actions. Though much work remains to be done, I believe that we are moving in the right direction. The Department has already begun acting to improve its information security as a result of several Committee hearings. By fully implementing and carefully considering the intent of this bill, I believe the Department of Homeland Security will continue to make great strides in improving its information security posture. I hope that one day DHS will be considered a global leader in cybersecurity.

This measure is comprised of several important pieces. First, this bill would establish authorities and qualifications for the Chief Information Officer, CIO, position at the Department of Homeland Security. In March 2007, Secretary Chertoff issued a management directive giving the Chief Information Officer hiring authority for CIOs and approval authority over agency CIO budgets and IT investments. This bill statutorily authorizes that directive, but includes additional requirements for information security qualifications. In a number of hearings, we expressed concern that the lack of an information security background can hamper the CIO's understanding and efforts to secure the Department's networks. We cannot allow future Presidents to repeat the mistakes made by this Administration in appointing unqualified individuals to this important office.

This bill would also establish specific operational security practices for the CIO, including a continuous, real-time cyber incident response capability, a network architecture emphasizing the positioning of security controls, and vulnerability assessments for each external-facing information infrastructure. As we learned through our investigations of cyber incidents on DHS networks, the absence of a 24 hour/7 day a week real-time response capability can lead to devastating consequences, and we simply cannot afford significant time lapses in our response to cyber incidents.

This legislation also includes testing protocols to reduce the number of vulnerability exploitations throughout the Department's networks. Through our investigations and oversight hearings, we identified a significant gap between requirements under the Federal Information Security Management Act, FISMA, and the current threat environment. As we have learned, agencies that receive high FISMA scores are not necessarily secure from the latest attacks. This provision will require the CIO to consult with other federal agencies and establish attack-based testing protocols to secure Department networks. Today, one of the biggest problems with FISMA is that while we continue to identify vulnerabilities in our systems, we fail to provide adequate funding to mitigate those vulnerabilities. This bill will hold both the CIO and the agency head responsible for developing and implementing a vulnerability mitigation plan that includes budget and personnel marks.

The ubiquitous nature of the Internet can lead to significant problems if one party is infected with a virus or rootkit that can penetrate another person's network undetected. That is why our bill requires the Secretary to determine if the internal security policy of a contractor who provides network services to the Department matches the requirements of the Department. Network service providers for the Department are also required to implement and regularly update their internal information security policies, and deliver timely notice of any computer incidents that could affect the Department's computers. This section is similar to provisions contained in the security controls developed by the National Institute of Standards and Technology, NIST, special condition "SA–9."

Finally, we seek a formal report from the Secretary on several critical issues. I was disturbed to learn that the Department still has not conducted a risk assessment on its unclassified network, despite a series of breaches, and we seek a detailed counter-intelligence plan from the Secretary to investigate all breaches, as well as an outline of a program to increase threat information sharing with cleared contractors. DHS must also examine a similar undertaking, and consider offering training to contractors using the attack-based protocols established in consultation with the defense and intelligence communities. We also ask the Secretary to update us on how effective the Department has been in meeting the deadlines established by the Office of Management and Budget, OMB, for Trusted Internet Connections, TIC, encryption and authentication mandates.

Regrettably, poor information security practices plague the entire federal government, not just DHS. NIST continues to serve as an excellent guide for robust cybersecurity practices; unfortunately, federal agencies are often quick to cut cybersecurity budgets in favor of tangible products. If we care about information security, then we must not allow agencies to bleed money out of these programs.

Of course, legislation alone will not accomplish our goals. The Homeland Security Committee continues to conduct robust oversight over this Administration's Cyber Initiative. While I support the aim of the Cyber Initiative, I continue to have significant questions about the scope, budget, and secrecy of these efforts. Furthermore, there are several critical issues that each federal agency must immediately address to improve its security posture. We must start conducting robust damage assessments that can measure exposure to current attacks, and continue to fix those vulnerabilities. We must enhance and educate the federal workforce to limit successful exploits. We must support focused R&D efforts to solve the big challenges that face us in the world of cybersecurity. We must support and enhance initiatives like the Federal Desktop Core Configuration, the OMB-mandated security configuration for all Microsoft Windows Vista and XP operating system software. We must continue to monitor the efforts of the Administration to collapse federal connections to the Internet, known as the TIC Initiative. And finally, we must hold accountable those responsible for these efforts—whether they are our CIOs or Chief Information Security Officers, OMB, DHS, the Defense Department, the Intelligence community or contractors charged with securing our networks. Information security must become a prime concern for each of us if we are to ever be successful in defending ourselves from attack.

Madam Speaker, the Homeland Security Network Defense and Accountability Act of 2008 is a robust and carefully crafted bill, and is the result of a bipartisan effort to treat information security and cybersecurity with the same attention and effort that our adversaries would use to exploit us. I thank Chairman THOMPSON for co-sponsoring this bill with me, and I send the bill to the desk and ask that it be properly referred to the Homeland Security Committee.

RICHARD WIDMARK AND THE SPIRIT OF TEXAS

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 2008

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, the Spirit of Texas has been a popular genre in the classic Westerns of Hollywood. Recently, Hollywood and Texas lost Richard Widmark, who starred as Jim Bowie in the 1960 John Wayne version of The Alamo. Widmark's portrayal of Bowie is a classic representation of the fire that drove the defenders of the Alamo and soldiers of Texas to secure their independence.

John Wayne's version of The Alamo does more than just tell a story. Characters attach themselves to the audience. Richard Widmark did just that in his role as Jim Bowie. The contrast between the liberal minded Widmark and the conservative John Wayne is one of the highlights of the movie, and illustrates that the defenders of the Alamo came from all different backgrounds and mindsets. More importantly, however, is that Widmark and his fellow cast members captivated audiences with the Spirit of Texas and the devotion the defenders had in sacrificing their lives for their country. Widmark himself captures this spirit near the end of the movie, when he fights to the death with his famous Bowie Knife as he is lamed up in bed.

Richard Widmark recently passed away at his home in Roxbury, Connecticut on March 24. While not a Texan by birth, his contribution to the movies and the story of the defenders of the Alamo is one that should be remembered. His portrayal of Jim Bowie is a testament to the Spirit of Texas and her citizens. As we "Remember The Alamo," we should also "Remember Richard Widmark."

IN HONOR OF THE AZERBAIJANI CULTURAL GARDEN

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 2008

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, and colleagues, I rise today in recognition of the grand opening of the Azerbaijani Cultural Garden on May 12, 2008.

The Azerbaijani Garden is part of the Cleveland Cultural Gardens along Doan Brook in Cleveland's Rockefeller Park. I strongly support the addition of the Azerbaijani Garden as part of the Cleveland Cultural Gardens Federation and all the international communities represented through its gardens.

The Cleveland Cultural Gardens date back to 1916 when the Shakespeare Garden was built. By 1926, the concept of a series of gardens, recognizing various nationalities, was established. The formal group was completed in 1939 with funding to a large degree provided by the federal government. At that time, a series of 18 gardens was dedicated to the City of Cleveland, symbolizing the fusion of distinct nationalities into one American culture.

More importantly, these gardens stood for the brotherhood among all the people of all nations and to this day remain a unique embodiment of that purpose. On July 30, 1939,

soil from 28 nations was deposited by ambassadors of those nations into a marble crypt into the Garden of Nations. Soil from historic shrines of the United States was also deposited into the adjacent Garden of the United States. In both ceremonies, the intermingling of the soils symbolized a united effort by people of all nationalities toward mutual understanding, harmony, peace, and brotherhood throughout the world.

The Gardens are an important part of the city's history and reflects the diverse ethnicities and cultures that have been instrumental in the city's development. The symbolic meaning of the gardens is that people of diverse backgrounds, traditions, and religions can exist side by side in peace and harmony with the freedom to exercise their beliefs and cultures.

With the addition of the Azerbaijani Garden, the Cleveland Cultural Gardens now consists of 27 individual gardens, with new gardens having been recently designated and even more under proposal. Recently, I proudly noted the dedication of the Indian and Latvian gardens. In addition to these and the Azerbaijani Garden, various stages of planning are underway for African-American, Native American, Serbian, Hispanic, Syrian, Croatian, Scottish, Nordic, Philippine, and Vietnamese gardens.

I welcome not only the symbolism of so many great nations represented in these gardens, but the actual joining of the people of these nations in Cleveland. The Cleveland Cultural Gardens is frequently visited diplomatic, educational, or trade delegations when they are visiting Cleveland. I am proud that the people of Azerbaijan now have a place in Cleveland to celebrate their culture.

Madam Speaker and distinguished colleagues, it is my hope that Azerbaijan's participation will help to fulfill our vision of the Cleveland Cultural Gardens as an international park for the people of all nations to come together in cooperation and peace. Please join me in celebrating the dedication of the Azerbaijani Cultural Garden and to welcome the Azerbaijani people to the family of nations represented at the Cleveland Cultural Gardens.

RECOGNIZING THE 2008 RECIPIENTS OF THE MCGOWAN COURAGE AWARD

HON. JIM JORDAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 2008

Mr. JORDAN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I enjoy sharing positive stories about young people from our district who overcome adversity. Today, I am pleased to introduce you to eight such individuals.

Michael ("Mick") Benson, Clear Fork High School—Though autistic, this young man maintains a positive attitude as he volunteers in the community and participates in athletics, including many Special Olympics events.

Kati Jo Walters, Crestview High School—This athlete became wheelchair-bound due to an auto-immune medical condition, but through fierce determination and persistence, she remains both a great student and an inspiration to all.

Corey Sayer, Lexington High School—Growing up in a family torn apart by drug abuse, he was taken in by the parents of a friend and now excels academically, hoping to attend Ohio State University—Mansfield upon graduation.

Jill Leiendecker, Lucas High School—A leader in and outside the classroom, she serves as student council president, crediting the love and support of her father after losing her mother in an auto accident.

Curtis Alan Remy, Madison Comprehensive High School—Impaired with nerve deafness, he earned the starting point guard position and was named captain of his high school basketball team—all in addition to his academic achievements.

Daniel Porter, Mansfield Christian High School—Through self-motivation, he overcame dyslexia to become proficient in computers, power equipment, and small engines, and has secured a job with a landscaping company after graduation.

Jessica White, Mansfield Senior High School—This courageous young lady overcame obstacles associated with hearing impairment to perform at the highest levels in both school and extracurricular activities, including basketball and track.

Penelope Mitman, Ontario High School—Despite her hearing problems, she remains an active and inspirational student, participating in student council, band, and basketball, and volunteering in the guidance office.

I am pleased to join the Rotary Club of Mansfield, Ohio, in honoring the achievements of these recipients of the McGowan Courage Award, which will be presented on May 13.

HONORING ERIE CANALWAY NATIONAL HERITAGE CORRIDOR COMMISSIONER ERIC MOWER

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 2008

Mr. WALSH of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today in tribute to my friend, a dedicated public servant in his own right, Eric Mower. Eric has an outstanding record of dedicated service and contributions to the betterment of communities across upstate New York.

A highly successful civic and business leader, Eric is the chairman and CEO of Eric Mower and Associates, one of our Nation's largest public relations firms. He is also a member of numerous community boards and organizations, including United Way of Central New York, the Boy Scouts of America, and the Greater Syracuse Chamber of Commerce.

Eric was the initial chair of the highly successful Syracuse Neighborhood Initiative, a private-public non-profit collaboration that I launched in 1999 to revitalize neighborhoods and increase home ownership in the city of Syracuse. He capably led efforts to develop partnerships and garner support from the private sector to leverage federal resources.

Eric currently serves as chair of the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor Commission, a position he will be vacating in June. His leadership on the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor Commission has been integral. The Corridor, founded in 2000, encompasses 80 percent of upstate New York's population, including 234 communities. Since 2002 when Eric was named chair of the commission, he has led the fledgling National Heritage Corridor through much growth and success. Under his direction the Corridor Commission has leveraged millions of dollars in support and has helped multiple canal communities fund projects to enhance and showcase the canal. The successful Trails and Rails program continues to grow, and last year the Commission hosted an historic 1,000-mile Grand Canal Journey of a replica schooner visiting 28 cities and towns along the Erie Canal.

On behalf of the people of the entire 25th Congressional District of New York, I thank him for his distinguished service. I am very proud to have worked with Eric over the years. He is an extraordinary individual and brings his considerable talents to every endeavor he undertakes. While he will no longer be chair of the Commission, I'm confident that his presence as a member will continue be a great benefit to the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor Commission.

HONORING DR. BRENDA DEEN SCHILDGEN OF DAVIS, CALIFORNIA, RECIPIENT OF THE 2008 UC DAVIS PRIZE FOR UNDERGRADUATE TEACHING AND SCHOLARLY ACHIEVEMENT

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 2008

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Brenda Deen Schildgen, the 2008 recipient of the University of California, Davis Prize for Undergraduate Teaching an Scholarly Achievement. The prize is awarded to recognize scholars who are successful not only in their research, but convey their excitement and love of scholarship to students they teach. Dr. Schildgen is an eminent scholar of medieval European literature and biblical studies, but her hallmark at UC Davis is imparting her knowledge and passion for these subjects to students.

Born in London to a Russian mother and Indian father, Dr. Schildgen was the first in her family to go to college. Her Jewish mother and Muslim father sent her to a French convent in England through high school. Crossing the Atlantic for college, she earned a bachelor's degree in English and French at the University of Wisconsin—Madison, a master's and Ph.D. in comparative literature at Indiana University and a second master's, in religious studies, at the University of San Francisco.

Her path to an academic career was also unconventional. Dr. Schildgen served for 8 years as a lecturer at UC Davis before she was hired in 2002 as a full professor of comparative literature—an almost unheard-of jump in academia, where faculty typically climb, rung by rung, from assistant professor to associate professor to professor. In addition to her research and teaching, Dr. Schildgen has been instrumental in building UC Davis' highly praised University Writing Program and has been a staunch advocate for the development of writing skills not just in English courses but across all disciplines.

A scholar who works with literature in English, Italian, French, Spanish, Greek and Latin—she describes herself as "dabbling" in