORMER CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL OF COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS

HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 15, 2008

Mr. GONZALEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an extraordinary person and a dynamic force within the Center for Health Care Services community. Commissioner Paul Elizondo served with distinction on the Center for Health Care Services Board of Directors for 8 years. From 1988 until 1995 he served first as Board Secretary and then he served two terms as the chairman of the board.

CHCS would not have been the same without the efforts of Paul Elizondo. As chairman, he worked tirelessly, both internally and externally, to improve the center's services to its clients. He encouraged, funded, and pushed innovative programs in child and adolescent mental health care, substance abuse treatment, and mental retardation services.

During his tenure, the center rose to national prominence and he was appointed to the Executive Board of the National Council of Community Health Centers. I'm pleased to recognize his continuous dedication and willingness to foster the growth of CHCS throughout the community so patients might obtain more efficient access to treatment.

It is my honor to pay tribute to such a leader. He is an innovative thinker who continuously took it upon himself to confront various community issues with sound solutions.

Commissioner Paul Elizondo continues to keep track of the center's activities and services. At the national, State, and local level he is an omnipresent "watchdog" and advocate for the clients they serve. Above all, he wholeheartedly believes in the center, its people, its mission, and their ability to help the people they serve.

His hard work was much appreciated and along with others that know him, I would like the rest of America to recognize his many

contributions. Our community is fortunate to have had such a devoted leader.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PHIL ENGLISH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 15, 2008

Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 183, H. Res. 886, expressing sympathy to the victims and families of the tragic acts of violence in Colorado Springs, Colorado and Arvada, Colorado, I would have voted "yea." I was held up in Pennsylvania due to a car accident that shut down the PA Turnpike.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

ANDREW B. CARROLL

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 15, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Adam Carroll, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 60, and by earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Adam has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Adam has shown an extraordinary commitment to scouting as evidenced by earning 62 merit badges. Andrew is also a Brave in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say.

Andrew's Eagle Scout service project consisted of constructing and placing two Martin Bird Houses at Messick Park in Savannah, Missouri. Andrew supervised other scouts, friends and family that assisted with this project. This project continues the long tradition of community service established by the Boy Scouts of America.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Andrew Carroll for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

TRIBUTE TO BERNIE BALTIC

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 15, 2008

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Mr. Bernie Baltic of Cleveland, Ohio. Mr. Baltic, who recently passed away, was a tireless champion of liberty. His advocacy of applying the freedom philosophy to the issues of the day was made all the more effective by his voracious reading of both the classics of liberty and the latest policy studies.

Any politician or bureaucrat at any level of government who threatened individual liberty was sure to hear from Mr. Baltic. Mr. Baltic also worked to educate and mobilize his fellow citizens in the cause of liberty through writing

letters to the editor, and by directly challenging anti-liberty officials at forums such as city council meetings. In addition to his own activities, Mr. Baltic generously shared his support and counsel with numerous organizations that work to advance the cause of liberty.

Perhaps Mr. Baltic's most lasting contribution to the freedom movement came when then-president of the Advocates for Self Government Marshall Fritz showed Mr. Baltic a computer game Mr. Fritz developed that identified an individual's political philosophy based on responses to 10 questions on economic issues and 10 questions on civil liberties. Mr. Baltic, who was quite impressed with the chart, suggested that the Advocates produce business-card sized versions of the graph and quiz. The result was the "World's Smallest Political Quiz," one of the freedom movement's most recognized and effective outreach tools.

Bernie Baltic set an example for all those wishing to effectively advance the cause of liberty. Madam Speaker, I salute Bernie Baltic for his many contributions to the freedom movement and extend my condolences to Mr. Baltic's family and friends.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 15, 2008

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I regret that I was unavoidably absent yesterday afternoon, April 14, on very urgent business. Had I been present for the three votes which occurred yesterday, I would have voted "aye" on H. Res. 886, rollcall vote No. 183; I would have voted "aye" on H. Res. 994, rollcall vote No. 184; and I would have voted "aye" on H.R. 3548, rollcall vote No. 185.

TRIBUTE TO SENATOR JOHN W. DRUMMOND

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 15, 2008

Mr. CLYBURN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great statesman, a tremendous public servant and a good friend. Senator John W. Drummond will retire this year after serving in the South Carolina General Assembly since 1965. His leadership will certainly be missed.

John W. Drummond was born in Greenwood, South Carolina, on September 29, 1919, to mill worker parents. He was the fourth of seven children growing up a deeply religious, working-class family, whose values shaped the man John was to become.

As a young man, John's family moved to the town of Ninety Six, where he attended school until he graduated in 1937. With few options available to him, John decided to join the military. He joined the 263rd South Carolina Coast Artillery Regiment, the equivalent of today's National Guard, and was stationed in Charleston. By early 1941, John earned the rank of Sergeant and he enjoyed military life. Everything changed with the bombing of Pearl Harbor later that year.

John's regiment was federalized, and he was eager to see action in the war. He took a paratroopers exam at the Citadel, hoping to change his military assignment and get closer to the action. John scored so well, he was encouraged to become a pilot and was sent to Randolph Air Force Base in San Antonio for training. The skills he demonstrated in flight training school led instructors to send John to Tallahassee to become a bomber pilot. After training, he was inducted into the 405th Bomber Group Unit of the 510th Fighter Squadron. His skill as a bomber pilot earned him the nickname "Ace." In September 1943, John's squadron was transferred from Florida back to his home State of South Carolina and an air base in Walterboro.

His return home got John into some hot water. While out on a training mission, John buzzed his hometown of Ninety Six. This forbidden practice earned him a demotion in rank to 2nd Lieutenant and a winter of sleeping out in a pup tent.

Finally in March 1944, the 510th received its orders to report to Christchurch, England, to begin its service on the war front. By May, John was flying reconnaissance and combat missions over the German-occupied Normandy area of France. He rose to the rank of Captain and was a fighter commander. On D-Day, June 6, 1944, John was in the midst of the invasion protecting the ships that were attacking the beaches of Normandy.

On July 29, 1944, John's plane was shot down by German anti-aircraft fire, and he managed to escape the burning plane, although his parachute didn't open fully due to his close proximity to the ground. Although injured, John rolled into the bushes, but was soon captured by German soldiers. He became a POW and was sent to a camp in Germany where he remained in horrid conditions until May 13, 1945.

When he returned to the United States after his liberation, John spent time recovering in a military hospital from severe malnutrition and other ailments related to his time in the POW camp. Upon his return to Ninety Six, John made good on a promise he had made to himself to woo and marry an acquaintance, Holly Self, affectionately known as Ms. Holly. The two married on June 12, 1947, and had three sons.

In 1946, John was officially discharged from the Air Force. He decided to go into business for himself, and opened a donut shop—the Golden Ring Bakery. He owned, managed and did all the work himself with the help of just one employee until 1954. John then accepted an offer from his father-in-law to become a manager at Greenwood Petroleum Company. He showed a real talent for the oil business, growing and expanding its operations. Later he inherited Greenwood Petroleum and began Drummond Oil Company, making both very successful businesses.

On June 6, 1964, John announced his candidacy for the South Carolina House of Representatives. He won his first election, and took his seat in the General Assembly in January 1965. He immediately caught the attention of the very powerful Speaker of the House, Sol Blatt, and he became one of "Sol's boys," which provided him invaluable tutelage and political opportunities.

Just two years later, John challenged the incumbent Senator from Greenwood over the issue of who should provide power to their rural county. He, with the help of his ally Duke Power, won that contest, and in January 1967, John became a South Carolina State Senator representing Greenwood.

Senator Drummond came into office with high ideals and a mind to shake up the status quo. His first effort was an attempt to eliminate the seniority system which controlled the Senate. His bold move was quickly thwarted by the Senate President Pro Tempore Edgar Brown.

During his 43 years in the General Assembly, Senator Drummond made education his top priority. He was a staunch supporter of the Education Finance Act of 1977, the Education Improvement Act of 1984, and the Education Accountability Act of 1998. He was also a strong advocate for the Home Rule Act of 1976, which allowed counties and municipalities more autonomy.

Senator Drummond has always been a proponent of more transparency in government. It was appropriate that his first committee chairmanship was of the Senate Ethics Committee. Under his leadership, the Senate passed the South Carolina Ethics Act of 1975, which established the State Ethics Commission with oversight over financial disclosure, campaign disclosure and conduct of elected officials. He was also a leading voice to expand the Commission's authority with the passage of the Ethics Reform Act of 1991, following the Operation Lost Trust scandal.

Senator Drummond was also a key player in the restructuring of State government. He served on the Commission on Government Restructuring, which made numerous recommendations that were enacted into law in 1993. In order to ensure passage of these reforms, Senator Drummond used his role as Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee to threaten to withhold the budget until the government restructuring package was approved. His political maneuvering paid off, and the Restructuring Act of 1993 passed with bipartisan support.

In 1996, Senator Drummond became the Senate President Pro Tempore, a title which he earned through the seniority system he had sought to dismantle as a young, independent-minded Freshman Senator. Although his rogue tendencies mellowed over time, Senator Drummond's effectiveness grew. In 2001, he became President Pro Tempore Emeritus when the Republicans took control of the Senate, but he didn't succumb to the pressure to switch parties as so many of his colleagues had.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you and my colleagues join me today in celebrating the extraordinary career and life of South Carolina Senator John Drummond, who I am proud to call one of my best friends in South Carolina politics and government. He is a true public servant, from his courageous service in World War II to his uncompromising representation in the South Carolina General Assembly. He has always remained true to the values instilled in him growing up in the small community of Ninety Six. His tremendous legacy is one that honors his humble beginnings and speaks highly of his personal integrity. I commend

John Drummond for his statesmanship and his numerous contributions to South Carolina and the Nation. I am proud to call him a friend.

CONGRATULATING THE PLATTSBURGH STATE WOMEN'S HOCKEY TEAM UPON WINNING THE 2008 DIVISION III NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. JOHN M. McHUGH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 15, 2008

Mr. MCHUGH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the State University of New York at Plattsburgh (Plattsburgh State) Lady Cardinals upon winning the 2008 NCAA Division III Women's Ice Hockey National Championship, their second consecutive national championship. I am proud to represent the Lady Cardinals and the community of Plattsburgh.

On March 22, 2008, Plattsburgh State won the Division III National Championship when it defeated the Manhattanville College Lady Valiants by a score of 3 to 2 at the Stafford Ice Arena in Plattsburgh, NY. The Lady Cardinals seized the lead at 9:59 of the first period when Laurie Bowler scored the first goal of the game. After the Valiants evened the score just over a minute later, Stephanie Moberg and Captain Danielle Blanchard combined on a beautiful goal, finished by Blanchard, to put the Lady Cards back in the lead at 13:50. Forty-nine seconds later, Amber Ellis scored the Cardinals third and the eventual game-winning goal, which was assisted by Kate Fairfield and Brittany Meade. Goaltender Danielle Beattie turned away 22 shots to win her 21st game of the season.

Blanchard, Beattie, Captain Julie Devereux, Moberg, and Sharis Smith were all named to the NCAA All-Tournament Team; Blanchard and Devereux were also named to the AHCA All-American First Team. Blanchard, a three-time All-American who scored a career-high 28 goals as part of a 48-point season, also earned the 2008 Laura Hurd Award, which is given to the Nation's top player.

The Lady Cardinals were coached by head coach Kevin Houle, who won the Division III Women's Ice Hockey Coach of the Year for the third straight year and currently has the best career record (121–19–7; 847 winning percentage) among all active coaches in NCAA hockey. Other team members included assistant coaches Chad Kemp and Erin O'Brien and players Kristen Bond, Ainsley Brien, Assistant Captain Lindsay Brown, Kara Buehler, Shay Bywater, Elise Campbell, Megan DiJulio, Helen Giroux, Amanda Hoy, Tara Khan, Mandy Mackrell, Kayla McDougall, Steph Moon, Claire O'Connor, and Sarah Samson.

Madam Speaker, it is an honor to have the opportunity to congratulate the Plattsburgh State Lady Cardinals ice hockey team. Accordingly, I now ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the entire Lady Cardinals hockey team for their remarkable accomplishments this season.

CONGRESSWOMAN JO ANN S.
DAVIS POST OFFICE

SPEECH OF

HON. BOB GOODLATTE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2008

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of this legislation. I think this is a fitting tribute to our late friend and colleague Jo Ann Davis. This legislation would designate Jo Ann's home post office in Gloucester, Virginia as the "Congresswoman Jo Ann S. Davis Post Office."

I had the opportunity to first meet Jo Ann Davis when she was a member of the Virginia General Assembly. She showed there the same courage, determination and hard work that she showed here during her service in the United States Congress. Right through to her final week here, she was still working for the people of the First Congressional District of Virginia. She was very proud of her representation of those great people and often talked about her district as being America's First Congressional District because it contained Jamestown and Yorktown and Williamsburg, and worked very hard for the past several years as we prepared for last year's celebration of the 400th anniversary of the settlement of Jamestown.

Sadly, Virginia lost a devoted public servant when Congresswoman Jo Ann Davis passed away after her two year battle with breast cancer. Jo Ann was not only a dear friend but a true public servant, working tirelessly on behalf of all Virginians. Jo Ann was an active and vocal participant of this body. She was vigilant in looking after the interests of Virginia and her congressional district. Jo Ann loved being in her district and particularly her home in Gloucester. It was here at home that she could be with her wonderful husband, Chuck, her children and grandchildren, and her horses and it was here where she passed on.

It is only fitting that the Jo Ann S. Davis Post Office will be in Gloucester, the town that she loved, in the district she fought tirelessly for here in Congress. This will serve as a memorial to her work for the people of America's First Congressional District, the people she served with distinction, courage, great honor and determination.

I am proud to be a cosponsor of this tribute to my friend Jo Ann. I hope that all members will join me in honoring the service of our brave and courageous colleague.

EXTENSION OF THE RESEARCH
AND DEVELOPMENT TAX CREDIT

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 15, 2008

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Madam Speaker, I rise to ask my colleagues to act swiftly to pass a strengthened and seamless extension of the Research and Development Tax Credit.

The R&D tax credit expired at the end of last year, creating an unacceptable degree of uncertainty for our country's most innovative industries.

An investment in R&D is an investment in the U.S. economy. In 2003, for example, U.S. companies invested \$140.1 billion in domestic research and development.

As we have seen in Silicon Valley and elsewhere, that investment has strengthened our economy and led to remarkable technological advancements.

At a time when our economy is shedding jobs, a swift extension of the R&D tax credit makes abundant sense. More than 90% of the benefits of the credit are attributable to salaries of workers performing U.S.-based research.

A permanent extension of the credit would be ideal. Since its inception in 1981, the R&D tax credit has been extended 12 times for periods ranging from 5 years to 6 months.

Given the long time horizon for returns on R&D investments, this ad hoc and piecemeal approach to extending the credit is problematic.

Nonetheless, the prospect of the credit lapsing altogether is even more problematic. Given the intense global competition faced by our most innovative industries, we cannot cede any more ground to those countries that provide expansive, permanent R&D incentives to lure away R&D investments.

Swift action on the R&D tax credit is critical to innovation centers like the Silicon Valley and to the overall health of the U.S. economy.

We must act quickly and decisively to maintain and advance America's place as a leader in innovation.

ZACHARY BEATTIE

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 15, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Zachary Beattie, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 60, and by earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Zachary has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Along with his 42 merit badges, Zach has earned the World Heritage Award and the Mile Swim Award. Zach is also a Warrior in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say.

In 2003, Zach earned the Shawn Burke High Adventure Scouting Award and in 2005 he earned the Jeff Prewitt Scouting Spirit Award. Along with scouts, Zach is active in many community and school activities. Zach is also a member of Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Future Teachers of America and National Honor Society.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Zachary Beattie for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

TRIBUTE TO COMMEMORATE THE
40TH ANNIVERSARY OF DR.
KING'S ASSASSINATION

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 15, 2008

Mr. CLYBURN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to mark 40 years since the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. In doing so, I would like to submit for the RECORD a statement from Ralph B. Everett, President and CEO of the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies. The Joint Center is one of the nation's premier research and public policy institutions and the only one whose work focuses primarily on issues of particular concern to African Americans and other people of color.

"While the 40th anniversary of the assassination of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. evokes deeply troubling memories, it also serves as an important milestone in assessing the progress this nation has made and how far we must yet go to transform America in the way that Dr. King envisioned.

For many people, the passing of four decades has not diminished the memory of how difficult and uncertain those times were. In my hometown of Orangeburg, South Carolina, the tragic and untimely death of Dr. King intensified the sense of despair and unease that many of us already felt after the February 8, 1968, shooting by law enforcement officers of three unarmed students, including my high school classmate Delano Middleton, during a protest at South Carolina State College against a segregated bowling alley. This became known as the Orangeburg Massacre.

In those dark days we wondered, how would the dream survive without Dr. King to lead us toward the Promised Land?

But history records that sadness and anxiety gave way to determination and action. Dr. King's spirit continued to guide the movement as African Americans began to concentrate on the everyday task of translating hard won rights into representation and influence in our system of governance in order to secure justice under the law, greater opportunity and an America that lives up to its historic promise.

The Joint Center was founded for this purpose and played a critical role in the ensuing progress. Today, we honor Dr. King for his bequest of a legacy and a dream that did not die with him, but rather has served as a lodestar for all that has been accomplished since the tragic day of his assassination.

We also recognize there is much to be done—just as Dr. King did when, in the wake of historic gains in civil and voting rights, he sought to direct our attention to the need for fundamental changes in the political and economic life of the nation, so that justice could truly prevail and opportunity could flow to every American. On this day and in his memory, let us commemorate Dr. King's vision and, at the same time, invigorate ourselves with resolve and forbearance to make his dream a reality from sea to shining sea."

Madam Speaker, I ask you to join Ralph B. Everett, the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies, and me in honoring the great legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. As we celebrate the life of Dr. King, I hope that we will be reminded to never be silent in the face

of injustices and inequities. I hope we will stand, as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. stood, for what is right, and just for all.

ULTIMATE TEST OF A MORAL
SOCIETY

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 15, 2008

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, according to GAO we are \$5.3 trillion deep in publicly held debt, and have an estimated \$54.3 trillion in unfunded promised benefits if we don't change our current course.

The Social Security and Medicare Trustees reports recently issued only reinforce the dire condition of our fiscal health.

This is a fundamental issue for our country's economic future. It's also a generational issue.

Pete Peterson's commentary in Newsweek last week ends by quoting Dietrich Bonhoeffer, the German pastor who was instrumental in the resistance movement against Nazism.

He said, "The ultimate test of a moral society is the kind of world it leaves to its children."

I can't help but wonder what sort of future today's partisan Washington is leaving generations to come. If we can come together—both sides of the aisle—we can ensure that our children and grandchildren have all the opportunity you and I have had.

The bipartisan Cooper-Wolf SAFE Commission could give this country a chance to get back on track—to rein in entitlement spending. If there are other bipartisan ideas on how to address this issue, we should talk about those too.

Doing nothing is simply not an option. I urge Congressional leadership and Treasury Secretary Paulson to embrace the Cooper-Wolf legislation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 15, 2008

Mr. SHUSTER. Madam Speaker, on rollcall Nos. 183, 184, and 185 I was not present because I was returning from a field hearing. Had I been present I would have voted: "yes" on rollcall 183—H. Res. 886, "yes" on rollcall 184—H. Res. 994, and "yes" on rollcall 185—H.R. 3548.

TRIBUTE TO DONALD DILLMAN

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 15, 2008

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Don Dillman's remarkable life of selfless service. Inspired by his strong Christian faith, he subordinated his personal struggle with diabetes to his singular focus on the important volunteer work he did to improve the community of Hope, Indiana. His admirable

courage in the face of adversity is something special that deserves honoring today on the floor of the people's House.

Donald W. Dillman was born in Columbus, Indiana on March 8, 1940, to Shirley "Bud" and Jessie Cecil Anderson Dillman. He was a graduate of Hope High School, Class of 1957. On June 24, 1962, he married Rena Blake, with whom he shared and celebrated forty-five years of marriage.

The "unofficial mayor" of Hope, Don helped organize countless civic projects and community initiatives over the years ranging from new playground equipment for the town square to launching the Hope Chamber of Commerce. He even stepped in as an anonymous reporter covering Hope Town Council meetings for the Hope Star Journal.

Don worked for decades to improve the community, serving in important leadership positions. He served as President of Heritage of Hope for over thirty-five years. He was a founder and board member of the Hawcreek-Flatrock Endowment Fund, applying his fundraising prowess to help it grow to over \$225,000. Since the early 1970s, Don led the Hope Heritage Days festival, which draws thousands to the town each fall.

Don was not just bold about fundraising for the community; he was also bold about his faith. He served as a deacon at the First Baptist Church of Hope for many years. But most of all his faith shone through his commitment to the community of Hope, Indiana despite his own physical illnesses.

Sadly, Don has passed away, but he leaves a strong legacy of personal faith and selfless service that serve as a powerful example to all who knew him. I offer my sincere condolences to his wife Rena, their sons Jon and Darrell, and two grandchildren James and Jessica.

THE ENVIRONMENTAL HORMONE
DISRUPTION ACT AND THE WOMEN'S
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH
AND DISEASE PREVENTION ACT

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 15, 2008

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Madam Speaker, today I'm proud to introduce the Environmental Hormone Disruption Act and the Women's Environmental Health and Disease Prevention Act.

Consider for a moment that a woman's lifetime risk of breast cancer is 1 in 7 today, compared to 1 in 22 in the 1940s—over half of the cases are unexplained. And, over the last 30 years, the U.S. has seen a steep rise in the occurrence of childhood cancers, testicular cancer, juvenile diabetes, attention deficit disorder, learning disabilities, thyroid disorders, cognitive impairment, and autoimmune disorders. Autism cases alone rose 210 percent between 1987 and 1998.

About 100,000 chemicals are registered for use in the United States. However, 90 percent of these have never been fully tested for their impact on human health. Scientists have found that exposure to these synthetic chemicals disrupts hormone function and contributes to increased incidences of diseases. We already know the tragic impact that diethylstilbestrol, or DES, has had on the daughters of women who took this anti-miscarriage drug prescribed until 1971.

Furthermore, a recent article in the Boston Globe highlighted the possible link between obesity and exposure to bisphenol A (BPA), an estrogen-like compound found in many common plastic objects.

While the evidence is mounting that there is an association between these chemicals and hormone disruption, research remains limited, particularly on the impact on women and on how long-term, low-dose exposure to environmental pollutants impacts children at critical stages of development.

A couple years ago, I participated in a study conducted by the Environmental Working Group to find out what toxic substances I, in particular, and Americans in general, have been exposed to throughout our lives. My stunning test results showed literally hundreds of chemicals pumping through my vital organs every day. These chemicals include PCBs that were banned decades ago, as well as chemicals like Teflon that are currently under Federal investigation.

The study also tested 10 newborn babies and found that on average, each one had some 200 chemicals in their blood at the time of birth. The fact that we have children coming into this world already polluted and at the same time, do not know what the effects of that pollution will be on their mental and physical development, is both bad policy and immoral. We must test chemicals before they go onto the market, not after they get into our bloodstreams.

For several years, I have called on Congress to enact legislation that would allow NIH to expand its research on the impact of these chemical pollutants on the health of women and children.

Once again, I am introducing two important bills that I hope will advance this research—the Environmental Hormone Disruption Act and the Women's Environmental Health and Disease Prevention Act. The Environmental Hormone Disruption Act authorizes the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) to conduct a comprehensive program to research and educate the public on the health effects of hormone-disrupting chemicals. The Women's Environmental Health and Disease Prevention Act authorizes the NIEHS to establish multidisciplinary research centers to investigate how environmental factors may be related to women's health and disease prevention.

Increased investments in research now could prevent and treat a broad range of diseases and disorders in future generations. I urge my colleagues to support these bills today.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 15, 2008

Mr. ANDREWS. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably detained from voting on April 10, 2008. Had I been present I would have voted "yea" on the following rollcall votes: rollcall No. 178, rollcall No. 179, rollcall 180, rollcall 181.

I would have noted "nay" on the following rollcall vote: rollcall No. 182.

HONORING MATHEW DAVID
BUCHHOLZ

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 15, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Mathew David Buchholz a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 303, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Mathew has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Mathew has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Mathew David Buchholz for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

CONGRATULATING JUNOT DIAZ
FOR WINNING THE 2008 PULITZER
PRIZE FOR FICTION

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 15, 2008

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to praise and congratulate Junot Diaz for winning the Pulitzer Prize for fiction on Monday, April 7, 2008, for his novel "The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao."

Junot Diaz was born in the Dominican Republic on December 31, 1968, but has lived most of his life in New Jersey. As a child he loved reading, and his favorite book of all time is "Planet of the Apes." After high school, Junot attended the University of Rutgers where he received his Bachelor's Degree in English in 1992, later received his Master of Fine Arts at the University of Cornell in 1995, where he decided to develop his passion for creative writing.

Junot Diaz first made a name for himself with his critically acclaimed short story collection "Drown" in 1996, which featured the short stories "Ysrael," and "Drown". In this novel he developed the short stories into segments of the life of a Dominican immigrant getting accustomed to life in the United States. He also published a translated version of "Drown" titled "Negocios." This short story novel made him a household name in the Dominican American communities nationwide.

His latest novel, "The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao" has been praised as the best novel of 2007 by Time Magazine, New York Magazine, the Washington Post, and countless other newspaper publications. In this novel he portrayed the story of a boy, who is fascinated with comic books, who lives with a dysfunctional Dominican family, who decide to move back home during the dictatorship of Rafael Trujillo.

Junot Diaz is a wonderful example that anything you put your mind and dedication to can be achieved in great depth. He has achieved

goals that many only dream about in a lifetime, at a tender age of 39. He serves as a great role model for youth in the United States as evidence the American dream can be achieved.

CONGRATULATING CLARENCE W.
DUPNIK FOR 50 YEARS OF LAW
ENFORCEMENT SERVICE TO THE
TUCSON, ARIZONA, COMMUNITY

HON. ED PASTOR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 15, 2008

Mr. PASTOR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of America's finest, Clarence W. Dupnik, Sheriff of Pima County, Arizona, who, this year, celebrates 50 years of law enforcement service to his community in Tucson, Arizona. Sheriff Dupnik began his career in February, 1958, as a Patrol Officer with the City of Tucson Police Department. While there, he held various positions, rising to Major in charge of Field Operations when he retired in January, 1977. From there, he was appointed Chief Deputy Sheriff of the Pima County Sheriffs Department, and was appointed Pima County Sheriff on February 19, 1980. Since that time, Sheriff Dupnik has been elected to 7 consecutive terms of office as Pima County Sheriff, a position in which he remains today. Of his 50 years of law enforcement service, Clarence Dupnik has served 31 years as Sheriff of Pima County, the 2nd largest populated county in the States of Arizona, and the 7th largest county in the nation—a remarkable achievement!

During his law enforcement career, Sheriff Dupnik has, among other things:

Led the reduction of the per capita crime rate in Pima County to levels equal to the City of Scottsdale and one-half the crime rate within the City of Tucson.

Created the Metropolitan Area Narcotics Trafficking Interdiction Squads (MANTIS).

Founded the Command Group of the Arizona Alliance Planning Committee, a joint federal, state, and local law enforcement task force to interdict and prevent the smuggling of illegal narcotics into Arizona from Mexico.

Collaborated with the FBI to participate in the Joint Terrorism Task Force, and was appointed to serve on the Executive Committee of the FBI.

Pursued and secured funding from the Department of Homeland Security for a helicopter to identify and interdict terrorists.

Introduced Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) in Pima County Schools.

Founded the drug prevention group known as the Arizonans for a Drug-Free Workplace, and serves as its Chairman.

Madam Speaker, the dedication and service of Clarence Dupnik to Pima County during his 50 year law enforcement career is truly commendable and worthy of note by this body. We thank Sheriff Dupnik for his long and illustrious career, and wish him further success in the years to come. We know that all of the years of public service have sacrificed time from this family and personal matters, so we take this moment to also thank and acknowledge his wife, Susie, and their families. The Tucson community, and the state of Arizona as a whole, is a better place because of you, my friend, Sheriff Dupnik.

IN HONOR OF SENATOR THURMAN
G. ADAMS, JR., PRESIDENT PRO
TEMPORE DELAWARE STATE
SENATE

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 15, 2008

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to recognize Senator Thurman G. Adams, Jr., who was elected by his colleagues as Senate President Pro Tempore of the Delaware General Assembly in January of 2003. Senator Adams is also the longest serving member of the State Senate in Delaware history, as he has represented the 19th Senate District of Sussex County since 1972, and I had the personal pleasure of serving with him in the State Senate during my last term as a Senator from 1972 to 1976 and again as Lt. Governor from 1981 to 1985. In addition, when I was Governor of Delaware from 1985 to 1993 I worked closely with Senator Adams on many issues.

During his career in public service, Senator Adams has held many distinguished positions. Before becoming President Pro Tempore, he served as Senate Majority Leader from 1999 to 2003. Senator Adams serves on several standing committees, including the Agriculture Committee, the Highways & Transportation Committee, and as longtime Chairman of the Executive Committee. In this position he has overseen the appointment of Chief Justices, Judges, cabinet secretaries and individuals to other prominent positions within State Government. He has worked for the interests of Delaware's farm community and expended much effort toward such causes as improving roads and the quality of Delaware's public education system. As a member of the Public Safety Committee, Senator Adams sponsored legislation that established Delaware's "Enhanced 911" emergency telephone system.

Senator Adams is a lifelong Delawarean, being born and raised in Bridgeville, DE, in the very district that he now represents. After graduating from Bridgeville High School, Senator Adams went on to earn a Bachelor of Science degree in Agricultural Education from the University of Delaware. Senator Adams was married for almost 50 years to Hilda McCabe Adams, who passed away in 2002. His world revolves around family and his two daughters, Polly and Lynn, son Brent who passed away, seven grandsons and four great-grandchildren mean the world to him. He is the president of T.G. Adams & Sons, Inc., a feed and grain company, and oversees a large farming business. Senator Adams has served on various boards, including the Eastern Shore Grain Dealers Association, of which he was president, chairman of the United Methodist Church Administrative board, president of Harrington Raceway, and as director of Baltimore Trust Company, Milford Memorial Hospital and the Medical Center of Delaware. In addition to his public service, Senator Adams devotes time to community outreach and charitable projects through the Bridgeville Lions Club, several Shrine Clubs, and numerous other organizations. Finally, if we could get his beloved Baltimore Orioles back into the World Series I am certain Senator Adams would consider his work complete, well at least for a moment or so.

I commend and thank Senator Thurman Adams for his innumerable contributions and many years of admirable service to the State of Delaware. I am confident that he will continue to serve the people of Delaware with passion and excellence and I am very proud to call him my friend.

CONGRATULATING THE ARMY
RESERVE ON ITS CENTENNIAL

SPEECH OF

HON. STEVE BUYER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2008

Mr. BUYER. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of House Joint Resolution 70. The Centennial of the Army Reserves marks our proud heritage of citizen soldiers who have always answered the call to duty with honor and pride. I want to thank my colleagues Mr. BISHOP, Mr. TAYLOR, and Mr. SHIMKUS for their leadership on this resolution. As an original cosponsor of this resolution and as a co-chair of the National Guard and Reserve Components Caucus, I'm very pleased that 260 of my colleagues from both sides of the aisle recognize the crucial impact the members of the Army Reserve have had on this great Nation throughout its 100-year history.

Over my 28 years of service as a member of the Army Reserve, I have had the good fortune to see firsthand the actions of the men and women of this fine organization—they are the virtual bedrock of our Nation. I've seen the dedication of these Citizen-Soldiers operating across the United States; in the Netherlands, Belgium, and Germany; during Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm in Kuwait and surrounding countries; and in the current conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan. Regardless of the operating environment or the personal sacrifice required, these great Americans have responded again and again to our Nation's call. From the initial call-up of the Army Reserve to run down the bandit "Pancho" Villa, through bloody battles in World Wars I and II, to the wars in the Persian Gulf, they have always answered the Nation's call in its time of need, riding toward the sound of the guns, around the world, without hesitation.

Today's Army Reserve can no longer be characterized as a strategic reserve; it is an operational force called upon to be at the forefront of our Nation's warfighting capability. Of the 180,000 officers and enlisted soldiers serving in today's Army Reserve, nearly 3,000 are Hoosiers. I'm extremely proud of these men and women and the sacrifices that they make every day to keep our Nation free and safe.

Lieutenant General Jack Stultz, the Chief of the United States Army Reserve, recently said, "Our Citizen-Soldiers depend on their families, friends, civilian employers, and community to help them balance their responsibilities and commitments." And so, to those who support our federal Citizen-Soldiers, I offer my heartfelt thanks and congratulations for helping make this centennial possible. And to the families and loved ones of the 156 soldiers of the Army Reserve who have borne the ultimate sacrifice in support of Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom, including the family of Staff Sergeant Keith Maupin whose body was indentified only days ago after being

classified as missing-captured for nearly 4 years, I offer my deepest thanks and respect for your sacrifice. And to the family of Sergeant Ahmed Altaie, who is still listed as missing-captured after 16 months, I offer my continued hope and prayers.

At any given time, more than 20,000 Army Reserve Soldiers are deployed to no fewer than 18 countries around the world. Their efforts ensure that America's vital national security interests are fulfilled and that our homeland is protected. I am proud to be counted among their ranks.

These Soldiers and their loved ones shoulder a greater share of our burden than at any time in our Nation's history. This resolution represents an opportunity for Congress to recognize the incredible history of service, sacrifice, and accomplishment of those Soldiers who have served in the Army Reserve since its inception. Please join me in celebrating that heritage and recognizing their proud history by supporting this resolution.

CONGRATULATING THE ARMY
RESERVE ON ITS CENTENNIAL

SPEECH OF

HON. TODD TIAHRT

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2008

Mr. TIAHRT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues in support of H.J. Res. 70, congratulating the Army Reserve on their 100-year history. The U.S. Constitution of 1789 and the Militia Act of 1792 officially reaffirmed the continued reliance of the new Nation on the citizen-soldier for defense. According to Army Reserve Historian Lee S. Harford, Jr., the antecedents and heritage of the current United States Army Reserve are found in the tradition of the "federal" or "national" American citizen-soldier, dating back at least as far as the French and Indian War (1756–1763). America would be a very different place were it not for the patriotism and dedication of these citizen-warriors.

Members of the Army Reserve bring maturity, experience and civilian-acquired skills to the active military components and since September 11, 2001, over 188,025 soldiers have been mobilized in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. The Army Reserve provides trained and ready soldiers and units with the critical combat service support and combat support capabilities necessary to support Nation strategy during peacetime, contingencies and war. They are a key element in the Army multi-component unit force, training with Active and National Guard units to ensure all 3 components work as a fully integrated team.

Since September 11th, the Nation's Reserve Components have evolved from a strategic force in reserve to an operational force that is constantly deployed. Gone are the days of working 2 weekends a month and 2 weeks in the summer. The on-going Global War on Terrorism has seen citizen-warrior deployments go from 1 in every 5 years to now 1 in every 2–3 years. Army Reserve members are deployed all around the world and fulfill a wide range of capabilities that include war-fighting, humanitarian assistance, disaster relief, and post-conflict and transitional operations such

as democracy building, stability efforts and peace-keeping. Many of my fellow Kansans share in this tremendous Army Reserve tradition, as members of the 89th Regional Readiness Command. Their mission is to help train and deploy America's most effective supporting ground forces.

Army Reserve soldiers must balance military obligations with family obligations and also manage a delicate balance with their full-time civilian careers. Employers must cope with these year-long deployments and balance the instability created from having one less employee to conduct business. Additionally, we as a Nation must ensure that these Army Reserve heroes are taken care of when they return from deployments. We must properly treat returning soldiers for post traumatic stress disorders, and ensure their transition back to civilian life is as smooth as possible.

I encourage my colleagues to support this important resolution and am pleased that today the House recognizes the role of the Army Reserve.

HONORING MR. JOSEPH DELANEY
FOR HIS YEARS OF COMMUNITY
SERVICE ON STATEN ISLAND,
NEW YORK

HON. VITO FOSSELLA

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 15, 2008

Mr. FOSSELLA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a pillar of community service in my district, Mr. Joseph Delaney. The University of Notre Dame Alumni Association officially recognizes 230 Alumni clubs throughout the world. This includes the University of Notre Dame Alumni Club of Staten Island, located in my Congressional District. For 10 years the Staten Island Club was led by a gentleman I rise to honor today, Mr. Joseph Delaney.

During Joe's leadership, the Alumni Club became one of the most altruistic, charity-oriented organizations on Staten Island. The University of Notre Dame Alumni Association recognized the Staten Island Club with its prestigious Charlie F. Lennon Award, recognizing it as the most outstanding club in the entire network, in both 1999 and 2005. The club was also recognized by the University Alumni Association as the most outstanding club for their size of membership three times, in 1997, 2002, and 2005.

Joe's community service is not restricted solely to his leadership of the Alumni Club. In the wake of the 9/11 terrorist attacks Joe arranged for the University of Notre Dame Glee Club to visit Staten Island and headline a fundraiser which raised \$11,000 to help the families of police and fire officers who died at the World Trade Center. On two separate occasions Joe has coordinated fundraisers for the benefit of St. Peter's Elementary School raising a total of \$17,000 for the school.

While no longer serving as the Club's President, Joe continues to direct their annual Christmas Toy Drive which aides the Salvation Army, The New York Foundling Hospital, and the Seaman's Society. He also coordinates their Annual Thanksgiving Clothes Drive which provides coats to the needy at Project Hospitality. One of Joe's greatest charity successes has been building the annual "Bread of Life Food Drive." Through this drive the Alumni

Club has donated over 800,000 food products to local needy families and individuals. The New York City Council recognized Joe's efforts for the Food Drive and honored him with an award in 1997.

Certainly, Joe Delaney is a giant of the Staten Island community service community and I rise today to join the Notre Dame Alumni Club in honoring Joe for his years of service to our community. The Alumni Club will be honoring Joe at their annual "Universal Notre Dame Celebration" on April 18th.

I rise to offer gratitude to Mr. Delaney on behalf of my constituents on Staten Island, and to thank him for his years of community service.

CONGRATULATING MICHAEL J. MAHER ON RECEIVING THE MOTHER ROSALIE CLIFTON HILL SERVICE AWARD

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 15, 2008

Mr. ISSA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Michael J. Maher upon his receipt of the University of San Diego's Mother Rosalie Clifton Hill Service Award for 2008.

In honor of Mother Rosalie Clifton Hill, the University of San Diego (USD) presents this award annually to an alumnus who personifies the spirit and philosophy of the University. Such a person must exhibit involvement, service enthusiasm and commitment well beyond what is expected of an USD alumnus; demonstrate support of, and service to the USD Alumni Association; and must exemplify in all aspects of his or her life an incorporation of honesty, loyalty, integrity and fidelity.

Michael J. Maher epitomizes these above mentioned qualifications. Graduating from the University of San Diego in 1970 with a bachelor's degree in philosophy, Mr. Maher returned to San Diego in 1976 to begin his 32-year professional career.

Maheer has been a fervent supporter of the University of San Diego's athletic programs. He has been instrumental in the continued success of the University's golf program as well as the Torero Athletic Committee. He has dedicated hundreds of hours of mentoring to student athletes.

His continued support of the University has positively influenced associates and fellow alumni to become more involved.

Madam Speaker, I ask you to please join me in congratulating Michael Maher upon his receipt of this esteemed honor.

WEEK OF THE YOUNG CHILD

SPEECH OF

HON. NANCY E. BOYDA

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 14, 2008

Mrs. BOYDA of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, on February 5, 2008 the President sent Congress his proposed budget. This budget is out of touch with the values of the good people who reside in the Second District of Kansas. I am deeply concerned about the President's funding cuts in early childhood education.

Head Start is a successful national school readiness program. It provides comprehensive education, health, nutrition and parent involvement services to low-income children and their families. Unfortunately, Head Start has experienced a 12 percent decline in funding from Fiscal Year 2002 through Fiscal Year 2009. These recent cuts have left individual Head Start programs strapped for funding and only able to serve about 40 percent of the eligible population of children and families. Without increased funding, this percentage will continue to decrease due to the reality that more families are having difficulty making ends meet. For Kansas, this means putting in jeopardy the over 50,000 children who currently use these services. I joined with my colleagues in sending letters to the Budget Committee and the Appropriations Committee asking them to make funding for Head Start a priority and hope we will soon vote to increase funds for Head Start.

The Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) program provides funding for child care for low income families. Child care costs continue to skyrocket—Kansas families pay an average of about \$9,000 a year for an infant in full-time center care. Yet federal support for affordable child care hasn't kept pace. Because of funding shortfalls, only about one in seven children eligible for federal assistance actually receives it. Over the last six years about 150,000 children lost child care due to CCDBG funding shortfalls. Congress must renew its commitment to making sure our children—our future—are not the ones bearing the burden of tight financial times. Kansans rely on CCDBG—in 2005, 18,800 Kansas children were served by the CCDBG. We need to make sure that Kansas' working parents have access to low-cost, high-quality child care so they can continue working and supporting their family. I joined in sending a letter to the Appropriations Committee asking them to support funding for the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) program and hope to vote for an increase in funding this year.

My fellow colleagues, it is time that we have a frank and open conversation with the American people. The decisions that this Congress is going to have to make for this next fiscal year are going to be tough, but they must be done. Over the next months, we must work together to restore fiscal responsibility and, at the same time, make sure we deliver services to our constituents. Being fiscally responsible does not mean that we can forget about the importance of early childhood education. Programs like Head Start and CCDBG are important for everyone involved: they enable lower income families to work and improve their economic situation; they make sure that dedicated public servants, like child care providers, receive the compensation they deserve; and they ensure that all children get the social and educational start that will serve them throughout their lives.

HONORING CHUCK AND BOBBIE TERRELL

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 15, 2008

Mr. BACA. Madam Speaker, on May 16, 2008, the San Bernardino community will

gather to honor Chuck and Bobbie Terrell as they are presented with the prestigious Golden Baton Award from the San Bernardino Symphony Guild. In the Guild's 77 years of its existence, this will only be the ninth time that this honor has been awarded. The Guild is honoring them not only for their significant contribution to the San Bernardino Symphony but also for their commitment and dedication to the San Bernardino community as a whole for having spent over 50 years in the field of education.

After honorably serving his country in the United States Marine Corps, Chuck began his career by teaching social science at Azusa High School in 1956. Over the next 10 years, he served as a teacher, a counselor, the director of activities, the unit administrator, and finally, as principal, starting in 1963. During those years, Bobbie supported her husband by raising their children, and also stayed active in her church, the Jr. Women's Club and the United Way. In addition to performing his duties as principal, Chuck received his education doctorate from the University of Southern California.

From 1966 to 1977, Chuck served as superintendent of schools for the communities of Needles, Corona and Norco. Bobbie received her B.A. in psychology from Cal State Fullerton in 1974, and began teaching elementary school in Chino.

For the past 30 years the Terrells have made their home in San Bernardino. Chuck became San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools in 1982 and worked in that capacity until his retirement in 1993. After receiving her master's degree in counseling from Cal State San Bernardino, Bobbie worked in the Alvord School District as an elementary counselor and a resource specialist. Bobbie eventually earned her school psychologist's credential from Cal State San Bernardino and became a school psychologist in the Jurupa Unified School District until her retirement in 1993.

Their careers aside, I am sure the Terrells would say that their greatest accomplishment is their family, which includes their children Greg and Kathy, their six granddaughters and two great-grandchildren.

In retirement, the Terrells continue to serve their community as they always have. Chuck still serves San Bernardino to this day, as president of the board of trustees for the San Bernardino Community College District. Bobbie has served as treasurer for the San Bernardino Symphony Guild for the past 4 years. Active in the Presbyterian Church, she has also served as treasurer at the presbytery level for 6 years.

Madam Speaker, it is my great honor to recognize the service, sacrifice, and dedication of Chuck and Bobbie Terrell. Their impact on our community over the years serves as a great reminder that a life spent educating others is a life of a true patriot.

HONORING MORGAN WALKER MARTZ

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 15, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize, Morgan Walker Martz a

very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 175, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Morgan has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Morgan has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Morgan Walker Martz for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

APRIL 15TH—TAX DAY

HON. MICHAEL T. MCCAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 15, 2008

Mr. MCCAUL of Texas. Madam Speaker, once again the Tax Man cometh. Today, April 15, is the day American taxpayers scramble to comply with a tax code, over 67,000 pages long.

In 2007, individual taxpayers spent an estimated 3.18 billion hours complying with the Federal income tax laws. Individuals spend \$26.5 billion for tax software, tax preparers, postage, and other costs related to filing their Federal income tax, while corporations spend \$156.5 billion to comply with Federal tax laws. Americans may send two and a half trillion dollars to the IRS, but the cost to our economy is much greater. Despite this, the majority party is forcing a \$654 billion tax increase on the American people, the largest in American history.

It's time to scrap the IRS and this oppressive tax code. It's time to look at the fair tax or the flat tax as viable alternatives to our overly burdensome tax code. It's time to stop punishing taxpayers and pass fundamental tax reform.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 15, 2008

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, I was unable to be present for three rollcall votes on April 14th. If I had been present for those votes, I would have voted as follows:

First, on rollcall No. 183, to suspend the rules and pass H. Res. 886, Expressing sympathy to the victims and families of the tragic acts of violence in Colorado Springs, Colorado and Arvada, Colorado, as a cosponsor of the resolution I would have voted "yes."

As the resolution reminds us all, on Sunday, December 9, 2007, a troubled individual was responsible for killing several innocent people and injuring others at, first, the Youth With a Mission facility in Arvada and, a few hours later, at the New Life Church in the Colorado Springs Area—where he was fatally shot by Jeanne Assam, a volunteer private security guard.

The resolution rightly commends Ms. Assam and the quick response of local first respond-

ers in the city of Arvada and in Jefferson County as well as those in El Paso County and Colorado Springs who, assisted by Federal authorities and medical professionals limited the danger to the church and local community. And it offers the heartfelt condolences of the House of Representatives to the victims and families of these tragic acts of violence in Colorado and conveys our gratitude to Jeanne Assam, city and county officials, as well as the police, fire, sheriff, Federal authorities, and emergency medical teams whose quick response saved lives.

Second, on rollcall No. 184, to suspend the rules and pass H. Res. 994, regarding National Glanzmann's Thrombasthenia Awareness Day, I would have voted "yes."

And, third, on rollcall No. 185, to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 3548, as amended, the Plain Language in Government Communications Act, as a cosponsor of that measure I would have voted "yes."

H.R. 3548 requires Federal agencies to use plain language in government documents related to obtaining a service or a benefit. It responds to the fact that government documents often are complex and difficult to understand, particularly when they are not written clearly. To address this problem, President Clinton in 1998 issued a memorandum that, in part, required Federal agencies to use plain language in all documents that explain how to obtain a benefit or service. However, while a few agencies still maintain plain language programs, efforts to promote plain language have waned. H.R. 3548 defines plain language and requires agencies to use plain language in any new document that explains how to obtain a service or a benefit or that is relevant to obtaining a service or a benefit. The bill ensures that many of the letters, forms, and other documents that people receive from the government will be written in a clear, understandable way. Under this bill, for example, the Social Security Administration would be required to use plain language in letters that provide beneficiaries information about Social Security.

I joined in cosponsoring the bill because I think it is important for those of us in government to do more to communicate clearly with our employers, the American people, and I hope that the Senate will join the House in giving prompt approval to the legislation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 15, 2008

Mr. RUSH. Madam Speaker, during the week of February 25–29, 2008, I was unavoidably absent from rollcall votes 69–87.

Had I been present I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote 69, H. Res. 978, "yea" on rollcall vote 70, H. Res. 930, "yea" on rollcall vote 71, H. Res. 944, "yea" on rollcall vote 74, H. Res. 974, "yea" on rollcall vote 75, H.R. 3521 the Sires of New Jersey Amendment, "yea" on rollcall vote 76, H.R. 3521 the Meek of Florida Amendment, "yea" on rollcall vote 81, H. Res. 1001, "nay" on rollcall vote 83, H.R. 5351 on Motion to Recommit with Instructions, "yea" on rollcall vote 84, H.R. 5351, "yea" on rollcall vote 85, S. 2272, "yea" on rollcall vote 86, H.R. 4454, "yea" on rollcall vote 87, H.R. 4454.

Madam Speaker, during the week of March 3–7, 2008, I was unavoidably absent from rollcall votes 88–106.

Had I been present I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote 88, H.R. 1143, "yea" on rollcall vote 89, H.R. 1311, "yea" on rollcall vote 90, H.R. 816, "yea" on rollcall vote 91, H.R. 4191, "yea" on rollcall vote 92, H. Con. Res. 278, "yea" on rollcall vote 93, H. Res. 951, "yea" on rollcall vote 96, H. Res. 1014, "yea" on rollcall vote 97, H.R. 4774, "yea" on rollcall vote 98, H. Con. Res. 286, "nay" on rollcall vote 100, H.R. 1424 the Motion to Recommit with Instructions, "yea" on rollcall vote 101, H.R. 1424, "yea" on rollcall vote 102, H.R. 5400, "yea" on rollcall vote 104, H. Res. 1015, "nay" on rollcall vote 105, H.R. 2857 the Flake of Arizona Amendment, "yea" on rollcall vote 106, H.R. 2857 the Inslee of Washington Amendment.

Madam Speaker, during the week of March 10–14, 2008, I was unavoidably absent from rollcall votes 108–145.

Had I been present I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote 108, H. Res. 537, "yea" on rollcall vote 109, H.R. 3196, "yea" on rollcall vote 110, H.R. 4166, "yea" on rollcall vote 115, H. Res. 924, "yea" on rollcall vote 116, Motion, "yea" on rollcall vote 117, H.R. 2082, "yea" on rollcall vote 118, H. Res. 948, "yea" on rollcall vote 119, H. Res. 493, "yea" on rollcall vote 122, H. Res. 1031, "yea" on rollcall vote 130, H. Res. 1036, "yea" on rollcall vote 131, H.R. 5563, "yea" on rollcall vote 132, H. Con. Res. 316, "yea" on rollcall vote 133, H. Res. 936, "yea" on rollcall vote 134, S. 2733, "yea" on rollcall vote 137, H. Con. Res. 312 Kilpatrick of Michigan Amendment, "yea" on rollcall vote 138, H. Con. Res. 312 Lee of California Amendment, "nay" on rollcall vote 140, H. Con. Res. 312 Ryan of Wisconsin Amendment, "yea" on rollcall vote 141, H. Con. Res. 312, "yea" on rollcall vote 142, H. Res. 991, "yea" on rollcall vote 143, H. Res. 1041 On Ordering the Previous Question, "yea" on rollcall vote 144, H. Res. 1041 On Agreeing to the Resolution, "yea" on rollcall vote 145, H.R. 3773.

Madam Speaker, during the week of March 31–April 4, 2008, I was unavoidably absent from rollcall votes 147–160.

Had I been present I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote 147, H.R. 3352, "yea" on rollcall vote 148, H.R. 2675, "yea" on rollcall vote 149, H. Con. Res. 302, "yea" on rollcall vote 150, H. Con. Res. 310, "yea" on rollcall vote 151, H. Res. 1005, "yea" on rollcall vote 152, H. Res. 1021, "yea" on rollcall vote 154, H. Res. 1065 On Ordering the Previous Question, "yea" on rollcall vote 155, H. Res. 1065 On Agreeing to the Resolution, "yea" on rollcall vote 156, H.R. 5501 Carson of Indiana Amendment, "nay" on rollcall vote 157, H.R. 5501 On Motion to Recommit with Instructions, "yea" on rollcall vote 158, H.R. 5501 On Passage, "nay" on rollcall vote 159, H.R. 4847 On Motion to Recommit with Instructions, "yea" on rollcall vote 160, H.R. 4847 On Passage.

Madam Speaker, during the week of April 7–11, 2008, I was unavoidably absent from rollcall votes 161–182.

Had I been present I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote 161, H.J. Res. 70, "yea" on rollcall vote 162, H.R. 2464, "yea" on rollcall vote 163, S. 793, "yea" on rollcall vote 164, H. Res. 1084 On Ordering the Previous Question, "yea" on rollcall vote 165, H. Res.

1084 On Agreeing to the Resolution, “yea” on rollcall vote 166, H. Res. 1077, “yea” on rollcall vote 167, H.R. 2016 the Grijalva of Arizona Amendment, “nay” on rollcall vote 168, H.R. 2016 the Bishop of Utah Amendment, “nay” on rollcall vote 169, H.R. 2016 the Bishop of Utah Amendment, “nay” on rollcall vote 170, H.R. 2016 the Bishop of Utah Amendment, “yea” on rollcall vote 171, H.R. 2016 the Altmire of Pennsylvania Amendment, “nay” on rollcall vote 172, H.R. 2016 the Pearce of New Mexico Amendment, “nay” on rollcall vote 173, H.R. 2016 On Motion to Recommit with Instructions, “yea” on rollcall vote 174, H.R. 2016 On Passage, “yea” on rollcall vote 175, H.R. 2419, “yea” on rollcall vote 176, H.R. 5489, “yea” on rollcall vote 177, H.R. 5472, “yea” on rollcall vote 179, H. Res. 1083, “yea” on rollcall vote 180, H. Res. 1038, “yea” on rollcall vote 181, H. Res. 1092, “nay” on rollcall vote 182, H.R. 2537 the Flake of Arizona Amendment.

THE DAILY 45: 23 CHICAGO PUBLIC SCHOOL CHILDREN KILLED TO DATE

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 15, 2008

Mr. RUSH. Madam Speaker, today, Americans across the country are engaging in a debate on whether or not they are bitter. Whether it's bitterness about guns or bitterness about the economy.

Madam Speaker, this debate is a diversion from the real issue of the plague of gun violence in our communities. I rise, today, to mourn the gun-related deaths of far too many young people who were students at Chicago's public schools. As of today, that number stands at 23—all but two of those deaths was due to gun violence.

That's 23 young people who, in the pursuit of what other families take for granted—getting an education—have to duck and cover just to learn how to read and write.

Shannon Brown, 17, is the latest student to die from a gunshot. Described by his younger brother, Keishawn, as a “good big brother,” Brown was a happy and responsible child who enjoyed school and hanging out with his friends. He became the victim of gun violence following a fist fight in his neighborhood.

Like a scene from a bad Hollywood movie, he stumbled toward his home, while bleeding profusely, and collapsed on the stairs. Last week, law enforcement captured his alleged assailant, the 26-year-old who Shannon had bested in the fist fight.

When will Americans say “enough is enough? Stop the killings!

INTRODUCTION OF THE ROTH TSP ACT OF 2008

HON. THELMA D. DRAKE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 15, 2008

Ms. DRAKE. Madam Speaker, today is tax day. This is a day when all Americans are reminded of the federal government's treatment

of their hard-earned money, investments, and retirement savings. Our servicemembers in Iraq and Afghanistan think about these issues as well. I firmly believe it is time to improve the options at their disposal to secure a comfortable retirement after their service to our Nation.

Currently, two common options available in the private sector used as retirement savings tools are the Individual Retirement Account (IRA) and a 401(k), which is an employer-sponsored retirement plan where the employer matches the employee's contributions up to a specified limit. Both can be structured as either a “Traditional” or “Roth” plan.

Many are familiar with the Roth and Traditional IRA options as Roth IRAs have been around since 1998. However, a Roth 401(k) is a fairly new option that is similar to the Roth IRA in that it allows after-tax contributions to fund tax-free retirement income.

The Roth 401(k) option was established as part of the Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2001 (EGTRRA) and went into effect on January 1, 2006. The Pension Protection Act of 2006, signed into law by President Bush on August 17, 2006, makes the Roth 401(k) permanent, removing the December 31, 2010 expiration date that previously was in force.

Traditional IRA and 401(k) plans are funded through tax-deferred contributions or “before-tax” contributions, which means the money contributed is taken out of a person's pay before Federal and, in almost all cases, state income taxes are withheld. Any earnings are also tax-deferred. This means that an individual does not pay income taxes on contributions and earnings in their IRA or 401(k) account until their money is withdrawn, usually at retirement.

With a Roth plan, an individual does not receive the tax deduction for their contribution, but all the money in the account grows tax-free and can be withdrawn tax-free subject to certain criteria. For many, the Roth is the better deal.

As such, more and more companies have started to offer Roth 401(k)s since they were allowed to start doing so two years ago, and many firms that don't yet provide this option are considering adding it in the future.

However, in a glaring omission, this same option has not been extended to the federal Thrift Savings Plan (TSP), which is the federal government's in-house 401(k) retirement savings plan for the federal workforce and our men and women in uniform.

That is why today I have introduced the Roth TSP Act of 2008. This bill will simply provide the same 401(k) options available in the private sector to participants in the TSP. Currently, there are 3.9 million account holders in the TSP. These include civilians who are employed by the U.S. Government and our military personnel.

Our men and women in uniform and the federal workforce may find the option to structure their retirement plans as a Roth TSP to be a better deal. My legislation will place the same options available in the private sector at their disposal and provide another option when considering their long term financial and retirement planning. Allowing this option could provide greater growth potential and greater return on investment for their retirement savings than under the traditional TSP structure.

Consider the potential benefit to our military. If military personnel serve in a combat zone

as an enlisted person or as a warrant officer for any part of a month, all military pay received for military service in that month is excluded from their gross income. For commissioned officers, the monthly exclusion is capped at the highest enlisted pay, plus any hostile fire or imminent danger pay received. With a Roth TSP, these individuals could earn this pay tax-free, grow their investment in their Roth TSP, and then withdraw it all tax-free after age 59½, having never been required to pay taxes on the invested money.

The men and women of our military worry about consequences on a day-to-day basis that most Americans never even consider. The least we can do in return is provide our service members with choices and options that will allow them to plan for their future and help to ensure that they never have to worry about a secure retirement.

WEEK OF THE YOUNG CHILD

SPEECH OF

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 14, 2008

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, let me take this means to add my voice of support to the Head Start program. As you know, since the program began more than 40 years ago, it has served millions of low-income children and their families across the United States.

Over the years, I have had the opportunity to visit Head Start centers across Missouri's 4th Congressional District, which I have the honor to represent in Congress. I am always impressed by the dedicated staff who do so many good things to help prepare the children for their school careers. Every child in America has the right to a good start in life. It can make all the difference in their future. By partnering with parents to promote early childhood development, which is so critical, Head Start helps make sure that those futures are not jeopardized on the basis of a family's income.

This year, I have continued my strong support for Head Start funding and will work with my colleagues in the days ahead to see that this vital program's future is secure. Children truly are the hope of our Nation. They will be the leaders of tomorrow, and we owe it to them to see they have every opportunity to succeed.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE EDGE HILL FIRE COMPANY

HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 15, 2008

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate the Edge Hill Fire Company on the celebration of their 100th anniversary. Beginning in 1908 with just a few volunteers and hand drawn equipment, the Edge Hill Fire Company has developed into a modern, professional fire company.

In Philadelphia 272 years ago, Benjamin Franklin started the first fire department in

America. Franklin's brigade, comprised entirely of volunteers, was dedicated to looking out for their neighbors. Today, volunteers constitute 73 percent of all firefighters nationwide, and Franklin's proud tradition of volunteerism is being continued by the brave firefighters of Edge Hill Fire Company.

In 1909, following a serious fire in the village of Edge Hill, a few residents spearheaded the effort to protect properties and lives in their community against future destruction. By 1911, Edge Hill Fire Company was able to purchase a fire truck, the first motorized apparatus in Abington Township. In 1933, the company moved into a new firehouse, built and funded largely by the company's volunteers. This firehouse, located on Limekiln Pike at Cricket Avenue is still in use today, but has been renovated to serve as a meeting hall. As the community grew, so did the fire company, building a large addition in 1956 to include three truck bays, a service bay, hose tower, radio and recreation room.

Today, the company continues their proud tradition of providing the best service to the community. They, as the firefighters described by Benjamin Franklin, still "apply themselves with all vigilance and resolution," as well as dedication and courage, to the protection of their community in times of fire crises and as promoters of fire safety and prevention.

Madam Speaker, once again I congratulate the members of the Edge Hill Fire Company for their service, commitment, and sacrifice. I ask that my colleagues join me in celebrating this milestone and wish the dedicated firefighters another 100 years of success and safety.

TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT
COLONEL ALBERT P. BARRY

HON. JOHN P. MURTHA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 15, 2008

Mr. MURTHA. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the late Lt. Col. Albert P. Barry, USMC (Ret.). On December 2, 2007, Lt. Col. Barry passed away at his South Carolina home with his loving wife, Mrs. Elizabeth Taylor Barry, by his side. On January 16, 2008, he received full U.S. Marine Corps honors at Arlington National Cemetery. The date was very special in that it would have been Al and Liz's 20th wedding anniversary.

Madam Speaker, Al lived a full and courageous life even through his battle with glioblastoma, terminal brain cancer. He refused to give up and he and Liz filled their last year with hope, prayer, and as much laughter as possible. Sustained by family and all those who knew him well, Al's reaction was typical of the Marine within. He had been given his "orders"—by physicians this time—and he set out to "beat it." He never complained—and never failed to be Al Barry.

Albert P. Barry was born on April 12, 1936, in New Haven, Connecticut. He earned a Bachelor's Degree at Tufts University and a Master's Degree at Syracuse University. In 1958, he joined the U.S. Marine Corps, was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in December 1959, and retired as a Lieutenant Colonel in 1979. His 21-year active duty service in the

Marine Corps included tours with three Marine Divisions. He served as a Marine Barracks Commanding Officer in the Personnel Management and Assignment Office at Marine Corps Headquarters, and completed his career in the Liaison Office to the United States Senate from July 1975 until November 1979. He spent two tours in the Vietnam War with duty as an Aerial Observer; he served as a Battery Commander twice, a Battalion Operations Officer, an Assistant Regimental Operations Officer, and a Marine Amphibious Unit Operations Officer and Fire Support Coordinator. He received many notable personal decorations during his military service, which include the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star with Combat "V," the Air Medal, the Navy Commendation Medal with the Combat "V," the Navy Achievement Medal, the Combat Action Ribbon, the Presidential Unit Citation, the Navy Unit Citation, the Vietnam Staff Service Honor Medal and other campaign medals.

Following his U.S. Marine Corps Service, Mr. Barry served as a Legislative Director in the U.S. Senate and was appointed in 1981 as Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense in the Reagan Administration. He was awarded the Department of Defense Civilian Distinguished Service Medal in 1985.

Mr. Barry's professional positions included Director of Legislative Affairs for Sikorsky Aircraft, Director of Washington Operations for Pneumo Abex Corporation, and Vice President of Washington Operations for AAI Corporation. He was active in defense and industrial associations, and officially retired in March of 2006.

Surviving family in addition to his wife, Elizabeth, include eight children, two step-children, five sons-in-law, one daughter-in-law, and eleven grandchildren. The children are Barbara Barry, Emily Helm, Paul Barry, Kathleen Mullins, Eileen Macleay, Beatrice McMurrer, Sarah Smith, Matthew Barry, Tanya Taylor, and Tom Taylor.

Madam Speaker, Lt. Col. Albert Barry was a true American Patriot. He was a man who loved his family and did his duty to his country. He was unselfish in service and he was a great friend to many, including myself. I want to conclude my remarks by commending him for his life well lived and I want to thank him for his many years of service in helping to make our country great.

TAX DAY, APRIL 15TH

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 15, 2008

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, I have long known that the war in Iraq was costing our Nation far too much. But after less than a week here in Washington, I'm sad to say, it is even worse than I thought. Today, on the day millions of Americans pay their Federal income taxes, it is disheartening to point out that the average American's total tax bill pays for less than one half of one second of this unnecessary war.

At a time when hard-working, two-income families struggle to pay their mortgages, when gas prices force small businesses to raise prices on basic services and necessities, when support for college students continues to decline and CEO salaries rise faster than a

carnival balloon, it is time to bring a dose of sanity to our tax laws.

Madam Speaker, today we took an important step by passing legislation to deny government contracts to firms that are delinquent in tax payments. No longer shall we allow corporations to reap war profits while defrauding taxpayers by not paying their fair share.

We also took aim at the ridiculous practice of hiring outside collection agencies to harass American taxpayers at a cost higher than the money they take in. If America truly is the land of opportunity, then that opportunity must extend to all members of the American family. We cannot be nickel-and-diming hardworking families while losing tens of billions of dollars in waste, fraud and abuse in questionable contracts awarded to politically-connected firms doing business in Iraq.

Madam Speaker, I am new to this body, but I am not new to politics. I understand that the only way anything gets done in the halls of power is when someone stands up and insists on action. Today, on Tax Day, let us make a promise to work toward ending this devastating and costly war, providing middle-income tax relief and once and for all doing away with subsidies for oil companies. Only then, can Americans start to feel that Tax Day is something more than a shake-down of hard-working families.

CBO COST ESTIMATE FOR H.R. 5715,
THE ENSURING CONTINUED ACCESS TO STUDENT LOANS ACT
OF 2008

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 15, 2008

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Madam Speaker, with respect to the requirements of clause 3(c)(2) of rule XIII of the House of Representatives and section 308(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 and with respect to requirements of 3(c)(3) of rule XIII of the House of Representatives and section 402 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, the Committee on Education and Labor received, subsequent to the filing of the Committee report, the following estimate for H.R. 5715 from the Director of the Congressional Budget Office:

U.S. CONGRESS,
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,
Washington, DC, April 15, 2008.

Hon. GEORGE MILLER,
Chairman, Committee on Education and Labor,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The Congressional Budget Office has prepared the enclosed cost estimate for H.R. 5715, the Ensuring Continued Access to Student Loans Act of 2008.

If you wish further details on this estimate, we will be pleased to provide them. The CBO staff contact is Deborah Kalcevic.

Sincerely,
ROBERT A. SUNSHINE,
(For Peter R. Orszag, Director).

Enclosure.
H.R. 5715—Ensuring Continued Access to Student Loans Act of 2008

Summary: H.R. 5715 would:
Alter repayment and eligibility terms on parent Loans for Undergraduate Students (PLUS),
Increase the annual and aggregate borrowing limits on unsubsidized loans,

Give the Department of Education temporary authority to purchase guaranteed loans from private lenders, and

Clarify provisions relating to the lender-of-last-resort program.

On balance, CBO estimates that enacting the bill would increase direct spending by \$320 million over the 2008–2013 period and by \$390 million over the 2008–2018 period. The

bill would have no impact on revenues. CBO has not yet completed an estimate of the impact of H.R. 5715 on discretionary spending; implementing the bill would probably increase costs for administering the federal student loan programs.

H.R. 5715 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) and

would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

Estimated cost to the Federal Government: The estimated budgetary impact of H.R. 5715 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 500 (education, training, employment, and social services).

	By fiscal year, in millions of dollars—												
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2008–2013	2008–2018
CHANGES IN DIRECT SPENDING													
Changes to PLUS Program:													
Estimated Budget Authority	–35	–75	–75	–80	–85	–95	–100	–110	–115	–125	–135	–445	–1,030
Estimated Outlays	–20	–55	–65	–70	–75	–85	–90	–95	–105	–110	–115	–370	–885
Raise Limits on Unsubsidized Loans:													
Estimated Budget Authority	–90	–180	5	105	115	105	115	125	135	145	155	60	735
Estimated Outlays	–50	–135	–45	65	100	100	100	110	115	125	135	35	620
Purchase of Guaranteed Loans:													
Estimated Budget Authority	0	655	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	655	655
Estimated Outlays	0	655	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	655	655
Lender of Last Resort:													
Estimated Budget Authority	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Estimated Outlays	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Total Changes:													
Estimated Budget Authority	–125	400	–70	25	30	10	15	15	20	20	20	270	360
Estimated Outlays	–70	465	–100	–5	25	15	10	15	10	15	20	320	390

Note: PLUS = Parent Loans for Undergraduate Students, * = less than \$500,000.

Basis of estimate: For this estimate, CBO assumes that H.R. 5715 will be enacted before July 1, 2008. As required under the Federal Credit Reform Act of 1990, the costs of student loans are estimated on a net-present-value basis.

Changes to PLUS program

The bill would make two changes to the PLUS program. First, it would allow parents to defer payment on their PLUS loans until six months after the dependent borrower leaves school. Under current law, parents must begin repaying the loan 60 days after disbursement. CBO projects that approximately 10 percent of parent borrowers would take advantage of this deterrent before repaying their loans. Interest rates on parent loans range between 7.9 percent and 8.5 percent. Because interest on these loans would accrue during deferment, CBO estimates this provision would decrease direct spending by \$370 million over the 2008–2013 period and by \$885 million over the 2008–2018 period.

In addition, H.R. 5715 would allow a lender to determine that a potential PLUS borrower who is delinquent on a home mortgage payment for fewer than 181 days (and might otherwise be deemed not creditworthy) to qualify for the PLUS program due to extenuating circumstances. Based on information from lenders and other groups, C130 estimates this provision would have a negligible impact on direct spending.

Raise limits on unsubsidized loans

H.R. 5715 would increase the borrowing limits on unsubsidized loans for all students by \$2,000 per year and raise aggregate borrowing limits to accommodate those increases.

Based on data from the National Student Loan Data System and the National Postsecondary Student Aid Study (NPSAS) and about applicants for federal financial assistance, CBO estimates these changes would increase the volume of unsubsidized loans by more than \$1 billion in fiscal year 2008; that increase would grow to more than \$8 billion in fiscal year 2018. CBO expects that the volume of loans made to parents and graduate students in the PLUS program would de-

crease, as these students and parents would shift some of their borrowing to the unsubsidized loan program, which has a lower interest rate. CBO estimates these changes would increase direct spending by \$35 million over the 2008–2013 period and by \$620 million over the 2008–2018 period.

Purchase of guaranteed loans

The bill would grant the Department of Education the authority to purchase guaranteed loans originated on or after October 1, 2003, from lenders in the Federal Family Education Loan (FFEL) program, if the Secretary determines that there is insufficient capital available to meet the demand for guaranteed loans. The Secretary would have full discretion over the purchase price of the loans and the decision to buy. This authority would expire on July 1, 2009.

Under the bill, the Secretary could purchase guaranteed loans only after determining that such a purchase is in the best interests of the United States and does not have a cost to the government. C130 believes that the likelihood of increased costs is greater than the likelihood of increased savings if the Secretary purchases guaranteed loans for the following reasons:

CBO expects that the volume of loans purchased by the department would vary directly with the offer price. In considering possible outcomes, higher prices would result in higher volumes, and hence relatively large costs; outcomes assuming lower prices would probably involve a lower volume of loans purchased, and any savings under such scenarios would be relatively small. Thus, the expected value of the range of possible results would be a cost.

C130 expects that lenders would have better information about the future profitability of each loan than the Secretary and might be able to sell loans that are more likely to enter default, and thus generate costs to the government. Lenders would have an incentive to sell the loans that are most likely to result in costs to the government.

Finally, CBO is unsure how the Secretary would balance the need to be budget-neutral with a competing need to ensure that the

loan guarantee industry has sufficient capital to make student loans for the upcoming school year.

For those reasons, we expect that allowing the Department of Education to purchase guaranteed loans would likely increase costs to the federal government. Based on preliminary information from FEEL lenders, guaranty agencies, and the Department of Education, CBO estimates this provision could increase direct spending by \$655 million in 2009. Those costs could be higher or lower depending on what price the Secretary sets for guarantee purchases.

Lender of last resort

H.R. 5715 also would clarify two provisions of the lender-of-last-resort program, which provides loans to students who otherwise are unable to obtain a loan under the regular loan application process. First, it would specify that guaranty agencies may carry out the functions of the lender-of-last-resort program on a school-wide basis rather than an individual borrower basis. CBO estimates that this provision would have a negligible impact on direct spending.

Second, it would clarify that the Secretary of Education has the authority to advance federal funds to guaranty agencies serving as lenders of last resort who do not have sufficient capital to originate guaranteed loans. CBO estimates this provision would have no impact on direct spending because the U.S. Department of Education has this authority under current law and has published regulations governing the lender-of-last-resort authority.

Intergovernmental and private-sector impact: H.R. 5715 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

Estimate prepared by: Federal costs: Deborah Kalcevic and Justin Humphrey; Impact on state, local, and tribal governments: Burke Doherty; Impact on the private sector: Nabeel Alsalam.

Estimate approved by: Peter H. Fontaine, Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.