

I have been proud to support the Occoneechee Council of the Boy Scouts in North Carolina through volunteer work and vital fundraising. I have been honored to receive the Silver Beaver, the Scouts' highest award for volunteering.

Scouting has contributed to the fabric of American life for nearly 100 years. The Boy Scouts of America was incorporated on February 8, 1910, and chartered by Congress in 1916. The Boy Scouts of America's original mission was to provide an educational program for boys and young men to build character, to train in the responsibilities of participating in citizenship, and to develop personal fitness.

You know, North Carolina and America and indeed the entire world have changed a great deal since 1910, yet the Boy Scouts endure. The Boy Scouts remain a mainstay of American life because the message of this organization is timeless: developing American citizens who are physically, mentally and emotionally fit.

The leadership and service skills learned as a Boy Scout have enabled men to become leaders in all walks of life: government, business, sports, science and the arts. These include such distinguished individuals as: President Gerald R. Ford, our first Eagle Scout to become President; Secretary of Defense Robert M. Gates; and my friend, Richard Gephardt, the former Majority Leader of the U.S. House of Representatives, and Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer. Closer to my home, former North Carolina Governor and Senator Terry Sanford was an Eagle Scout.

The Boy Scouts of America is an institution that contributes so much to the strength of our social fabric. The activities of the Boy Scouts reinforce our moral core and help sustain our American values, generation after generation.

I support the issuance of this commemorative centennial coin, and I urge my colleagues to join me in support of this bill.

INTRODUCTION OF THE HELP AMERICA VOTE ACT AMENDMENT'S BILL

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 15, 2008

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, as another presidential election fast approaches, I am pleased to introduce a bill to amend and improve the Help America Vote Act of 2002, HAVA, which was enacted after the chaos of the 2000 presidential election. The genesis of my bill is my own experience and observations from the 2004 elections here in the District of Columbia and campaigning in other parts of the country during the 2004 presidential elections.

The first provision is in response to the long lines that voters have been forced to endure throughout the country that may have deterred significant numbers of voters and would require States to permit counties or other subdivisions upon request to begin voting prior to the scheduled date of an election. During the 2004 election, some subdivisions had voting machines that were modern and plentiful, while other jurisdictions in the same State were burdened with scarce and out-of-date

machines, resulting in long lines. In the pivotal state of Ohio, which determined the outcome of the close 2004 presidential election, the controversy was deepened by reports that lines were particularly long in counties where there were large minority populations compared with largely white counties. One reason for the difference is that in many States, voting machines are purchased by counties or other jurisdictions. Differences in income levels, tax bases and other issues often result in large disparities within the same State in the availability of machines. Small changes in the calendar day that voting begins can help eliminate these disparities and the lines that discourage the exercise of the right to vote, and without the often significant capital investment in new equipment.

The second provision of my bill adds a section to HAVA that responds to calls my office received regarding absentee ballots sent in that inadvertently did not include postage, or had insufficient postage. My bill would require officials to accept such absentee ballots. Postage mistakes may be made depending on the number of issues on the ballot and the resulting size and weight of the envelope containing the ballot. The cost to authorities, if any, is de minimis. The public interest in counting every ballot voters have cast outweighs the incidental, virtually immeasurable cost, if any. There should be no doubt that such ballots should be counted.

A third provision amends HAVA to eliminate the confusion that arises when voters go to the incorrect voting sites because they are first-time or infrequent voters or their usual voting site has been changed. To encourage participation, my bill would allow voters registered anywhere in the State to cast a provisional ballot and have it counted and verified. However, voters would be told the correct polling site to allow the option of going to the correct site and thereby avoiding any doubt that their ballots would be counted.

The 2000 presidential election was a calamity of such historic proportions that it cast doubt on the validity of the election of the President of the United States and led to the enactment of HAVA. The continuing problems in the 2004 elections were very serious, unacceptable, and controversial. Although that election was also razor thin close, its problems took longer to surface and there was no delay in the certification and settlement of the final result through the Supreme Court in *Bush v. Gore* in 2001. However, the 2004 elections were another close call that yielded bitter controversy. Beyond the recent election controversies, the voting franchise is precious enough for us to want and endeavor to protect its full expression. Congress must be willing to learn from our continuing experience to make improvements in protecting the right to vote as they are needed. My bill simply uses the experience from my own district and elsewhere to contribute to this effort.

CONCERN ABOUT TREATMENT OF U.S. CITIZEN IN BELARUSIAN DETENTION

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 15, 2008

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, as Chairman of the Commission on Security

and Cooperation in Europe, I would like to draw attention and concern to the case of Mr. Emanuel Zeltser, a U.S. citizen who was detained March 12th upon his arrival in Minsk, Belarus, charged with "use of forged documents." In the entire time that Mr. Zeltser has been detained, he has only been allowed visitation by the U.S. Embassy twice, on March 21st and April 25th. Upon the latter visit it was noted by the U.S. consul that Mr. Zeltser had been beaten several times and appeared in greatly weakened health. Mr. Zeltser suffers from Type 2 diabetes and a severe form of arthritis. Though his condition causes him severe pain and has further deteriorated during his incarceration, the authorities in the detention facility where he is held have reportedly denied him necessary medications. Without proper medications, Mr. Zeltser may not be able to survive the harsh conditions of his detention. Furthermore, according to his lawyer, Belarusian authorities have recently extended the period of Mr. Zeltser's term of detention.

It is incumbent upon the Belarusian government to provide Mr. Zeltser full consular access, proper medical care, and ensure that he is not subjected to further physical abuse and degrading treatment—consistent with its international legal obligations and basic human rights standards.

Time is of the essence in Mr. Zeltser's case, as further delays could lead to further deterioration of his health to the point of endangering his life.

Madam Speaker, I call upon the Belarusian authorities to ensure that Mr. Zeltser immediately receives the medication his doctor has prescribed, and is protected from further ill-treatment, given access to U.S. consular representatives and any medical attention he may need. On April 25, the State Department requested the Government of Belarus to release Emanuel Zeltser on humanitarian grounds. I urge the Belarusian Government to favorably consider that request.

CELEBRATING TAYLOR'S 40TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 15, 2008

Mr. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge, honor, and celebrate the City of Taylor on the occasion of its 40th Anniversary. Incorporated as a city on May 13, 1968, and named after our country's 12th president, Taylor's roots as a community date to the mid-19th Century. What began as a largely agricultural town grew into a prosperous and diverse city which features ample retail and industry for employment and safe neighborhoods for her citizens.

Taylor first began as a Township when residents succeeded in petitioning for their own government in 1847. Like many Michigan communities, Taylor began to thrive when Ford Motor Company opened the nearby Rouge Plant. The Rouge, as it was often simply called, provided over 100,000 jobs at one time during the 1930s. This mighty economic engine created a boom in the burgeoning town that would carry it through the Great Depression and World War II, during which it played an invaluable part of the American war effort.

As the auto industry continued to expand, Taylor grew as well. At the time of incorporation as a city in 1968, Taylor had a population of over 70,000 and was one of the largest cities in southeast Michigan. Residents like to say that "all roads lead to Taylor," a statement justified by the many major transportation arteries that flow through the city. Taylor has taken wonderful advantage of this fact by becoming not only a community that it is necessary to drive through, but also a community that is necessary to stop in and enjoy.

Taylor continues to thrive today as a result of active involvement and partnership from its corporate and individual citizens alike. Taylor is home to numerous industries and businesses, a large and impressive new SportsPlex, and many beautiful new municipal buildings and community centers. Of particular pride to the city and the region, Taylor is the annual host of the Junior Little League World Series—a week-long tournament that features teams from across the globe.

Madam Speaker, I ask that all of my colleagues join me in honoring the City of Taylor on its 40th Anniversary. The City of Taylor is home to vibrant and stable neighborhoods, significant industrial production, world-class youth sports, and numerous commercial business opportunities.

In celebrating Taylor's 40th Anniversary, we are honoring a city that truly represents the best of American history and progress.

HONORING MARIAN LOFTIN AND
THE CHILDREN'S TRUST FUND
OF ALABAMA FOR 25 YEARS OF
SERVICE TO THE CHILDREN OF
ALABAMA

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 15, 2008

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to Marian Loftin and the Children's Trust Fund of Alabama for 25 years of dedicated service to protecting the children of Alabama.

Created in 1983 by the Alabama legislature, the Children's Trust Fund was created to reduce the incidence of child abuse and neglect. The Children's Trust Fund was unique in the fact that it specifically focuses on solving the problem of child abuse before it occurs.

This state agency, which has its own board, funding and staff dedicated solely to preventing child abuse, is the state of Alabama's only agency designated to preventing child neglect and maltreatment.

Through education initiatives and community involvement, the Children's Trust Fund has worked to increase awareness, prevent the abuse and neglect of children, find new and effective solutions for preventing child abuse before it occurs, and strengthen Alabama families to prevent such tragedies in the future.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with me in congratulating both Marian Loftin and all of those at the Children's Trust Fund on 25 years of service to the children of Alabama and their families. For all their accomplishments, I extend my heartfelt thanks for their continued service to the children of Alabama, the First Congressional District, and the state of Alabama.

HONORING DR. CARROLL L. ESTES
PHD OF HEALDSBURG, CALI-
FORNIA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 15, 2008

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today along with my colleagues Congresswoman JACKIE SPEIER, Congresswoman LYNN WOOLSEY, and you as Speaker of the House of Representatives, to honor the contributions of Carroll L. Estes, PhD. Dr. Estes is one of our country's most highly acclaimed leaders in the field of aging, who has combined distinguished scholarship with a sustained commitment to public sociology.

Dr. Estes was raised in Texas by her mother, Carroll Cox Estes, an artist and writer, and her father, the late U.S. District Judge Joe E. Estes. She received her AB in Sociology from Stanford University, her MA in Sociology from Southern Methodist University, and her PhD from the University of California, San Diego. Her first book, *The Decision Makers: The Power Structure of Dallas*, published in 1963, gained notoriety on both local and national levels at the time of President Kennedy's assassination.

Over her 40 year career, Dr. Estes has been passionately devoted to improving the health and economic security of vulnerable and underserved populations, with special concern for women, older persons, and ethnic and racial minorities. Through research, teaching, and public service, she has steadfastly worked to advance the public good and the interests of America's most powerless and disenfranchised populations. She is an internationally recognized policy advisor in the field of social insurance, Social Security, Medicare, and long term care.

Dr. Estes has authored and co-authored eight books and more than 150 scientific articles and coedited 15 books. Her research, including her groundbreaking book, *The Aging Enterprise* (1979), has contributed to understanding of the impact of social policy on the elderly. Her latest book, *Social Insurance, Social Justice and Social Change* will be published in 2009.

Dr. Estes's current scholarship is focused on the social movements surrounding the privatization of social insurance programs for the elderly. She is also working on the missing feminist revolution in old age policy and studies of the long term care ombudsman program and access to elder mental health services.

In 1979, Dr. Estes cofounded the Aging Health Policy Center, and in 1985 it was approved by the University of California Board of Regents as the Institute for Health & Aging (IHA). Dr. Estes was appointed its first director and served for nearly two decades. She was also chairperson of the Department of Social & Behavioral Sciences in the School of Nursing from 1981 through 1992.

Dr. Estes's service extends far beyond academia. She was a consultant to U.S. Commissioners of Social Security and the U.S. Senate and House Committees on Aging and was a member of Federal commissions, committees of the Institute of Medicine and the National Academy of Sciences, and private foundation boards. She is past president of the Gerontological Society of America (GSA), the Amer-

ican Society on Aging (ASA), and the Association for Gerontology in Higher Education (AGHE), and past national vice-president of the Older Women's League. Dr. Estes is a long-time member of many advocacy organizations including: the Gray Panthers, Responsible Wealth, the Older Women's League (of which she was national vice president). She worked directly with both Tish Sommers and Maggie Kuhn, who continue to inspire her activism.

In 2006 Dr. Estes received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare, where she is currently vice chair. She is also a current member of the Sonoma County Council on Aging.

Most important among Dr. Estes's many contributions is that of mother and grandmother to her daughter Duskie Estes, her son-in-law John Stewart, and her precious granddaughters Brydie and Mackenzie.

Madam Speaker, it is appropriate that Dr. Carroll L. Estes, PhD, is being honored at a University of California, San Francisco, symposium celebrating her 40 years of policy research and leadership in health and aging. We are grateful for her many contributions as a distinguished scholar, inspiring teacher, influential policy advisor, institution builder and advocate for the most vulnerable in our Nation.

A TRIBUTE TO JOSEPH SELLERS,
JR.

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 15, 2008

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Joseph Sellers, Jr., President and Business Manager of Sheet Metal Workers Local 19 Union. Throughout his career, Mr. Sellers has exemplified exceptional labor leadership for the Sheet Metal Workers, the city of Philadelphia, and beyond.

Mr. Sellers began his career as a sheet metal worker apprentice in 1980, and became a journeyman four years later. In the years since, Mr. Sellers has been honored with a number of leadership positions within the Sheet Metal Workers Local Union 19. He was first appointed Training Coordinator in 1996, and was then elected to the position of Business Representative four and a half years later. Just two years after that, he was unanimously appointed by the Local 19 Executive Board to his current position as President and Business Manager. He was overwhelmingly elected to the same position in 2003 and 2006, and is currently serving a three-year term.

During his current tenure, he also holds a number of prominent leadership positions, including President of the Pennsylvania and New Jersey State Councils of Sheet Metal Workers, Vice-President of the Philadelphia AFL-CIO, President of the Mechanical Trades District Council of Delaware Valley, President for the Metropolitan Association of Presidents and Business Representatives, and many other prestigious positions. Mr. Sellers has also been active on behalf of a number of charities throughout his career, and is a long time supporter of the Unico Salute to Labor.

Mr. Sellers's unwavering dedication to organized labor is commendable, as are his enthusiasm and proficiency in leadership. He truly