



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 110th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 154

WASHINGTON, MONDAY, MAY 19, 2008

No. 82

House of Representatives

The House met at 10:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. HIRONO).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
May 19, 2008.

I hereby appoint the Honorable MAZIE K. HIRONO to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 4, 2007, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 33 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess until noon.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. MCGOVERN) at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

Lord our God, in You there is no contradiction, only truth. In You no contraries nor complementary parts, only absolute unity and simplicity. Look with mercy upon our complex world filled with half-truths and partial fulfillment.

In the labyrinth of a globalized world, help this Congress and this Nation not to lose its way of operating according to transcending principles and constitutional rights and responsibilities. By the light of faith, lead us one step at a time to create a society of equal justice under the law and so give You glory now and forever. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. BORDALLO led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, May 16, 2008.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in clause 2(h) of rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on May 16, 2008, at 9:05 a.m.:

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 2356.

That the Senate agreed to S.J. Res. 28.

That the Senate disagrees to the amendment of the House of Representatives to the bill; Senate agrees to a conference with the House of Representatives; Senate appoints conferees S. Con. Res. 70.

That the Senate passed S. 3029.

With best wishes, I am
Sincerely,

LORRAINE C. MILLER,
Clerk of the House.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, May 16, 2008.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker, The Capitol,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, I have the honor to transmit a sealed envelope received from the White House on May 16, 2008, at 3:03 p.m. and said to contain a message from the President whereby he submits a copy of a notice filed earlier with the Federal Register continuing the emergency with respect to Burma first declared in Executive Order 13407 of May 20, 1997.

With best wishes, I am
Sincerely,

LORRAINE C. MILLER,
Clerk of the House.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

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



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H4065

CONTINUATION OF NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO BURMA—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 110–113)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. I have sent the enclosed notice to the *Federal Register* for publication, stating that the Burma emergency is to continue beyond May 20, 2008.

The crisis between the United States and Burma arising from the actions and policies of the Government of Burma, including its engaging in large-scale repression of the democratic opposition in Burma, that led to the declaration of a national emergency on May 20, 1997, and its expansion on October 18, 2007, and April 30, 2008, has not been resolved. These actions and policies are hostile to U.S. interests and pose a continuing unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. For this reason, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency with respect to Burma and maintain in force the sanctions against Burma to respond to this threat. This action does not inhibit any efforts on the part of the United States to provide humanitarian assistance to the people of Burma in the aftermath of Cyclone Nargis.

GEORGE W. BUSH.
THE WHITE HOUSE, *May 16, 2008.*

□ 1215

COMMUNICATION FROM CONSTITUENT LIAISON, THE HONORABLE STENY HOYER, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from Jamie Grove, Constituent Liaison, the Honorable STENY HOYER, Member of Congress:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, May 9, 2008.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: This is to notify you formally, pursuant to rule VIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, that I have been served with a subpoena, issued in the District Court of Charles County, Maryland, for testimony in a criminal case.

After consultation with the Office of General Counsel, I have determined that compli-

ance with the subpoena is consistent with the precedents and privileges of the House.

Sincerely,

JAMIE GROVE,
Constituent Liaison.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken tomorrow.

CORAL REEF ECOSYSTEMS

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 300) recognizing the necessity for the United States to maintain its significant leadership role in improving the health and promoting the resiliency of coral reef ecosystems, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 300

Whereas coral reef ecosystems are among the world's most biologically diverse and productive marine habitats, and are often described as the tropical rain forest of the oceans;

Whereas healthy coral reef ecosystems provide the basis for subsistence, commercial fisheries, and coastal and marine tourism and are of vital economic importance to coastal States and territories of the United States including Florida, Hawaii, Georgia, Texas, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands;

Whereas healthy coral reef ecosystems function as natural, regenerating coastal barriers, protecting shorelines and coastal areas from high waves, storm surges, and accompanying losses of human life and property;

Whereas the coral reef research community has long established that coral reefs are subject to a wide range of natural and anthropogenic threats, including climate change;

Whereas the health of coral reef ecosystems is at serious risk due to a variety of human activities, both local and global;

Whereas protecting and conserving coral reef ecosystems is an urgent issue, but they may be preserved if we act now;

Whereas changing climate is potentially one of the most significant long-term influences on the structure and function of coral reef ecosystems, including the devastating effects of ocean acidification and rising ocean temperatures;

Whereas a wide variety of destructive fishing practices, including the use of cyanide, other poisons, surfactants, and explosives, are contributing to the global decline of coral reef ecosystems;

Whereas the United States has taken measures to protect national coral reef resources through the designation and management of several marine protected areas located in both the Pacific and Caribbean,

through building local management capacity, and by supporting effective management and sound research to preserve, sustain, and restore valuable coral reef ecosystems;

Whereas our Nation's coral reef ecosystems provide benefit and opportunity to all, and conservation of these important resources requires the coordinated efforts of the many Federal agencies and State, territory, and commonwealth partners that comprise the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force and our many nongovernmental, international, and academic partners;

Whereas the United States, acting through its agencies, has established itself as a global leader in coral reef ecosystem stewardship by launching and remaining an active and engaged participant in the International Coral Reef Initiative, and by maintaining professional networks for the purposes of sharing knowledge and information on coral reef ecosystems, furnishing near real-time data collected at coral reef sites, providing a repository for historical data relating to coral reefs, and making substantial contributions to the general body of coral reef knowledge; and

Whereas 2008 has been declared the "International Year of the Reef" by the coral reef research community and over 40 national and international coral reef research, conservation, and academic organizations: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That the Congress recognizes the necessity for the United States to maintain its significant leadership role in improving the health and promoting the resiliency of coral reef ecosystems, by—

(1) strengthening awareness about ecological, economic, social, and cultural values of coral reefs and associated ecosystems;

(2) improving understanding of the critical threats to coral reefs and generating both practical and innovative solutions to reduce those threats; and

(3) initiating the prompt development and implementation of effective management strategies for the conservation and sustainable use of those ecosystems.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) and the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Guam.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Guam?

There was no objection.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

House Concurrent Resolution 300 recognizes the necessity for the United States to maintain its significant leadership role in improving the health and promoting resiliency of coral reef ecosystems.

Coral reef ecosystems are not only economically important to commercial fisheries and marine tourism of many places, including my own district of Guam, but they also act as natural protective coastal barriers during storm surges and high waves.

In 2008, the International Year of the Reef, the United States can help facilitate coordinated conservation efforts and maintain its leadership by working to strengthen awareness of the values of the coral reef ecosystems. This resolution, Mr. Speaker, encourages continued United States leadership in that regard, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of this resolution. House Concurrent Resolution 300 does make an important point to the American people and to the world that the United States has been a leader in the preservation and restoration of our coral reefs.

Like the gentlewoman from Guam, I have a long coastline and recognize that without the often-called "rain forest of the ocean," the world would not eat, our coastlines would be eroded, and, without a doubt, life as we know it would not prevail.

So, Mr. Speaker, I do ask strong support in favor of this resolution.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Con. Res. 300, recognizing the urgency for the U.S. to maintain its leadership role in protecting and promoting the resiliency of our coral reef ecosystems.

First, I want to commend the chief sponsors, Ms. BORDALLO of Guam and Ms. ROSLEHTINEN of Florida, for their initiative in introducing this important resolution. I also want to acknowledge the support and leadership of Chairman NICK RAHALL and Ranking Member DON YOUNG of Alaska of the Committee on Natural Resources.

As a member of the Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, and Oceans, I want to personally commend my good friend, Chairwoman BORDALLO, for her tireless work on the many issues affecting our oceans. This resolution in particular is an example of the efforts by the Congress in promoting U.S. leadership and participation in preserving our natural resources. Given that 2008 has been designated the "International Year of the Reef," it is only appropriate that we must reinforce U.S. commitments to the international efforts to protect critical coral reef habitats.

Mr. Speaker, according to a recent U.N. report on oceans, 60 percent of the world's coral reefs will die-off by 2030. This is due to the changes in the climate because of global warming from the harm chemicals and human activity has placed on our environment. It is our responsibility to enhance international efforts to protect and restore our coastal marine resources. We have taken many steps to achieve these efforts by establishing the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force in 1998 that has done so much through enhancing research and monitoring, implementing action strategies, and formulating and enforcing national policy on protecting and preserving all of our coastal reefs.

Last year, I introduced H.R. 1205, the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000, that was unanimously passed by the House in October 2007. This legislation will codify the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force and will advance existing

programs that address this core issue. However, there has been no further action on the Senate side. I am hopeful that this important legislation will be passed by the end of the year.

Again, I urge my colleagues to pass H. Con. Res. 300. I thank my colleagues for supporting this important bipartisan resolution.

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I again urge Members to support the resolution, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 300.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

MANAGING FISH STOCKS IN ARCTIC OCEAN

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate joint resolution (S.J. Res. 17) directing the United States to initiate international discussions and take necessary steps with other Nations to negotiate an agreement for managing migratory and transboundary fish stocks in the Arctic Ocean.

The Clerk read the title of the Senate joint resolution.

The text of the Senate joint resolution is as follows:

S.J. RES. 17

Whereas the decline of several commercially valuable fish stocks throughout the world's oceans highlights the need for fishing nations to conserve fish stocks and develop management systems that promote fisheries sustainability;

Whereas fish stocks are migratory throughout their habitats, and changing ocean conditions can restructure marine habitats and redistribute the species dependent on those habitats;

Whereas changing global climate regimes may increase ocean water temperature, creating suitable new habitats in areas previously too cold to support certain fish stocks, such as the Arctic Ocean;

Whereas habitat expansion and migration of fish stocks into the Arctic Ocean and the potential for vessel docking and navigation in the Arctic Ocean could create conditions favorable for establishing and expanding commercial fisheries in the future;

Whereas commercial fishing has occurred in several regions of the Arctic Ocean, including the Barents Sea, Kara Sea, Beaufort Sea, Chukchi Sea, and Greenland Sea, although fisheries scientists have only limited

data on current and projected future fish stock abundance and distribution patterns throughout the Arctic Ocean;

Whereas remote indigenous communities in all nations that border the Arctic Ocean engage in limited, small scale subsistence fishing and must maintain access to and sustainability of this fishing in order to survive;

Whereas many of these communities depend on a variety of other marine life for social, cultural and subsistence purposes, including marine mammals and seabirds that may be adversely affected by climate change, and emerging fisheries in the Arctic should take into account the social, economic, cultural and subsistence needs of these small coastal communities;

Whereas managing for fisheries sustainability requires that all commercial fishing be conducted in accordance with science-based limits on harvest, timely and accurate reporting of catch data, equitable allocation and access systems, and effective monitoring and enforcement systems;

Whereas migratory fish stocks traverse international boundaries between the exclusive economic zones of fishing nations and the high seas, and ensuring sustainability of fisheries targeting these stocks requires management systems based on international coordination and cooperation;

Whereas international fishing treaties and agreements provide a framework for establishing rules to guide sustainable fishing activities among those nations that are parties to the agreement, and regional fisheries management organizations provide international fora for implementing these agreements and facilitating international cooperation and collaboration;

Whereas under its authorities in the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, the North Pacific Fishery Management Council has proposed that the United States close all Federal waters in the Chukchi and Beaufort Seas to commercial fishing until a fisheries management plan is fully developed; and

Whereas future commercial fishing and fisheries management activities in the Arctic Ocean should be developed through a coordinated international framework, as provided by international treaties or regional fisheries management organizations, and this framework should be implemented before significant commercial fishing activity expands to the high seas: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That—

(1) the United States should initiate international discussions and take necessary steps with other Arctic nations to negotiate an agreement or agreements for managing migratory, transboundary, and straddling fish stocks in the Arctic Ocean and establishing a new international fisheries management organization or organizations for the region;

(2) the agreement or agreements negotiated pursuant to paragraph (1) should conform to the requirements of the United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement and contain mechanisms, inter alia, for establishing catch and bycatch limits, harvest allocations, observers, monitoring, data collection and reporting, enforcement, and other elements necessary for sustaining future Arctic fish stocks;

(3) as international fisheries agreements are negotiated and implemented, the United States should consult with the North Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council and Alaska Native subsistence communities of the Arctic; and

(4) until the agreement or agreements negotiated pursuant to paragraph (1) come into

force and measures consistent with the United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement are in effect, the United States should support international efforts to halt the expansion of commercial fishing activities in the high seas of the Arctic Ocean.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) and the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Guam.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Guam?

There was no objection.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Senate Joint Resolution 17 directs the United States to initiate international discussions and take necessary steps with other nations to negotiate an agreement to manage migratory and transboundary fish stocks in the Arctic Ocean.

It is important that any new or expanded fishing by the United States and other countries be conducted in a sustainable manner with science-based limits on catch as well as effective enforcement and monitoring systems. So to that end, it is important for the United States to begin the process to negotiate agreements with other Arctic nations to manage migratory, transboundary, and straddling fish stocks in the Arctic Ocean before any overfishing or overdevelopment of these fisheries can occur.

I urge the support of this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I too rise in support of Senate Joint Resolution 17, introduced by Senator TED STEVENS. Clearly, he knows firsthand the importance of fishing to the United States, to the State of Alaska, and to the world. He also has seen, in his tenure in the Congress, firsthand the effects of overfishing.

As one after another worldwide fleets begin deploying to our shores when their own shores have been overfished, we will have and will see a reduction in our domestic catches. For that reason I believe this resolution sends a strong statement of America's policy to manage scientifically our fisheries both onshore and offshore, and I join with the gentlewoman from Guam in support of this resolution and urge its success.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I again urge all of my colleagues to support the resolution, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by

the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate joint resolution, S.J. Res. 17.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MACKINAC ISLAND STATE PARK COMMISSION'S HISTORICAL PRESERVATION AND MUSEUM PROGRAM

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 325) celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Mackinac Island State Park Commission's Historical Preservation and Museum Program, which began on June 15, 1958, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 325

Whereas the Mackinac Island State Park Commission was created, in 1895, to care for and manage Mackinac Island State Park;

Whereas Michilimackinac State Park and Mill Creek State Park were later added to the family of parks and historic sites under the authority of the Commission;

Whereas, in 1958, Michigan granted authority to the Commission to restore and interpret Fort Mackinac and other historical properties at the Straits of Mackinac;

Whereas, in 1958, the Commission began restoration, installed exhibits, and opened Fort Mackinac to the public;

Whereas, in 1959, the Commission began archaeological excavation of Colonial Michilimackinac and opened it to the public one year later;

Whereas, in 1984, the Commission opened Historic Mill Creek Discovery Park;

Whereas, in 2004, after 14 years of being closed, Old Mackinac Point Lighthouse was reopened with an ongoing restoration program;

Whereas, for 50 years, the Commission has professionally and successfully developed, promoted, and improved the Mackinac State Historic Parks complex, which has been continuously recognized by the American Association of Museums; and

Whereas the Mackinac State Historic Parks complex has hosted more than 10,000,000 visitors since 1958, making it one of the most successful historic site complexes in North America and an important contributor to the tourism economy of northern Michigan: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That Congress—

(1) celebrates the 50th anniversary of the Mackinac Island State Park Commission's Historical Preservation and Museum Program; and

(2) respectfully requests the Clerk of the House of Representatives to transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to the Mackinac Island State Park Commission as evidence of the Commission successfully fulfilling its mission to protect, preserve, and present the historical and natural wonders of Mackinac Island.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) and the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Guam.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Guam?

There was no objection.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

House Concurrent Resolution 325, introduced by our colleague, Representative BART STUPAK, celebrates the 50th anniversary of the Mackinac Island State Park Commission's Historical Preservation and Museum Program.

Mackinac Island was originally named our Nation's second national park in 1875. But it was turned over to the State of Michigan in 1895 when it became Michigan's first State park, and the Mackinac Island State Park Commission was created to care for and manage the park. Eighty percent of the island is still managed as a State park to preserve its geological wonders, wildlife, and wooded areas.

In 1958 Michigan granted authority to the commission to restore and interpret historical properties in the park. And so today we are celebrating the 50th anniversary of those efforts.

Our colleague Mr. STUPAK is to be commended for his efforts on this measure.

Mr. Speaker, I support House Concurrent Resolution 325, and I urge its adoption today.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of this resolution and commend the gentleman from Michigan for offering this resolution that recognizes the 50th anniversary of the Mackinac Island State Park Commission's Historical Preservation and Museum Program.

It is very clear that in America we do care about our natural resources, our natural beauty, and we find ways to show that. In the case of Michigan, this recognizes 50 years of, in fact, applauding and preserving the kinds of beauty that exist, I won't say only in Michigan, as a native Ohioan, but throughout the Midwest.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I again urge Members to support this resolution, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 325.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

HONORING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE CARVING OF THE CRAZY HORSE MEMORIAL

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1074) honoring the 60th anniversary of the commencement of the carving of the Crazy Horse Memorial.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1074

Whereas sculptor Korczak Ziolkowski, who never received any formal art training but nonetheless won 1st place for sculpture at the New York World's Fair in 1939, came to the Black Hills of South Dakota as an assistant to Gutzon Borglum to help carve Mount Rushmore;

Whereas Lakota Chief Henry Standing Bear contacted Korczak Ziolkowski in 1939 to encourage him to create another mountain memorial, saying in his letter of invitation: "My fellow chiefs and I would like the white man to know the red man has great heroes, too";

Whereas Crazy Horse was remembered by his people as a fierce warrior and visionary leader who was committed to preserving the traditional Lakota way of life;

Whereas Korczak Ziolkowski was inspired to honor the culture, tradition, and living heritage of North American Indians, and thus designed a metaphoric tribute to the spirit of Crazy Horse and his people;

Whereas Korczak Ziolkowski was dedicated as well to helping his country preserve freedom, enlisted in the Army, and was wounded in 1944 at Omaha Beach;

Whereas Korczak Ziolkowski returned to South Dakota after World War II in order to find a suitable mountain to carve in order to honor Crazy Horse and his people;

Whereas Korczak Ziolkowski and Chief Standing Bear dedicated the Crazy Horse Memorial on June 3, 1948;

Whereas Korczak Ziolkowski worked until his death in 1982, and his wife, Ruth, and their family have dedicated their lives to carving the mountain and continuing the mission of the Crazy Horse Memorial;

Whereas there is no way to predict when the mountain carving will be completed,

owing to the uncertainty of weather, the availability of funding, and the challenges of mountain engineering;

Whereas, when completed, the Crazy Horse mountain carving will be the largest carving in the world, at 641 feet long by 563 feet high;

Whereas Korczak Ziolkowski's parting words to his wife were, "You must work on the mountain—but go slowly so you do it right";

Whereas the Ziolkowski family and the Crazy Horse Memorial Foundation have continued to do it right, and have proceeded without government financial support, and remain dedicated to making steady progress on the Memorial's humanitarian goals; and

Whereas the Crazy Horse Memorial will celebrate the 60th anniversary of the dedication of the mountain carving on June 3, 2008: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives, on the 60th anniversary of the commencement of the mountain carving of the Crazy Horse Memorial, honors sculptor Korczak Ziolkowski, the Ziolkowski family, and the Crazy Horse Memorial Foundation for their dedication to honoring the culture, tradition, and living heritage of North American Indians and the spirit of Crazy Horse and his people.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) and the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Guam.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Guam?

There was no objection.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Ms. BORDALLO asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, Lakota leader Crazy Horse is remembered by his people as a fierce warrior and visionary leader who was committed to preserving the traditional Lakota way of life.

A young sculptor named Korczak Ziolkowski, who served as an assistant sculptor during the carving of Mount Rushmore, was approached by Chief Standing Bear and asked to create another mountain memorial, this time to honor a great American Indian leader.

Inspired by the life and legacy of Crazy Horse, the sculptor began a mountain memorial carving of Crazy Horse nearly 60 years ago in the Black Hills of South Dakota. The memorial upon completion will be the largest carving in the entire world, at 641 feet long by 563 feet high.

I would like to commend our colleague from South Dakota (Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN) for sponsoring the resolution that is before us today, and I ask my colleagues to support its passage.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of House Resolution 1074, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 1074 has been adequately explained by the majority. I urge its adoption, recognizing that it is, in fact, privately funded, has never taken Federal dollars in its construction, and continues to this day. I think it's a worthwhile project to recognize, and I urge the passage of this resolution.

Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of House Resolution 1074 which honors the 60th anniversary of the commencement of the carving of the Crazy Horse Memorial located in the Black Hills of South Dakota.

I was proud to introduce this resolution that recognizes 60 years of work on the Crazy Horse Memorial, which, when completed, will be the largest carving in the world. In 1939, upon witnessing the carving of Mt. Rushmore, Dakota Chief Henry Standing Bear contacted sculptor Korczak Ziolkowski. Chief Standing Bear encouraged Ziolkowski to create a mountain memorial, writing "My fellow chiefs and I would like the white man to know the red man has great heroes, too."

On June 3, 1948, the mountain was dedicated and carving began. Though Mr. Ziolkowski passed away in 1982, his wife, Ruth, and their family continue to make progress on carving the mountain. To this end, they have established the Crazy Horse Foundation which is dedicated to honoring the culture, tradition, and living heritage of North American Indians and the spirit of Crazy Horse. There is no projected completion date for the Crazy Horse Memorial due to the availability of funding and to natural challenges, such as weather and the structure of the mountain.

On June 3rd, 2008, the Crazy Horse Memorial will commemorate the 60th anniversary since Chief Standing Bear's dedication of the mountain. I thank my colleagues in joining me in celebrating the accomplishments of the Ziolkowski family, recognizing the legacy of Crazy Horse, and honoring the contributions and sacrifices of the Lakota nation and all Native Americans.

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I again urge all of my colleagues to support the resolution, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1074.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

□ 1230

GREAT CATS AND RARE CANIDS
ACT OF 2008

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1464) to assist in the conservation of rare felids and rare canids by supporting and providing financial resources for the conservation programs of nations within the range of rare felid and rare canid populations and projects of persons with demonstrated expertise in the conservation of rare felid and rare canid populations, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1464

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Great Cats and Rare Canids Act of 2008".

SEC. 2. PURPOSES.

The purposes of this Act are to provide financial resources and to foster international cooperation—

(1) to restore and perpetuate healthy populations of rare felids and rare canids in the wild; and

(2) to assist in the conservation of rare felid and rare canid populations worldwide.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) **CITES.**—The term "CITES" means the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, done at Washington March 3, 1973 (27 UST 1087; TIAS 8249), including its appendices.

(2) **CONSERVATION.**—The term "conservation"

(A) means the methods and procedures necessary to bring a species of rare felid or rare canid to the point at which there are sufficient populations in the wild to ensure the long-term viability of the species; and

(B) includes all activities associated with protection and management of a rare felid or rare canid population, including—

(i) maintenance, management, protection, and restoration of rare felid or rare canid habitat;

(ii) research and monitoring;

(iii) law enforcement;

(iv) community outreach and education;

(v) conflict resolution initiatives; and

(vi) strengthening the capacity of local communities, governmental agencies, nongovernmental organizations and other institutions to implement conservation programs.

(3) **FUND.**—The term "Fund" means the Great Cats and Rare Canids Conservation Fund established by section 5.

(4) **IUCN RED LIST.**—The term "IUCN Red List" means the Red List of Threatened Species Maintained by the World Conservation Union.

(5) **RARE CANID.**—The term "rare canid"—

(A) except as provided in subparagraph (B), means any of the canid species dhole (*Cuon alpinus*), gray wolf (*Canis lupus*), Ethiopian wolf (*Canis simensis*), bush dog (*Speothos venaticus*), African wild dog (*Lycaon pictus*), maned wolf (*Chrysocyon brachyurus*), and Darwin's fox (*Pseudalopex fulvipes*), including any subspecies or population of such a species; and

(B) does not include any subspecies or population that is native to the area comprised of the United States and Canada or the European Union.

(6) **RARE FELID.**—The term "rare felid"—

(A) except as provided in subparagraph (B), means any of the felid species lion (*Panthera leo*), leopard (*Panthera pardus*), jaguar (*Panthera onca*), snow leopard (*Uncia uncia*), clouded leopard (*Neofelis nebulosa*), cheetah (*Acinonyx jubatus*), Iberian lynx (*Lynx pardina*), and Borneo bay cat (*Catopuma badia*), including any subspecies or population of such a species; and

(B) does not include—

(i) any species, subspecies, or population that is native to the United States; and

(ii) any tiger (*Panthera tigris*).

(7) **SECRETARY.**—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Interior.

SEC. 4. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Subject to the availability of funds and in consultation with other appropriate Federal officials, the Secretary shall use amounts in the Fund to provide financial assistance for projects for the conservation of rare felid and rare canids for which project proposals are approved by the Secretary in accordance with this section.

(b) **PROJECT PROPOSALS.**—

(1) **ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS.**—A proposal for a project for the conservation of rare felid and canids may be submitted to the Secretary by—

(A) any wildlife management authority of a country that has within its boundaries any part of the range of a rare felid or rare canid species, respectively; and

(B) any person or group with the demonstrated expertise required for the conservation in the wild of rare felids or rare canids, respectively.

(2) **PROJECT PROPOSALS.**—To be considered for financial assistance for a project under this Act, an applicant shall submit a project proposal that includes—

(A) a concise statement of the purposes of the project;

(B) the name of the individual responsible for conducting the project;

(C) a description of the qualifications of the individuals who will conduct the project;

(D) a concise description of—

(i) methods for project implementation and outcome assessment;

(ii) staffing for the project;

(iii) the logistics of the project; and

(iv) community involvement in the project;

(E) an estimate of funds and time required to complete the project;

(F) evidence of support for the project by appropriate governmental entities of the countries in which the project will be conducted, if the Secretary determines that such support is required for the success of the project;

(G) information regarding the source and amount of matching funding available for the project; and

(H) any other information that the Secretary considers to be necessary for evaluating the eligibility of the project for funding under this Act.

(c) **PROJECT REVIEW AND APPROVAL.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall—

(A) not later than 30 days after receiving a project proposal, provide a copy of the proposal to the appropriate Federal officials; and

(B) review each project proposal in a timely manner to determine if the proposal meets the criteria specified in subsection (d).

(2) **CONSULTATION; APPROVAL OR DISAPPROVAL.**—Not later than 180 days after receiving a project proposal, and subject to the availability of funds, the Secretary, after consulting with other appropriate Federal officials, shall—

(A) ensure the proposal contains assurances that the project will be implemented in consultation with relevant wildlife man-

agement authorities and other appropriate government officials with jurisdiction over the resources addressed by the project;

(B) approve or disapprove the proposal; and

(C) provide written notification of the approval or disapproval to the person who submitted the proposal, other appropriate Federal officials, and each country within whose borders the project will take place.

(d) **CRITERIA FOR APPROVAL.**—The Secretary may approve a project proposal under this section if the project will contribute to conservation of rare felids or rare canids in the wild by assisting efforts to—

(1) implement conservation programs;

(2) address the conflicts between humans and rare felids or rare canids, respectively, that arise from competition for the same habitat or resources;

(3) enhance compliance with CITES, the Endangered Species Act of 1973, and other applicable laws that prohibit or regulate the taking or trade of rare felids and rare canids or regulate the use and management of rare felid and rare canid habitat;

(4) develop sound scientific information on, or methods for monitoring—

(A) the condition and health of rare felid or rare canid habitat;

(B) rare felid or rare canid population numbers and trends; and

(C) the ecological characteristics and requirements of populations of rare felids or rare canids for which there are little or no data;

(5) promote cooperative projects among government entities, affected local communities, nongovernmental organizations, and other persons in the private sector; or

(6) funds will not be appropriated for the purchase or lease of lands to be used as suitable habitat for felids or canids.

(e) **PROJECT SUSTAINABILITY.**—In approving project proposals under this section, the Secretary shall give preference to conservation projects that are designed to ensure effective, long-term conservation of rare felids and rare canids and their habitats.

(f) **MATCHING FUNDS.**—In determining whether to approve project proposals under this section, the Secretary shall give preference to projects for which there exists some measure of matching funds.

(g) **PROJECT REPORTING.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Each person that receives assistance under this section for a project shall submit to the Secretary periodic reports (at such intervals as the Secretary considers necessary) that include all information that the Secretary, after consultation with other appropriate government officials, determines is necessary to evaluate the progress and success of the project for the purposes of ensuring positive results, assessing problems, and fostering improvements.

(2) **AVAILABILITY TO THE PUBLIC.**—Reports under paragraph (1), and any other documents relating to projects for which financial assistance is provided under this Act, shall be made available to the public.

(h) **LIMITATIONS ON USE FOR CAPTIVE BREEDING OR DISPLAY.**—Amounts provided as a grant under this Act—

(1) may not be used for captive breeding or display of rare felids and rare canids other than captive breeding for release into the wild; and

(2) may be used for captive breeding of a species for release into the wild only if no other conservation method for the species is biologically feasible.

(i) **ADVISORY GROUP.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—To assist in carrying out this Act, the Secretary may convene an advisory group consisting of individuals representing public and private organizations actively involved in the conservation of felids and canids.

(2) PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.—

(A) MEETINGS.—The advisory group shall—
(i) ensure that each meeting of the advisory group is open to the public; and

(ii) provide, at each meeting, an opportunity for interested persons to present oral or written statements concerning items on the agenda.

(B) NOTICE.—The Secretary shall provide to the public timely notice of each meeting of the advisory group, including the meeting agenda.

(C) MINUTES.—Minutes of each meeting of the advisory group shall be kept by the Secretary and shall be made available to the public.

(3) EXEMPTION FROM FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACT.—The Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) shall not apply to the advisory group.

SEC. 5. GREAT CATS AND RARE CANIDS CONSERVATION FUND.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established, in the Multinational Species Conservation Fund established in title I of the Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1999 under the heading “MULTINATIONAL SPECIES CONSERVATION FUND”, a separate account to be known as the “Great Cats and Rare Canids Conservation Fund”, consisting of—

(1) amounts transferred to the Secretary of the Treasury for deposit into such account under subsection (c); and

(2) amounts appropriated to such account under section 7.

(b) EXPENDITURES FROM FUND.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), upon request by the Secretary, the Secretary of the Treasury shall transfer from the Fund to the Secretary, without further appropriation, such amounts as the Secretary determines are necessary to provide assistance under section 4.

(2) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—Of the amounts in the Fund available for each fiscal year, the Secretary may expend not more than three percent, or up to \$100,000, whichever is greater, to pay the administrative expenses necessary to carry out this Act.

(c) ACCEPTANCE AND USE OF DONATIONS.—The Secretary may accept and use donations to provide assistance under section 4, and may make public on the Internet website and in publications of the Department of the Interior that the Secretary is authorized to accept and use such donations. Amounts received by the Secretary in the form of such donations shall be transferred to the Secretary of the Treasury for deposit into the Fund.

SEC. 6. STUDY OF CONSERVATION STATUS OF FELID AND CANID SPECIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall initiate within three months after the date of the enactment of this Act a study of felid and canid species listed under the IUCN Red List that are not rare canids and rare felids (as those terms are defined in section 3), respectively, to determine—

(1) the conservation status of such species in the wild, including identification of any such species that are critically endangered or endangered; and

(2) any such species that should be made eligible for assistance under this Act.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than two years after date of the enactment of this Act the Secretary shall report to the Congress the determinations made in the study, including recommendations of additional felid species and canid species that should be made eligible for assistance under this Act.

SEC. 7. AUTHORIZATION OR APPROPRIATIONS.

There are authorized to be appropriated—

(1) to the Fund, \$5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2009 through 2013 to carry out this Act, other than section 6; and

(2) such sums as are necessary to carry out section 6.

SEC. 8. INELIGIBLE COUNTRIES.

Amounts provided as a grant under this Act may not be spent on projects in Iran, Syria, Cuba, Sudan, and North Korea.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) and the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Guam.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Guam?

There was no objection.

Ms. BORDALLO. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

H.R. 1464, the Great Cats and Rare Canids Act, was introduced by our colleague from New Mexico, Congressman TOM UDALL. The overall purpose of H.R. 1464 is to assist in the conservation of 15 imperiled cat and canid species, such as the lion, the cheetah, the jaguar, and the African wild dog.

The bill would establish a new Great Cat and Rare Canid Conservation Fund to finance Federal matching grants for critical conservation projects to conserve these endangered wildlife species and their scarce and shrinking habitats. This legislation mirrors other highly popular and effective laws authorizing funding to help conserve and recover rhinoceroses, tigers, African and Asian elephants, great apes, and marine turtles.

Great cats and rare canids are no less deserving of greater conservation assistance than these other keystone wildlife species, and I ask Members on both sides to support passage of this noncontroversial bill.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1464, the Great Cats and Rare Canids Act. Mr. Speaker, I want to give tribute and credit and compliment to former Congressman Clay Shaw of Florida, who has long sponsored this legislation and in the previous Congress worked tirelessly to pass it. So today, as we pass this bill, I would like to remember our colleague, Clay Shaw, who in fact has recognized for a long time the need to make permanent the preservation of these large, and small, but beautiful animals.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I would urge the passage of this bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.
Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I again urge Members to support the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by

the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1464, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

CRANE CONSERVATION ACT OF 2008

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1771) to assist in the conservation of cranes by supporting and providing, through projects of persons and organizations with expertise in crane conservation, financial resources for the conservation programs of countries the activities of which directly or indirectly affect cranes and the ecosystems of cranes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1771

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Crane Conservation Act of 2008”.

SEC. 2. PURPOSES.

The purposes of this Act are—

(1) to perpetuate healthy populations of cranes;

(2) to assist in the conservation and protection of cranes by supporting—

(A) conservation programs in countries in which endangered and threatened cranes occur; and

(B) the efforts of private organizations committed to helping cranes; and

(3) to provide financial resources for those programs and efforts.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) CONSERVATION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term “conservation” means the use of any method or procedure to improve the viability of crane populations and the quality of the ecosystems and habitats on which the crane populations depend to help the species achieve sufficient populations in the wild to ensure the long-term viability of the species.

(B) INCLUSIONS.—The term “conservation” includes the carrying out of any activity associated with scientific resource management, such as—

(i) protection, restoration, and management of habitat;

(ii) research and monitoring of known populations;

(iii) the provision of assistance in the development of management plans for managed crane ranges;

(iv) enforcement of the Convention;

(v) law enforcement and habitat protection through community participation;

(vi) reintroduction of cranes to the wild;

(vii) conflict resolution initiatives; and
(viii) community outreach and education.

(2) CONVENTION.—The term “Convention” has the meaning given the term in section 3 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1532).

(3) FUND.—The term “Fund” means the Crane Conservation Fund established by section 5(a).

(4) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior.

SEC. 4. CRANE CONSERVATION ASSISTANCE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the availability of appropriations and in consultation with other appropriate Federal officials, the Secretary shall use amounts in the Fund to provide financial assistance for projects relating to the conservation of cranes for which project proposals are approved by the Secretary in accordance with this section.

(b) PROJECT PROPOSALS.—

(1) APPLICANTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—An applicant described in subparagraph (B) that seeks to receive assistance under this section to carry out a project relating to the conservation of cranes shall submit to the Secretary a project proposal that meets the requirements of this section.

(B) ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS.—An applicant described in this subparagraph is—

(i) any relevant wildlife management authority of a country that—

(I) is located within the African, Asian, European, or North American range of a species of crane; and

(II) carries out 1 or more activities that directly or indirectly affect crane populations;

(ii) the Secretariat of the Convention; and
(iii) any person or organization with demonstrated expertise in the conservation of cranes.

(2) REQUIRED ELEMENTS.—A project proposal submitted under paragraph (1)(A) shall include—

(A) a concise statement of the purpose of the project;

(B)(i) the name of each individual responsible for conducting the project; and

(ii) a description of the qualifications of each of those individuals;

(C) a concise description of—

(i) methods to be used to implement and assess the outcome of the project;

(ii) staff and community management for the project; and

(iii) the logistics of the project;

(D) an estimate of the funds and the period of time required to complete the project;

(E) evidence of support for the project by appropriate government entities of countries in which the project will be conducted, if the Secretary determines that such support is required to ensure the success of the project;

(F) information regarding the source and amount of matching funding available for the project; and

(G) any other information that the Secretary considers to be necessary for evaluating the eligibility of the project to receive assistance under this Act.

(c) PROJECT REVIEW AND APPROVAL.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall—

(A) not later than 30 days after receiving a final project proposal, provide a copy of the proposal to other appropriate Federal officials; and

(B) review each project proposal in a timely manner to determine whether the proposal meets the criteria described in subsection (d).

(2) CONSULTATION; APPROVAL OR DISAPPROVAL.—Not later than 180 days after receiving a project proposal, and subject to the availability of appropriations, the Secretary, after consulting with other appropriate Federal officials, shall—

(A) consult on the proposal with the government of each country in which the project is to be carried out;

(B) after taking into consideration any comments resulting from the consultation, approve or disapprove the proposal; and

(C) provide written notification of the approval or disapproval to—

(i) the applicant that submitted the proposal;

(ii) other appropriate Federal officials; and

(iii) each country described in subparagraph (A).

(d) CRITERIA FOR APPROVAL.—The Secretary may approve a project proposal under this section if the Secretary determines that the proposed project will enhance programs for conservation of cranes by assisting efforts to—

(1) implement conservation programs;

(2) address the conflicts between humans and cranes that arise from competition for the same habitat or resources;

(3) enhance compliance with the Convention and other applicable laws that—

(A) prohibit or regulate the taking or trade of cranes; or

(B) regulate the use and management of crane habitat;

(4) develop sound scientific information on, or methods for monitoring—

(A) the condition of crane habitat;

(B) crane population numbers and trends; or

(C) the current and projected threats to crane habitat and population numbers and trends;

(5) promote cooperative projects on the issues described in paragraph (4) among—

(A) governmental entities;

(B) affected local communities;

(C) nongovernmental organizations; or

(D) other persons in the private sector;

(6) carry out necessary scientific research on cranes;

(7) provide relevant training to, or support technical exchanges involving, staff responsible for managing cranes or habitats of cranes, to enhance capacity for effective conservation; or

(8) reintroduce cranes successfully back into the wild, including propagation of a sufficient number of cranes required for this purpose.

(e) PROJECT SUSTAINABILITY; MATCHING FUNDS.—To the maximum extent practicable, in determining whether to approve a project proposal under this section, the Secretary shall give preference to a proposed project—

(1) that is designed to ensure effective, long-term conservation of cranes and habitats of cranes; or

(2) for which matching funds are available.

(f) PROJECT REPORTING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Each person that receives assistance under this section for a project shall submit to the Secretary, at such periodic intervals as are determined by the Secretary, reports that include all information that the Secretary, after consulting with other appropriate government officials, determines to be necessary to evaluate the progress and success of the project for the purposes of—

(A) ensuring positive results;

(B) assessing problems; and

(C) fostering improvements.

(2) AVAILABILITY TO THE PUBLIC.—Each report submitted under paragraph (1), and any other documents relating to a project for which financial assistance is provided under this Act, shall be made available to the public.

SEC. 5. CRANE CONSERVATION FUND.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the Multinational Species Conservation

Fund established by the matter under the heading “MULTINATIONAL SPECIES CONSERVATION FUND” in title I of the Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1999 (112 Stat. 2681-237; 16 U.S.C. 4246) a separate account to be known as the “Crane Conservation Fund”, consisting of—

(1) amounts transferred to the Secretary of the Treasury for deposit into the Fund under subsection (c); and

(2) amounts appropriated to the Fund under section 7.

(b) EXPENDITURES FROM FUND.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraphs (2) and (3), upon request by the Secretary, the Secretary of the Treasury shall transfer from the Fund to the Secretary, without further appropriation, such amounts as the Secretary determines are necessary to provide assistance under section 4.

(2) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—Of the amounts in the Fund available for each fiscal year, the Secretary may expend not more than 3 percent, or \$150,000, whichever is greater, to pay the administrative expenses necessary to carry out this Act.

(3) LIMITATION.—Not more than 20 percent of the amounts made available from the Fund for any fiscal year may be used for projects relating to the conservation of North American crane species.

(c) ACCEPTANCE AND USE OF DONATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may accept and use donations to provide assistance under section 4.

(2) TRANSFER OF DONATIONS.—Amounts received by the Secretary in the form of donations shall be transferred to the Secretary of the Treasury for deposit in the Fund.

SEC. 6. ADVISORY GROUP.

(a) IN GENERAL.—To assist in carrying out this Act, the Secretary may convene an advisory group consisting of individuals representing public and private organizations actively involved in the conservation of cranes.

(b) PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.—

(1) MEETINGS.—The advisory group shall—

(A) ensure that each meeting of the advisory group is open to the public; and

(B) provide, at each meeting, an opportunity for interested persons to present oral or written statements concerning items on the agenda.

(2) NOTICE.—The Secretary shall provide to the public timely notice of each meeting of the advisory group.

(3) MINUTES.—Minutes of each meeting of the advisory group shall be kept by the Secretary and shall be made available to the public.

(c) EXEMPTION FROM FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACT.—The Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) shall not apply to the advisory group.

SEC. 7. FUNDING.

There is authorized to be appropriated to the Fund \$5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2009 through 2013, to remain available until expended.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) and the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Guam.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. BORDALLO. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Guam?

There was no objection.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

H.R. 1771, the Crane Conservation Act, was introduced by our colleague from Wisconsin, Congresswoman TAMMY BALDWIN. The overall purpose of H.R. 1771 is to assist in the conservation of the world's 15 species of crane, such as the whooping crane and the sandhill crane in North America. The bill would establish a new Crane Conservation Fund to finance Federal matching grants supporting critical conservation projects for endangered birds and their scarce and shrinking habitats in Europe, Asia, South Asia, Africa, and North America.

Mr. Speaker, cranes play an important role in cultures around the world. These birds are viewed as symbols of good fortune, happiness, and peace, and I ask Members on both sides to support passage of this noncontroversial bill that will help conserve this iconic family of large endangered birds.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise too in support of H.R. 1771, the Crane Conservation Act. This bill is a worthy addition to existing multinational species conservation funds. They have demonstrated that even a small amount of taxpayers' money can make a real difference in saving flagship species from extinction around the globe, such as the highly endangered cranes.

I urge an "aye" vote on H.R. 1771.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlelady from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) such time as she may consume.

Ms. BALDWIN. Thank you, Chairwoman BORDALLO, for recognizing me today.

I rise today in support of the Crane Conservation Act of 2008, legislation to help protect and preserve the world's 15 species of cranes for generations to come. Cranes are the most endangered family of birds in the world, with 11 of the world's 15 crane species at risk of extinction. Their special characteristics and unique ability to bring people together across cities, States, and international boundaries places them in a class worthy of our conservation efforts.

Cranes are revered throughout the world for their beauty, grace, and long-distance migrations, frequently spanning numerous countries. In fact, their appeal is so vast that they figure prominently in the culture, folklore, and art of many people around the world. They are featured in the silks, sculpture, poetry, and folk tales of many cultures. And, because of their long life spans, they have become symbols of longevity and good fortune.

These magnificent birds have served as ambassadors of harmony and peace in the international arena. Representatives from nations with various polit-

ical struggles have reached beyond the instability to address the conservation of cranes. In fact, just about a year ago, representatives from bordering nations, including India, China, Pakistan, Iran, Afghanistan, and others, met in an attempt to overcome strained relations and send a message of goodwill for the sake of protecting this threatened species. Similarly, African nations which share troubled borders have also joined together in recent years to stop the illegal trade of cranes.

In North America, the whooping crane is the rarest of the crane species. Back in 1941, only 21 whooping cranes existed in the entire world. Today, there are almost 400 birds in existence. The resurgence is attributed to the birds' tenacity for survival and to the efforts of conservationists in the United States and Canada. In fact, since 2001, coordinated efforts have focused on encouraging young whooping cranes to migrate from their breeding grounds in Wisconsin's Necedah National Wildlife Refuge to their winter destination in Florida. In an effort to reintroduce migratory flocks into their historic range in the eastern United States, the recovery team used ultralight aircraft to train and lead the young cranes on their spectacular journey stretching from city to city and State to State. Fortunately, these efforts have been successful, and the Crane Conservation Act would complement them, both domestically and internationally.

The bill will provide the resources to support initiatives to protect cranes and their habitats, which have deteriorated due to industrial development, pollution, and other human disturbances, including wars.

The bill will also provide the means for the United States to fulfill various international obligations and commitments, thus having a large environmental and cultural impact across the globe. Additionally, the Crane Conservation Act will provide resources for the United States to bring people and governments around the world together to protect ecosystems, develop adequate habitats, and encourage overall goodwill. Specifically, the Crane Conservation Act will authorize up to \$5 million per year to be distributed in the form of conservation project grants to protect cranes and the wetlands and grassland ecosystems on which they depend.

Congress has passed similar bills in support of globally significant and endangered wildlife species, including tigers, rhinos, elephants, and neotropical migratory birds. And just as these efforts took significant steps in international wildlife conservation, the Crane Conservation Act would play a similar and promising role in improving endangered wildlife and their habitats.

I encourage my colleagues to support the Crane Conservation Act.

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I, again, urge Members to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1771, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

GOLETA WATER DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM CONVEYANCE ACT OF 2008

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3323) to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to convey a water distribution system to the Goleta Water District, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3323

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Goleta Water Distribution System Conveyance Act of 2008".

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) AGREEMENT.—The term "Agreement" means Agreement No. 07-LC-20-9387 between the United States and the District, entitled "Agreement Between the United States and the Goleta Water District to Transfer Title of the Federally Owned Distribution System to the Goleta Water District".

(2) DISTRICT.—The term "District" means the Goleta Water District, located in Santa Barbara County, California.

(3) GOLETA WATER DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM.—The term "Goleta Water Distribution System" means the facilities constructed by the United States to enable the District to convey water to its water users, and associated lands, as described in Appendix A of the Agreement.

(4) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Interior.

SEC. 3. CONVEYANCE OF THE GOLETA WATER DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM.

The Secretary is authorized to convey to the District all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the Goleta Water Distribution System of the Cachuma Project, California, subject to valid existing rights and consistent with the terms and conditions set forth in the Agreement.

SEC. 4. LIABILITY.

Effective upon the date of the conveyance authorized by section 3, the United States shall not be held liable by any court for damages of any kind arising out of any act, omission, or occurrence relating to the lands, buildings, or facilities conveyed under this Act, except for damages caused by acts of negligence committed by the

United States or by its employees or agents prior to the date of conveyance. Nothing in this section increases the liability of the United States beyond that provided in chapter 171 of title 28, United States Code (popularly known as the Federal Tort Claims Act).

SEC. 5. BENEFITS.

After conveyance of the Goleta Water Distribution System under this Act—

(1) such distribution system shall not be considered to be a part of a Federal reclamation project; and

(2) the District shall not be eligible to receive any benefits with respect to any facility comprising the Goleta Water Distribution System, except benefits that would be available to a similarly situated entity with respect to property that is not part of a Federal reclamation project.

SEC. 6. COMPLIANCE WITH OTHER LAWS.

(a) COMPLIANCE WITH ENVIRONMENTAL AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION LAWS.—Prior to any conveyance under this Act, the Secretary shall complete all actions required under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.), the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.), the National Historic Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.), and all other applicable laws.

(b) COMPLIANCE BY THE DISTRICT.—Upon the conveyance of the Goleta Water Distribution System under this Act, the District shall comply with all applicable Federal, State, and local laws and regulations in its operation of the facilities that are transferred.

(c) APPLICABLE AUTHORITY.—All provisions of Federal reclamation law (the Act of June 17, 1902 (43 U.S.C. 371 et seq.) and Acts supplemental to and amendatory of that Act) shall continue to be applicable to project water provided to the District.

SEC. 7. REPORT.

If, 12 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary has not completed the conveyance required under section 3, the Secretary shall complete a report that states the reason the conveyance has not been completed and the date by which the conveyance shall be completed. The Secretary shall submit a report required under this section to Congress not later than 14 months after the date of the enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) and the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Guam.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. BORDALLO. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Guam?

There was no objection.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time such time as I may consume.

H.R. 3323, introduced by our colleague from California, Congresswoman LOIS CAPPs, authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to convey all rights of the United States to the Goleta Water Distribution System to the Goleta Water District in Santa Barbara, California.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Congresswoman CAPPs for her hard work on this important legislation, and

I strongly urge my colleagues to support H.R. 3323, as amended.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I too rise in support of this bill. It's always a good thing when the Federal Government evaluates land it does not need, that has previously been owned by local municipalities or private individuals and takes steps to return that at no cost to the taxpayers. So I join with the gentlelady from Guam and my colleague from California, LOIS CAPPs, in urging support for the return of this land to the Goleta Water District.

Mrs. CAPPs. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 3323, the Goleta Water Distribution System Conveyance Act of 2007—a bill I introduced last year that would authorize the title transfer of a federally owned water distribution system in my congressional district from the Bureau of Reclamation to the Goleta Water District.

First, I want to thank the chairman of the Natural Resources Committee, Mr. RAHALL, and chairwoman of the Subcommittee on Water and Power, Ms. NAPOLITANO, as well as the ranking members of the full Committee and Subcommittee for bringing H.R. 3323 before us today.

The purpose of the legislation is to simplify the operation and maintenance of the District's water distribution system and eliminate unnecessary paperwork and consultation between the District and the Bureau.

The Goleta Water District has operated and maintained the facilities proposed for transfer since the 1950s. They have worked through all requirements of the Bureau's title transfer process, including public meetings, fulfillment of their repayment obligations, completion of an environmental assessment, and compliance with all other applicable laws.

The only step remaining to complete the process is an act of Congress enabling the Secretary of the Interior to transfer title.

It is important to note that the proposed transfer would apply only to lands and facilities associated with the District and would not affect the District's existing water service contract with the Santa Barbara County Water Agency nor the Federal government receipts from water deliveries under the contract. In addition, the proposed transfer does not envision any new physical modification or expansion of the service infrastructure.

I'm pleased the administration is supporting my legislation, which will allow the Bureau to focus its limited resources where they are needed most. In my view, this is an example of local problem-solving at its best. I commend the staff of the water district and the Bureau for their efforts to reach this agreement. I know that they have been working on this for several years now.

Again, I would like to thank the Natural Resources Committee for supporting this bill, and urge its immediate passage.

Mr. ISSA. I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I, again, urge my colleagues to support the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) that the House suspend the

rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3323, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

LAKE HODGES SURFACE WATER IMPROVEMENT AND RECLAMATION ACT OF 2008

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2649) to make amendments to the Reclamation Projects Authorization and Adjustment Act of 1992, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2649

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Lake Hodges Surface Water Improvement and Reclamation Act of 2008".

SEC. 2. PROJECT AUTHORIZATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—*The Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act (Public Law 102-575, title XVI, 43 U.S.C. 390h et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 16 ___ the following:*

"SEC. 16 ___ . LAKE HODGES SURFACE WATER IMPROVEMENT AND RECLAMATION PROJECT.

"(a) AUTHORIZATION.—The Secretary, in cooperation with the Olivenhain Municipal Water District, California, is authorized to participate in the design, planning, and construction of projects to treat, reclaim, and reuse impaired surface water from Lakes Hodges in San Diego County, California.

"(b) COST SHARE.—The Federal share of the costs of the projects authorized by this section shall not exceed 25 percent of the total cost.

"(c) LIMITATION.—The Secretary shall not provide funds for the operation or maintenance of a project authorized by this section."

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—*The table of sections in section 2 of the Reclamation Projects Authorization and Adjustment Act of 1992 is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 163 ___ the following:*

"Sec. 163 ___ . Lake Hodges surface water improvement and reclamation project."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) and the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Guam.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. BORDALLO. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 days to revise and extend their remarks and include

extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Guam?

There was no objection.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

H.R. 2649, as amended, authorizes the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Bureau of Reclamation, to participate in the Lake Hodges Surface Water Improvement and Reclamation Project. This project would pretreat 13,000 acre-feet of impaired Lake Hodges water currently unavailable for consumptive use.

We have no objection to this non-controversial bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I strongly support this legislation. The author of the bill, who will speak in a moment, and I share the very banks of this water area of Lake Hodges. But, most importantly, at a time in which gas prices have risen to \$4 a gallon, it's very clear that importing water or desalinating water in southern California, although necessary, should be avoided. We need to find ways to do better work, have more water, with less consumption of gasoline, diesel, and all the other fuels that are in such short supply and so expensive. So I strongly support this bill.

I would yield the balance of my time to the gentleman from California, the author of the bill, Mr. BILBRAY.

Mr. BILBRAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2649, a bill that is looking at a precious resource that needs to be cleaned up and used.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank you in working and speaking with me about other challenges we have environmentally around this country, one of them being the fact the Federal Government is still mandating the polluting of our air and the picking of our pockets with the mandate of corn and ethanol going into our gasoline. I don't know about in your State, but in our State, that impact has reached \$6 a comparable gallon untaxed ethanol being forced into our fuel system by the misguided approaches here in Washington.

I look forward to working with you in eliminating that mandate and protecting our air and protecting consumers when we go to the pump. But as we talk about liquid gold, out west it is not just gasoline and ethanol that are liquid gold, but actually clean drinking water. This bill would address a problem that has actually been created by a well-intentioned but misguided application of the Endangered Species Act and other Federal regulatory activities.

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Where Lake Hodges had traditionally had a clean watershed kept clear from debris and undergrowth, because of the Federal agencies' misguided application of our environmental regulations,

such as the Endangered Species Act, the local agencies and community were not allowed to clear the watershed while the water was low so that once the water did rise up we did not have rotting organic material in our water source. Sadly, Mr. Speaker, that has occurred, and the water quality of the lake is now in violation of the Clean Water Act, 303(d). This bill will allow us to give a portion of the money, probably around one-quarter of it, to allow the local community now to purify the water so that it can be compatible with 303 of the Clean Water Act.

I hope that we will be able to work together, pass this bill, and be able to work with the local community. I look forward to working with you, Mr. Speaker, at not only cleaning up our water, but cleaning up our air and taking that ethanol out of our gasoline.

Mr. ISSA. I have no additional speakers at this time. I would urge strong support for this bill which, like so many, will help California deal with its water shortage.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I again urge all Members to support the bill, and yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2649, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

SOBOBA BAND OF LUISEÑO INDIANS SETTLEMENT ACT

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4841) to approve, ratify, and confirm the settlement agreement entered into to resolve claims by the Soboba Band of Luiseno Indians relating to alleged interferences with the water resources of the Tribe, to authorize and direct the Secretary of the Interior to execute and perform the Settlement Agreement and related waivers, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4841

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Soboba Band of Luiseno Indians Settlement Act".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.

(a) FINDINGS.—*The Congress finds the following:*

(1) *The Soboba Band of Luiseno Indians is a federally recognized Indian tribe whose Reservation of approximately 6,000 acres, extending east and north from the banks of the San Jacinto River in Riverside County, California, was created by an Executive Order dated June 19, 1883, and enlarged and modified by subsequent Executive Orders, purchases, and an Act of Congress.*

(2) *The Tribe's water rights have not been quantified, and the Tribe has asserted claims for interferences with the water resources of its Reservation, which the Tribe maintains have rendered much of the Tribe's Reservation useless for habitation, livestock, or Agriculture. On April 20, 2000, the Tribe filed a lawsuit against The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California for interference with the Tribe's water resources and damages to its Reservation allegedly caused by Metropolitan's construction and operation of the San Jacinto Tunnel, which is part of the Colorado River Aqueduct. The lawsuit, styled Soboba Band of Luiseno Indians v. Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, No. 00-04208 GAF (MANx), is pending in the United States District Court for the Central District of California.*

(3) *The Tribe also has made claims against Eastern Municipal Water District and Lake Hemet Municipal Water District, located adjacent to the Reservation, seeking to secure its water rights and damages arising from alleged past interference with the Tribe's water resources.*

(4) *After negotiations, which included participation by representatives of the Tribe, the United States on behalf of the Tribe, The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, Eastern Municipal Water District, and Lake Hemet Municipal Water District, a Settlement Agreement has been developed to determine the Tribe's water rights, resolve all of its claims for interference with the water resources of, and damages to, its Reservation, provide for the construction of water projects to facilitate the exercise of the Tribe's rights, and resolve the lawsuit referenced in paragraph (2) of this section.*

(5) *The Settlement Agreement provides that—*

(A) *Eastern Municipal Water District and Lake Hemet Municipal Water District acknowledge and assure the Tribe's prior and paramount right, superior to all others, to pump 9,000 acre-feet of water annually from the San Jacinto River basin in accordance with the limitations and other conditions set forth in the Settlement Agreement;*

(B) *Eastern Municipal Water District and The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California will contract to supply water to Eastern Municipal Water District and Eastern Municipal Water District will use this water to recharge water supplies into the basin; and*

(C) *the three water districts will make substantial additional contributions to the settlement, including the conveyance of certain replacement lands and economic development funds to the Tribe, to carry out the Settlement Agreement's provisions.*

(b) PURPOSES.—*The purposes of this Act are—*

(1) *to approve, ratify, and confirm the Settlement Agreement entered into by the Tribe and non-Indians entities;*

(2) *to achieve a fair, equitable, and final settlement of all claims of the Soboba Band of Luiseno Indians, its members, and the United States on behalf of the Tribe and its members, to the water of the San Jacinto River basin;*

(3) *to authorize and direct the Secretary of the Interior to execute and perform all obligations of the Secretary under the Settlement Agreement; and*

(4) *to authorize the actions and appropriations necessary to meet obligations of the United States under the Settlement Agreement and this Act.*

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) **RESTORATION FUND.**—The term “Restoration Fund” means the San Jacinto Basin Restoration Fund established by section 6.

(2) **DEVELOPMENT FUND.**—The term “Development Fund” means the Soboba Band of Luiseño Indians Water Development Fund established by section 7.

(3) **RESERVATION.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The term “Reservation” means the Soboba Indian Reservation created by Executive Order dated June 19, 1883, and enlarged and modified as of the date of enactment of this Act by Executive Orders and an Act of Congress.

(B) **EXCLUSIONS.**—For the purposes of this Act, the term “Reservation” does not include—

(i) the 950 acres northwest of and contiguous to the Reservation known as the “Jones Ranch”, purchased by the Soboba Tribe in fee on July 21, 2001, and placed into trust on January 13, 2003;

(ii) the 535 acres southeast of and contiguous to the Reservation known as the “Horseshoe Grande”, purchased by the Soboba Tribe in fee in seven separate transactions in June and December 2001, December 2004, June 2006, and January 2007; and

(iii) the 478 acres north of and contiguous to the Reservation known as “The Oaks”, purchased by the Soboba Tribe in fee on April 4, 2004.

(4) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior or a designee of the Secretary.

(5) **SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT.**—The term “Settlement Agreement” means that agreement dated June 7, 2006, as amended to be consistent with this Act, together with all exhibits thereto. The parties to the Settlement Agreement are the Soboba Band of Luiseño Indians and its members, the United States on behalf of the Tribe and its members, The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, Eastern Municipal Water District, and Lake Hemet Municipal Water District.

(6) **TRIBE, SOBOBA TRIBE, OR SOBOBA BAND OF LUISEÑO INDIANS.**—The terms “Tribe”, “Soboba Tribe”, or “Soboba Band of Luiseño Indians” means the body politic and federally recognized Indian tribe, and its members.

(7) **WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN.**—The term “Water Management Plan” means the plan, approved by the Soboba Tribe and the Secretary, developed pursuant to section 4.8, paragraph A of the Settlement Agreement to resolve the overdraft of the San Jacinto basin.

SEC. 4. RATIFICATION OF SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT; AUTHORIZATION.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The United States hereby approves, ratifies, and confirms the Settlement Agreement, except to the extent it conflicts with the provisions of this Act.

(b) **AUTHORIZATION.**—The Secretary is authorized and directed to execute, and take such other actions as are necessary to implement, the Settlement Agreement and any amendments approved by the parties necessary to make the Settlement Agreement consistent with this Act.

SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

(a) **RESTORATION FUND.**—There is authorized to be appropriated to the San Jacinto Basin Restoration Fund established in section 6 of this Act the amount of \$5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2010 and 2011 to pay or reimburse the costs associated with constructing, operating, and maintaining the portion of the basin recharge project that the United States is responsible for under the Settlement Agreement. These costs are described in section 4.5 of the Settlement Agreement and are necessary to accommodate deliveries of the supplemental imported water under section 4.4 of the Settlement Agreement.

(b) **DEVELOPMENT FUND.**—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Soboba Band of Luiseño Indians Water Development Fund es-

tablished in section 7 of this Act the amount of \$5,500,000 for each of fiscal years 2010 and 2011 to pay or reimburse costs associated with constructing, operating, and maintaining water and sewage infrastructure, and other water-related development projects.

(c) **LIMITATION.**—No funding of any construction, operation, maintenance, or replacement other than those funds authorized under subsections (a) and (b) shall be the responsibility of the Federal Government under the Settlement Agreement or this Act.

SEC. 6. RESTORATION FUND.

(a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—There shall be established within the Treasury of the United States a non-interest bearing account to be known as the “San Jacinto Basin Restoration Fund”, consisting of the amounts authorized to be appropriated in section 5(a) of this Act.

(b) **ADMINISTRATION.**—The Restoration Fund shall be administered by the Secretary for the purposes set forth in subsection (d) of this section.

(c) **AVAILABILITY.**—The funds authorized to be appropriated pursuant to section 5(a) of this Act shall be available for expenditure or withdrawal only after the effective date set forth in section 10(a).

(d) **EXPENDITURES AND WITHDRAWALS.**—

(1) **EXPENDITURE PLAN.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Eastern Municipal Water District, on behalf of the Water Management Plan, shall submit to the Secretary for approval an expenditure plan for use of the Restoration Fund.

(B) **REQUIREMENTS.**—The expenditure plan shall require that any funds be expended or reimbursed in accordance with the purposes described in section 5(a) of this Act.

(2) **WITHDRAWALS.**—On approval by the Secretary of the expenditure plan described in this section, Eastern Municipal Water District, on behalf of the Water Management Plan, may expend or be reimbursed monies from the Restoration Fund as provided in the plan.

(3) **ENFORCEMENT.**—The Secretary may take judicial or administrative action to enforce the provisions of any expenditure plan to ensure that monies expended or reimbursed from the Restoration Fund under the plan are used in accordance with this Act.

(4) **LIABILITY.**—If Eastern Municipal Water District, on behalf of the Water Management Plan, exercises the right to expend or be reimbursed monies from the Restoration Fund, neither the Secretary nor the Secretary of the Treasury shall have any liability for the expenditure or reimbursement.

(5) **ANNUAL REPORT.**—Eastern Municipal Water District shall submit to the Tribe and the Secretary an annual report that describes all expenditures or reimbursements from the Restoration Fund during the year covered by the report.

SEC. 7. DEVELOPMENT FUND.

(a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—There shall be established within the Treasury of the United States a fund to be known as the “Soboba Band of Luiseño Indians Water Development Fund”, to be managed and invested by the Secretary consisting of the amounts authorized to be appropriated in section 5(b).

(b) **MANAGEMENT.**—The Secretary shall manage the Development Fund, make investments, and make monies available for distribution consistent with the American Indian Trust Fund Management Reform Act of 1994 (25 U.S.C. 4001 et seq.) (referred to in this section as the “Trust Fund Reform Act”), this Act, and the Settlement Agreement.

(c) **INVESTMENT.**—The Secretary shall invest amounts in the Development Fund in accordance with—

(1) the Act of April 1, 1880 (21 Stat. 70, ch. 41, 25 U.S.C. 161);

(2) the first section of the Act of June 24, 1938 (52 Stat. 1037, ch. 648, 25 U.S.C. 162a); and

(3) subsection (b) of this section.

(d) **AVAILABILITY.**—The funds authorized to be appropriated pursuant to section 5(b) of this Act shall be available for expenditure or withdrawal only after the effective date set forth in section 10(a).

(e) **EXPENDITURES AND WITHDRAWALS.**—

(1) **TRIBAL MANAGEMENT PLAN.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The Tribe may withdraw all or part of the Development Fund on approval by the Secretary of a tribal management plan as described in the Trust Fund Reform Act.

(B) **REQUIREMENTS.**—In addition to the requirements under the Trust Fund Reform Act, the tribal management plan shall require that any funds be expended or reimbursed in accordance with the purposes described in section 5(b) of this Act.

(C) **ENFORCEMENT.**—The Secretary may take judicial or administrative action to enforce the provisions of any tribal management plan to ensure that monies withdrawn from the Development Fund under the plan are used in accordance with this Act.

(D) **LIABILITY.**—If the Tribe exercises the right to withdraw monies from the Development Fund, neither the Secretary nor the Secretary of the Treasury shall retain any liability for the expenditure or investment.

(2) **EXPENDITURE PLAN.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The Tribe shall submit to the Secretary for approval an expenditure plan for any portion of the amounts made available under section 5(b) that the Tribe does not withdraw under this subsection.

(B) **DESCRIPTION.**—The expenditure plan shall describe the manner in which, and the purposes for which, amounts of the Tribe remaining in the Funds will be used.

(C) **APPROVAL.**—On receipt of an expenditure plan under subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall approve the plan if the Secretary determines that the plan is reasonable and consistent with this Act and the Agreement.

(3) **ANNUAL REPORT.**—The Tribe shall submit to the Secretary an annual report that describes all expenditures from the Development Fund during the year covered by the report.

(4) **NO PER CAPITA DISTRIBUTIONS.**—No part of the Development Fund shall be distributed on a per capita basis to members of the Tribe.

SEC. 8. WAIVERS AND RELEASES.

(a) **TRIBE AND UNITED STATES AUTHORIZATION.**—The Tribe, on behalf of itself and its members, and the Secretary, on behalf of the United States in its capacity as trustee for the Tribe and its members, are authorized, as part of the performance of their obligations under the Settlement Agreement, to execute a waiver and release for claims under Federal, State, or other law against The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, Eastern Municipal Water District, and Lake Hemet Municipal Water District, for any and all—

(1) past, present, and future claims to surface water and groundwater rights for the Reservation arising from time immemorial through the effective date described in section 10 of this Act and anytime thereafter, except claims to enforce the Settlement Agreement or claims based on water rights acquired after the effective date described in section 10 of this Act;

(2) past, present, and future claims for injury of any kind arising from interference with surface water and groundwater resources and water rights of the Reservation, including, but not limited to, all claims for injury to the Tribe’s use and enjoyment of the Reservation, economic development, religion, language, social structure and culture, and injury to the natural resources of the Reservation, from time immemorial through the effective date described in section 10 of this Act;

(3) past, present, and future claims for injury of any kind arising from, or in any way related to, continuing interference with surface water and groundwater resources and water rights of

the Reservation, including the full scope of claims defined in section 5.1, paragraph A(2) of the Settlement Agreement, to the extent that such continuing interference began prior to the effective date described in section 10 of this Act, from time immemorial through the effective date described in section 10 of this Act and anytime thereafter;

(4) past, present, and future claims for injury of any kind arising from, or in any way related to, seepage of water into the San Jacinto Tunnel, including the full scope of claims defined in section 5.1, paragraph A(2) of the Settlement Agreement, from time immemorial through the effective date described in section 10 of this Act and anytime thereafter; and

(5) past, present, and future claims for injury of any kind arising from, or in any way related to, the Water Management Plan as approved in accordance with the Settlement Agreement, from time immemorial through the effective date described in section 10 of this Act and anytime thereafter.

(b) TRIBAL WAIVERS AGAINST THE UNITED STATES.—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Tribe is authorized, as part of the performance of its obligations under the Settlement Agreement, to execute a waiver and release for claims against the United States (acting in its capacity as trustee for the Tribe or its members, or otherwise acting on behalf of the Tribe or its members), including any agencies, officials, or employees thereof, for any and all—

(A) claims described in subsection (a) of this section;

(B) past, present, and future claims for failure to acquire or develop water rights and water resources of the Reservation arising from time immemorial through the effective date described in section 10 of this Act and anytime thereafter;

(C) past, present, and future claims for failure to protect water rights and water resources of the Reservation arising from time immemorial through the effective date described in section 10 of this Act, and any past, present, and future claims for any continuing failure to protect water rights and water resources of the Reservation, arising from time immemorial through the effective date described in section 10 of this Act and, to the extent that such continuing failure to protect began before the effective date described in section 10 of this Act, anytime thereafter;

(D) past, present, and future claims arising from the failure of any non-Federal Party to fulfill the terms of the Settlement Agreement at anytime; and

(E) past, present, and future claims arising out of the negotiation of the Settlement Agreement or the negotiation and enactment of this Act, or any specific terms of provisions thereof, including, but not limited to, the Tribe's consent to limit the number of participant parties to the Settlement Agreement.

(2) EFFECTIVENESS OF WAIVERS AGAINST THE UNITED STATES.—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The waiver and release contained in this subsection shall take effect on the date on which all of the amounts authorized under sections 5(a) and 5(b) are appropriated.

(B) PERIODS OF LIMITATION; EQUITABLE CLAIMS.—

(i) **IN GENERAL.**—All periods of limitation and time-based equitable defenses applicable to the claims set forth in paragraph (1) are tolled for the period between the date of enactment of this Act until the date on which the amounts authorized under sections 5(a) and 5(b) are appropriated.

(ii) **EFFECT OF SUBPARAGRAPH.**—This subparagraph neither revives any claim nor tolls any period of limitation or time-based equitable defense that may have expired before the date of enactment of this Act.

(C) **DEFENSE.**—The making of the amounts of appropriations authorized under sections 5(a) and 5(b) shall constitute a complete defense to any claim which involves the claims set forth in

paragraph (b)(1) pending in any court of the United States on the date on which the appropriations are made.

SEC. 9. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS.

(a) JURISDICTION.—

(1) **NO EFFECT ON SUBJECT MATTER JURISDICTION.**—Nothing in the Agreement or this Act restricts, enlarges, or otherwise determines the subject matter jurisdiction of any Federal, State, or Tribal court.

(2) **JUDGMENT AND DECREE.**—The United States consents to jurisdiction in the United States District Court for the Central District of California case known as *Soboba Band of Luiseño Indians v. Metropolitan Water District of Southern California*, No. 00-04208 for the purpose of obtaining approval for a judgment and decree substantially the same as the judgment and decree attached to the Settlement Agreement as exhibit H.

(3) **EFFECT OF SUBSECTION.**—Nothing in this subsection confers jurisdiction on any State court to—

(A) enforce Federal environmental laws regarding the duties of the United States; or

(B) conduct judicial review of Federal agency action.

(b) USE OF WATER.—

(1) **TRIBAL USE.**—With respect to water rights made available under the Settlement Agreement—

(A) the Tribe may use water made available to it under the Settlement Agreement for any use it deems advisable on the Reservation and on any other lands it owns or may acquire, in fee or in trust, contiguous to the Reservation or within the area of the groundwater basin described in section 2.4 of the Settlement Agreement;

(B) such water rights shall be held in trust by the United States in perpetuity, and shall not be subject to forfeiture or abandonment; and

(C) State law shall not apply to the Tribe's use of water made available to it under the Settlement Agreement.

(2) NON-TRIBAL USE.—

(A) **CONTRACTS AND OPTIONS.**—Subject to the limitations in subparagraph (B), the Tribe may enter into contracts and options to lease or contracts and options to exchange water made available to it under the Settlement Agreement, or enter into contracts and options to postpone existing water uses or postpone undertaking new or expanded water uses.

(B) LIMITATIONS ON NON-TRIBAL USE.—

(i) **CONSISTENCY WITH WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN.**—Any water made available under subparagraph (A) shall only be used by participants in, or other users within the area of, the Water Management Plan described in section 2.32 of the Settlement Agreement.

(ii) **PROHIBITION ON PERMANENT ALIENATION.**—No contract under subparagraph (A) shall be for a term exceeding one hundred years, nor shall any contract under subparagraph (A) provide for permanent alienation of any portion of the water rights made available under the Settlement Agreement.

(C) **LIABILITY.**—The Secretary shall not be liable to any party, including the Tribe, for any term of, or any loss or other detriment resulting from, a lease or contract entered into pursuant to this subparagraph.

(c) RETENTION OF RIGHTS.—

(1) In the event the waivers and releases set out in section 8 of this Act do not become effective pursuant to section 10(a) of this Act, the Soboba Tribe and the United States shall retain the right to assert all rights and claims enumerated in section 8, and any claims or defenses of the parties to the Settlement Agreement shall also be retained.

(2) The parties expressly reserve all rights not specifically granted, recognized, waived, or released by the Settlement Agreement or this Act.

(3) Notwithstanding the waivers and releases set forth in section 8(a), the United States retains all claims relating to violations of the

Clean Water Act, the Safe Drinking Water Act, the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, and the regulations implementing these Acts, including, but not limited to claims related to water quality.

(d) **PRECEDENT.**—Nothing in this Act establishes any standard for the quantification or litigation of Federal reserved water rights or any other Indian water claims of any other Indian tribes in any other judicial or administrative proceeding.

(e) **OTHER INDIAN TRIBES.**—Nothing in the Settlement Agreement or this Act shall be construed in any way to quantify or otherwise adversely affect the water rights, claims, or entitlements to water of any Indian tribe, band, or community, other than the Soboba Tribe.

(f) ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE.—

(1) Signing by the Secretary of the Settlement Agreement does not constitute major Federal action under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.).

(2) The Secretary is directed to carry out all environmental compliance required by Federal law in implementing the Agreement.

SEC. 10. EFFECTIVE DATE.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The waivers and releases authorized in subsection (a) of section 8 of this Act shall become effective as of the date the Secretary causes to be published in the Federal Register a statement of findings that—

(1) this Act has been enacted;

(2) to the extent that the Settlement Agreement conflicts with this Act, the Settlement Agreement has been revised to conform with the Act;

(3) the Settlement Agreement, revised as necessary, and the waivers and releases described in article 5 of the Settlement Agreement and section 8(a) of this Act have been executed by the parties and the Secretary;

(4) warranty deeds for the property to be conveyed to the Tribe described in section 4.6 of the Settlement Agreement have been placed in escrow;

(5) the Tribe and the Secretary have approved the Water Management Plan; and

(6) the judgment and decree attached to the Settlement Agreement as exhibit H or a judgment and decree substantially the same as exhibit H has been approved by the United States District Court, Eastern Division of the Central District of California, and that judgment and decree has become final and nonappealable.

(b) **DEADLINE FOR EFFECTIVE DATE.**—If the conditions precedent required under subsection (a) of this section have not been fulfilled by March 1, 2012, the Settlement Agreement and this Act shall not thereafter be effective and shall be null and void, and any funds and the interest accrued thereon appropriated pursuant to section 5 shall revert to the general fund of the United States Treasury.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) and the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Guam.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Guam?

There was no objection.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

H.R. 4841, as introduced by our colleague, Congresswoman MARY BONO MACK, would bring resolution to the water rights claims for the Soboba Band of Luiseno Indians and ratify a settlement agreement between many municipalities and the Tribe. This bill has received bipartisan support, including support from the administration, so we have no objection to this non-controversial bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. BONO MACK), the author of this important bill.

Mrs. BONO MACK. I thank my dear colleague in the neighboring district from California for yielding me time.

I rise today in strong support of H.R. 4841, the Soboba Band of Luiseno Indians Settlement Act. This legislation is the product of decades of litigation and negotiations relating to the water rights of the Soboba Tribe. The courts ruled on the legitimacy of their rights and were able to determine that serious damages were suffered by the Tribe from the diversion of their water resources. In the years following that decision, the Tribe, local water districts, cities and other stakeholders spent years at the table working out a solution that was in the best interests of the entire region.

Bobby Salgado, the Chairman of the Tribe, tells the story well of how his tribal members saw their lives changed when their water resources drastically decreased. Chairman Salgado testified to the House Natural Resources Committee about how he and others would take gym class first thing in the morning during school just so that they could take showers that day.

All of the partners to this agreement recognize Southern California's water needs are serious and are best addressed through approaches that are mindful of supply needs and new water use practices. This legislation embodies the linchpin for a comprehensive basin-wide water management plan in the Jacinto River Valley.

Finally, I would like to thank Chairman RAHALL, Ranking Member YOUNG, Chairwoman NAPOLITANO and Ranking Member MCMORRIS RODGERS, along with their staffs, for helping quickly bring this legislation to the floor. I would like to also thank Chris Foster from my staff for his hard work on this bill.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this bipartisan legislation, H.R. 4841.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, this is one of countless examples of Indian sovereignty that has in fact been put below the sovereignty of any other landowner, the sovereignty of any other city, municipality or county.

This is an important bill, but I think in passage today and tomorrow it is

very clear that it marks a trend back toward recognizing that Native American tribes have had things taken from them in the past, had to go to court, in Federal Court win, and then find that they have to continue year after year in order to get these rights. Had this been a normal county or private landowner, I strongly suspect this would have been restored years earlier.

So I commend the gentlewoman, my colleague in an adjacent district, for bringing this important legislation, ending once and for all an injustice.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I again urge all the Members to support this bill.

I wish at this time to thank my colleague, the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA), who has managed these bills on the floor with me today.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4841, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

FRANK SINATRA DAY

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1144) expressing support for designation of a "Frank Sinatra Day" on May 13, 2008, in honor of the dedication of the Frank Sinatra commemorative stamp, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1144

Whereas over 150 years ago, United States commemorative stamps began honoring the people, places, and events that have shaped our country's history;

Whereas more than 22,000,000 Americans, including children, collect and learn about our country through stamps, making it one of the most popular hobbies in the Nation and the world;

Whereas it is important that we pause to reflect on our Nation's history and culture;

Whereas stamps honor statesmen and soldiers as they fought for freedom and democracy, recognize our scientific and technological achievements, pay tribute to our artistic and cultural legacy, and celebrate the strength of our diversity;

Whereas Frank Sinatra, a monumental figure in American popular culture, has been selected as part of the 2008 commemorative stamp program;

Whereas, on May 14, 1997, the President signed into law legislation to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Frank Sinatra in recognition of his accomplishments as an entertainer and humanitarian; and

Whereas the United States Postal Service dedicated the Frank Sinatra commemorative stamp in New York City, and in Las Vegas, Nevada, on May 13, 2008: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the United States House of Representatives expresses support for designation of a "Frank Sinatra Day" in honor of the dedication of the Frank Sinatra commemorative stamp.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATSON) and the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from California?

There was no objection.

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, as a member of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, I stand to join my colleagues in the consideration and support of H. Res. 1144, as amended, which expresses support for the designation of Frank Sinatra Day in honor of the dedication of the Postal Service's Frank Sinatra commemorative stamp.

Mr. Speaker, H. Res. 1144 was introduced by our colleague, Congressman JOSÉ SERRANO of New York, on April 23, 2008, and at the moment the measure enjoys the cosponsorship of nearly 60 Members of Congress. H. Res. 1144 was considered and approved by the Oversight panel on March 13, 2008, by a voice vote, after being amended for technical purposes.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to my colleague from New York (Mr. SERRANO).

(Mr. SERRANO asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SERRANO. I thank the gentlewoman from California.

I want to thank both the chairmen and the ranking members of both the subcommittee and the committee for bringing this resolution in such a timely fashion to the floor.

Last week, on May 13, I joined Alan Kessler, the Chairman of the Board of Governors of the U.S. Postal Service, Nancy Sinatra, Frank Sinatra, Jr., and A.J. Lambert, Frank Sinatra's granddaughter, at a formal ceremony in New York City's Gotham Hall, where the Postal Service issued the Frank Sinatra commemorative stamp. Immediately thereafter, 120 million stamps honoring this great icon in American culture, who was both an entertainer and a humanitarian, went on sale nationwide.

I am pleased that today the House of Representatives, through its recognition of that special day of the stamp issuance as Frank Sinatra Day, is giving another well-deserved honor to this man who contributed so much to our Nation and our culture. It has been 10 years since the death of Frank Sinatra, talented singer, actor and caring person, and Sinatra's music continues to speak to each of us today in a way that is both personal and emotional.

My colleagues, of course, know of my personal love for Mr. Sinatra's music. At this age, I carry close to 2,000 songs on my iPod from Sinatra alone. I was introduced to the English language by listening to Frank Sinatra records when my father came back from World War II. At that time, I remember my father saying something profound. He said, "You know, the English language takes a bad rap. People say that it is not a romantic language." He said this to me in Spanish. "But," he said, "if you listen to the way this man sings the English language, you will recognize that it is indeed a romantic language if sung properly."

□ 1300

Through the years, I used those records at the beginning of my time in New York City to learn to enunciate and to imitate the way he used the English language, because when he sang it was perfect. In fact, in Germany, in Japan, and other countries, businessmen use Frank Sinatra records to learn how to pronounce the English language. Maybe that is the reason why I am the only New Yorker who says "Tuesday" instead of "Toosday," because Mr. Sinatra would have never tolerated "Toosday."

Personally, for me as a fan, I know the big difference between those songs that everybody recognizes from Mr. Sinatra like "New York, New York" and "My Way," and those other bittersweet melodies that he made famous that you only listen to sometimes at 3 o'clock in the morning. That was Sinatra the singer.

Then there was another side very briefly to Mr. Sinatra. At a time when certain entertainers were not allowed to stay in certain hotels in this country, it was Mr. Sinatra who said, "If they can play, I want them in my band. I don't care what they look like, I don't care what their religion is, I don't know what their color is, I don't care. If they can play and they have talent, I want them in my band. It was because of that that Las Vegas began to integrate for the first time due to that work. This was the other side of Frank Sinatra.

And lastly, the one you will see on TV this month, Sinatra, the actor, the one that could either give you the happy-go-lucky Pal Joey, or the very daring Man With a Golden Arm, talking about drug addiction at a time when that was not a subject.

This was the whole of Frank Sinatra, and we as Americans honor him this

week with a commemorative stamp. I commend all of us to buy that stamp, and just think of this as I close. Our gossip notes, our water bills, and, yes, our love letters will carry the smile of Frank Sinatra for a time to come.

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this bill and I commend the gentleman from New York. I regret that I have to follow the gentleman from New York, because I too grew up listening to Sinatra wondering if the Rat Pack would be my future. Now I am in Congress; it could be that it came true.

But whether you admire Dean Martin, Sammy Davis, or Frank Sinatra, they all had one thing in common; they changed the world with their bigger than life behavior. They also changed the world with their generosity. Frank Sinatra was famous for his generosity. Even better than that, he was also famous for having problems with people, and then turning around and being overly generous to people that he had had difficulties with. He helped some years, many years ago give Buddy Rich, a famous jazz drummer, money to start a band even though only a few years earlier they had been arch enemies. He picked up the hospital bills of Bela Lugosi and many others. He funded hospital activities around the world. He lived his life big and he lived it every day. He stretched. He was in fact a great actor. He was in fact somebody who would act in parts that perhaps lesser men would have shied away from, wanting to preserve their image.

And certainly his music spanned not only generations and decades, but it spanned every genre. He was able to do that. He was able to reinvent himself from the forties, the fifties, the sixties, and even the seventies. In fact, even as his age increased and perhaps just a slight bit of that famous beautiful voice disappeared, he found ways to redo music, and his music lives on today. I am not surprised that a thoroughly modern man from New York would have 2,000 Frank Sinatra songs. My only question is, why don't you have more?

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time totally in support of this resolution.

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the gentleman from New York for sponsoring the measure at hand, and I would certainly urge passage of this bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATSON) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1144, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

NATIONAL MILITARY APPRECIATION MONTH

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 334) supporting the goals and objectives of a National Military Appreciation Month, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 334

Whereas the vigilance of the members of the Armed Forces has been instrumental to the preservation of the freedom, security, and prosperity enjoyed by the people of the United States;

Whereas the success of the Armed Forces depends on the dedicated service of its members, their families, and the civilian employees of the Department of Defense and the Coast Guard;

Whereas the role of the United States as a world leader requires a military force that is well-trained, well-equipped, and appropriately sized;

Whereas the Federal Government has a responsibility to raise awareness of and respect for this aspect of the heritage of the United States and to encourage the people of the United States to dedicate themselves to the values and principles for which Americans have served and sacrificed throughout the history of the Nation;

Whereas service in the Armed Forces entails special hazards and demands extraordinary sacrifices from service members and their families;

Whereas the support of the families of service members enhances the effectiveness and capabilities of the Armed Forces;

Whereas the observance of events recognizing the contributions of the Armed Forces is a tangible and highly effective way of sustaining morale and improving quality of life for service members and their families;

Whereas on April 30, 1999, the Senate passed S. Res. 33 (106th Congress), entitled "Designating May 1999 as 'National Military Appreciation Month'", calling on the people of the United States, in a symbolic act of unity, to observe a National Military Appreciation Month in May 1999, to honor the current and former members of the Armed Forces, including those who have died in the pursuit of freedom and peace;

Whereas on March 24, 2004, the House of Representatives passed H. Con. Res. 328 (108th Congress), entitled "Recognizing and honoring the United States Armed Forces and supporting the goals and objectives of a National Military Appreciation Month," and on April 26, 2004, the Senate passed H. Con. Res. 328 by unanimous consent; and

Whereas it is important to emphasize to the people of the United States the relevance of the history and activities of the Armed Forces through an annual National Military Appreciation Month that includes associated local and national observances and activities; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That Congress—

(1) supports the goals and objectives of a National Military Appreciation Month; and

(2) urges the President to issue a proclamation calling on the people of the United States, all Federal departments and agencies, States, localities, organizations, and media to annually observe a National Military Appreciation Month with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATSON) and the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from California?

There was no objection.

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Representing the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, I rise to join my colleagues in the consideration of H. Con. Res. 334, as amended, a resolution supporting the goals and objectives of National Military Appreciation Month, which, for the past 10 years, has been recognized in the month of May.

Initially created by an act of Congress back in 1999, the National Military Appreciation Month provides each and every one of us an opportunity to acknowledge and honor the heroic men and women who have served and are now serving in our country's Armed Forces.

The bill before us was introduced on April 24, 2008, by Congressman CHRISTOPHER SHAYS of Connecticut. And while cosponsored by only 60 Members of Congress, I am sure that each and every member of this body stands in support and admiration of the thousands of men and women serving in the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, and Coast Guard.

The Committee on Oversight and Government Reform amended and reported the bill favorably by voice vote on May 15, 2008, and today we now have a chance to move the bill one step closer to enactment.

Mr. Speaker, let us join with citizens across America in showing our appreciation for the service and sacrifice these brave men and women display in order to provide for the defense and the protection of our great country. In particular, let us show our gratitude to those currently serving abroad in Afghanistan, Iraq, and other pockets of the world, and to the families that stand by and support their loved ones during deployment in times of war.

The passage of H. Con. Res. 334 will send a strong message to our troops and veterans that we honor, respect, and appreciate their dedication to the liberties and freedoms we as Americans hold so dear.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the goals and the objectives of National Military Appreciation Month by voting in favor of H. Con. Res. 334.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this important resolution, and yield myself such time that I may consume.

This year marks the 10th anniversary of National Military Appreciation Month, which was first passed on May 1999. I might note that in May 1999, perhaps the reason for the Congress seeing fit to have a National Military Appreciation Month for our military was that in fact we were in a time of comparative peace. We were at a time in which we wanted to let our military know that we appreciated them standing guard in peacetime as well as in war.

For the last 7 years, though, we have been at war. Our troops have been deployed in Afghanistan since shortly after the September 11 attack on our Nation. In fact, this last weekend, as part of the Military Appreciation Month, I was in Oceanside in my own district where 44,000 Marines reside at Camp Pendleton. Except they don't get to reside at Camp Pendleton; they are on their third and fourth deployments throughout that region.

I didn't just thank the senior NCOs and the officers, who I appreciate their continued service because they have stayed in and reenlisted during this time of war, but I also thanked the incredible amount of young men and women and their families who showed up and who in fact joined after this war began, and many of them after this war had been going for many, many years.

It is in fact our military that is with us in good times and bad. They stay with us in the worst of times. They also enlist in the hardest of times.

Many people would say I never voted for this war. I wouldn't vote for this war. This war is wrong. Men and women of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, and Coast Guard don't say whether the war is right or wrong. They make a statement about whether America is right or wrong. In their eyes, and in my eyes, America is right. We have a process which we observe in order to ensure that we do not easily go into war, we do not easily send our troops into harm's way.

However, our men and women are in harm's way today. And for this month, like every day that we are at war, we should honor our men and women in uniform. We should make that extra effort to try to do what we can for those returning home and for those who remain behind, the families, the children, the husbands, the wives, making sure that every day they are taken care of, that their special needs, because of the absence of the loved one, are observed. And when they come home, they don't come home from the first deployment, the parade is not as easy to recognize; they don't come home from the last deployment. It is not so easy to say, we are coming home for good.

So I urge my colleagues and I urge all of America to think about the appreciation we can show year round in fact realize that a parade is just as important to a troop who has come home from their third deployment. Recognition, a picnic, or some other

way of saying we care about your continued service, is just as important in the sixth and seventh year of a struggle that could in fact go on for many years in order to bring freedom and a way of life that is acceptable to the people of Afghanistan and Iraq and other countries throughout the world.

Today we can recognize where our men and women are fighting, but we don't often recognize where they are standing so that we don't have to fight. And I would like to close by recognizing the men and women who are in the Sudan, who are in fact trying to do what they can in Africa for some very troubled spots in which we don't recognize it as our fighting but we certainly have to recognize that we are trying to make a difference for those people who in their struggles every day realize that they are at war.

I join with the gentlelady from California in urging the support for this resolution. I join with the gentleman from Connecticut in recognizing that every day, every month, should be National Military Recognition Month.

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H. Con. Res. 334, which expresses support for National Military Appreciation Month. I introduced this resolution to pay tribute to the men and women who serve in our Armed Forces.

This May is the 10th National Military Appreciation Month. As we approach Memorial Day, I believe it is an appropriate time to thank our service men and women for their service to our country. The men and women who serve our country and defend freedom deserve to be treated with nothing less than the highest level of dignity and respect.

Our country is at war and the brave men and women of our military deserve the full support of every American. We need to provide them with every resource they will need in the difficult months and years to come, starting with our gratitude and respect.

I am grateful for this resolution being brought to the floor, and support its adoption.

Mr. ISSA. I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATSON) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 334, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

ARNOLD PALMER

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1152) honoring Arnold Palmer for his distinguished career in

the sport of golf and his commitment to excellence and sportsmanship, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1152

Whereas Arnold Palmer is an all-time great in the sport of golf, a highly successful businessman, an outstanding philanthropist, and a devoted family man;

Whereas Arnold Palmer's golf career spanned more than 50 years and included 92 tournament victories in professional play, of which 62 were in the United States Professional Golf Association Tour;

Whereas Arnold Palmer was recognized as the Sports Illustrated Sportsman of the Year in 1960 and the Associated Press Athlete of the Decade for the 1960s;

Whereas Arnold Palmer is a prostate cancer survivor and has served as an important advocate for promoting cancer research and early detection;

Whereas Arnold Palmer's philanthropic generosity has touched thousands across the United States;

Whereas Arnold Palmer's charitable endeavors span across the United States, from the Arnold Palmer Prostate Center in Rancho Mirage, California, to the Winnie Palmer Hospital for Women and Babies in Orlando, Florida;

Whereas Arnold Palmer possesses a charismatic personality and a sense of kindness and generosity that has endeared him to millions;

Whereas the United States Golf Association has its headquarters in Far Hills, New Jersey, in the 7th Congressional District;

Whereas United States Golf Association President Jim Vernon has said that "Arnold Palmer embodies the integrity and passion at the heart of the game of golf, as well as the gracious spirit of our Nation"; and

Whereas on June 3, 2008, the United States Golf Association will honor Arnold Palmer with the opening of the Arnold Palmer Center for Golf History in the United States Golf Association Museum in Bernards Township, New Jersey: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) honors Arnold Palmer for his outstanding career in the sport of golf;

(2) commends Arnold Palmer for his dedication to charity and helping others; and

(3) expresses support for the United States Golf Association as it celebrates Arnold Palmer with the opening of the Arnold Palmer Center for Golf History.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATSON) and the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair will recognize the gentlewoman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from California?

There was no objection.

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

On behalf of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, I rise for the consideration of H. Res.

1152, which pays tribute to Arnold Palmer for both his distinguished golfing career and his dedication to excellence and sportsmanship.

H. Res. 1152 was coauthored by Congressman FERGUSON of New Jersey and Congressman BACA of California, and is cosponsored by 83 Members of Congress. The bill before us was first introduced on April 24, 2008, and was taken up by the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform on May 15, 2008, where the measure was amended and then passed by voice vote.

A native of Western Pennsylvania, Arnold Palmer is regarded as one of the greatest golfers in the history of the professional sport of golf, winning over 90 PGA tour titles since the mid 1950s, and 62 champion tour wins since 1980. Arnold Palmer became the face of televised golf in America, and even today his talents and accomplishments in the sport of golf continue to set the standard for many, including the greats of today, such as Tiger Woods and Vijay Singh.

□ 1315

Nicknamed "The King," Arnold Palmer has demonstrated excellence both on and off of the golf course by establishing the Arnold Palmer Hospital for Children in Orlando, Florida, and the Arnold Palmer Pavilion at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center.

Mr. Speaker, in honor of the contributions Mr. Palmer has made to the world of golf and the landscape of America, I urge the adoption of H. Res. 1152.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I too rise in support of this resolution recognizing Arnold Palmer for his contributions to golf and to our society. How fitting it is that we honor him on the occasion of the opening of the Arnold Palmer Center for Golf History in New Jersey since it is he who made this possible and he who has made golf history so many times.

You could, in fact, honor Arnold for his off-the-tee activities, if you wanted to. You could honor him for being somebody who proved that even with an unorthodox swing you could get to the goal.

You certainly could recognize him, as we are, for his 92 championships, 61 on the PGA Tour, including two victories at the Masters, two at the British Open and one at the U.S. Open. From 1960 to 1963 he won 29 tournaments. He won 10 more times in the Senior PGA Tour. He has had a long and successful career, one that continues to stand in its records in the American Golf Hall of Fame.

He is also, though, a celebrated course designer. His skill, his ability to, in fact, create constantly innovative and enjoyable places for America to golf has left a lasting legacy, both here in the United States and around the world. He even found a way to invent a golf-friendly drink, the Arnold Palmer, which consists of iced tea and lemonade.

There is no question this is a man for all seasons and all charities. He has raised millions for charities that fight cancer and other diseases. He has given of his time and money and energies for countless other causes.

He also has endeavored to promote golf and serve as one of our finest ambassadors of the sport.

We often, here in the House, do resolutions, and we say, this is special. But I don't think there's any question that as America hears today that we have honored Arnold Palmer for golf, they'll say, what took us so long? Of course we should do it.

I yield back the balance of my time and urge support of this resolution.

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATSON) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1152, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the yeas have it.

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PEACE OFFICERS MEMORIAL DAY

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1132) supporting the goals and ideals of Peace Officers Memorial Day.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1132

Whereas there are more than 900,000 sworn law enforcement officers now serving in the United States;

Whereas law enforcement officers selflessly protect our communities and our country from harm;

Whereas law enforcement officers serve the country regardless of the peril to themselves;

Whereas more than 18,200 law enforcement officers have been killed in the line of duty since the first recorded police death in 1792;

Whereas, September 11, 2001, was the deadliest day in law enforcement history with 72 officers killed while responding to the terrorist attacks;

Whereas 181 law enforcement officers were killed in 2007;

Whereas Public Law 87-726 designates May 15th of each year as Peace Officers Memorial Day and Police Week is commemorated during the calendar week of May 15;

Whereas section 7(m) of title 4, United States Code, requires that the United States flag on all government buildings to be displayed at half-staff on May 15, National Peace Officers Memorial Day; and

Whereas law enforcement officers deserve the gratitude of this Nation for their service: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of Peace Officers Memorial Day to honor Federal, State, and local peace officers killed or disabled in the line of duty; and

(2) calls upon the people of the United States to observe such a day with appropriate ceremonies and respect.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATSON) and the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from California?

There was no objection.

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, as a member of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, I'm pleased to join my colleagues in the consideration of H. Res. 1132, which seeks to commemorate the selfless men and women who serve as law enforcement officers around our country. Their service is crucial to the protection of Americans everywhere, and their daily sacrifice is what helps to guarantee our right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

H. Res. 1132 was introduced by TED POE of Texas on April 22, 2008, and was considered by and reported from the Oversight Committee on May 1, 2008 by voice vote. This legislative measure has the support of over 65 Members of Congress, and its principal purpose is to show our appreciation for the risk that 900,000-plus sworn law enforcement officers face daily in their service to communities throughout the United States.

In this past year alone, our country has lost over 180 law enforcement officers in the line of duty, and while just last week many of their fellow officers descended upon our Nation's Capital for National Police Week in remembrance of these fallen heroes, today, we, in the Congress also take a moment to express our gratitude for these courageous Americans by recognizing Peace Officers Memorial Day.

Therefore, it is with humble gratitude that we salute and we thank our country's peace officers, as well as remember those officers who gave their life in service and protection of ours.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the swift passage of H. Res. 1132 and reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this resolution. I had the opportunity to vote it out of our committee week before last. We did so with full expectation that it would be on the floor last

week, as has been traditional when law enforcement leaders come from around the country for our peace officers gathering.

It's with great trepidation that I support this, but also note that the partisan nature of our body, which has always caused this bill, in the past, to be up for that week so that the men and women could sit in the gallery and observe our recognition of the important work they do, did not happen. I would hope this is the last time that resolutions like this are held because, quote, we wouldn't get to them with all the recorded votes. The men and women, the 56,000-plus who are assaulted every year, the 181 who died last year, up from 151 the year before, they deserve our recognition in a timely fashion. They deserve our constant support. They deserve not to be part of partisan infighting.

I believe that, in fact, most of us in the Congress, including the gentlelady from California, shares with me the nonpartisan support for our law enforcement people.

I might additionally recognize at this time, that law enforcement is not only around the country, but it's also right here in the Capitol. We in the Congress could not do our business in an orderly fashion if it wasn't for the Capitol Hill Police who stand vigilantly with large weapons against an attack and, on a daily basis, ensure that the tens of thousands of people who come to see the Capitol are able to do so without interfering with the operations of this body.

So in the jobs large and small I would like to join with the gentlelady in asking for this bill to be passed, but I'd also like to recognize the men and women of the Capitol Hill Police.

H. Res. 1132 supports the goals and ideals of Peace Officers Memorial Day to honor federal, state, and local law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty, and encourages the citizens of the United States to observe the day with appropriate ceremonies and respect.

Law enforcement officers face dangers on the job every single day while fighting crime, violence and terrorism. On May 17, 1792, New York City's Deputy Sheriff, Isaac Smith, became the first police officer to be recorded as killed in the line of duty. Today, more than 56,000 officers are assaulted each year and just this past year, in 2007, 181 officers were killed while serving the American people.

Last year was one of the deadliest years for U.S. law enforcement in nearly two decades. The number of officers killed in the line of duty last year increased nearly 20 percent from 2006, when there were 151 officer deaths.

There is a quote by President George H.W. Bush engraved on the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial, located at Judiciary Square here in D.C. that summarizes the mission of the 900,000 current sworn law enforcement officers in the United States. It states that it is their daily "quest to preserve both democracy and decency, and to protect a national treasure that we call the American dream."

May 15 was Peace Officers Memorial Day, a holiday created in 1961, by Congress to pay

homage to the fallen law enforcement officers who have dedicated their lives to protecting this country and its citizens. On this day the flag is flown at half-staff and thousands of people visit the National Law Enforcement Memorial, which currently has 18,274 names engraved on its surface.

Each of these names is evidence of the sacrifices these brave law enforcement officers have made to keep American citizens safe.

With gratitude for our law enforcement officers' devotion and dedication, I ask all members to join me in supporting H. Res. 1132.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 1132, Supporting the goals and ideals of Peace Officers Memorial Day, introduced by my distinguished colleague from Texas, Representative TED POE.

Peace officers, the sworn, public-sector officers entrusted with law enforcement authority and the power of arrest, risk their lives daily to protect our Nation. These individuals, who are responsible for safeguarding the rights and freedoms we enjoy as Americans, are true heroes.

Peace Officers Memorial Day honors those who have made the ultimate sacrifice for the safety and security of their communities and our Nation. Created by Public Law 87-726, signed by President Kennedy in 1962, this day gives us the opportunity to acknowledge and pay our respects to those who, through their courageous deeds, have fallen in the line of duty.

Mr. Speaker, on thursday, May 15, 2008, our Nation will come together to honor, remember and record those law enforcement officers who were killed in the line of duty during the year of 2007. Mr. Speaker, one of the names of the fallen heroes added to the list last year was Officer Rodney J. Johnson of the Houston Police Department. Officer Johnson, a 12-year veteran of the Houston Police Department, was killed September 21, 2006, while taking a suspect in custody during a traffic stop. He leaves to honor his memory his beloved wife, Houston Police Department Officer Joslyn Johnson, and five teen-aged children; three daughters and two sons, ages 14 to 19.

Officer Rodney Johnson was born in Houston and served in the U.S. Army as a military police officer until being honorably discharged in 1990. He then went to work as a corrections officer for the Texas Department of Criminal Justice and then as a jail attendant. He graduated from the Houston police academy in 1994.

As a member of the department's Southeast Gang Task Force, Officer Rodney Johnson earned two Lifesaving Awards and one Medal of Valor from the State of Texas. In January 1998, Officer Rodney Johnson rescued a physically challenged driver trapped in rising floodwaters, and later that year he rescued mentally challenged people trapped inside of a burning house.

Officer Rodney Johnson, who stood 6 feet 5 inches tall and weighed nearly 300 pounds, served on his union's board of directors. As Hans Marticiuc, the president of Officer Johnson's union stated, "he was big and he was intimidating-looking, but he was as gentle as a baby bear."

Although the number of officers killed in the line of duty has declined in recent years, the

fact that one officer is killed every 2½ days in our country is a sober reminder that protecting our communities and safeguarding our democracy come at a heavy price.

Last year, the total number of law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty was represented by 17,917 names engraved on the Memorial, representing officers from all 50 States, the District of Columbia, U.S. territories, and Federal law enforcement and military police agencies.

This resolution supports the goals and ideals of National Peace Officer Memorial Day, which honors Federal, State, and local peace officers killed or disabled in the line of duty. This service will honor the 181 law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty during 2007, as well as the 900,000 officers who continue to serve in Federal, State and local law enforcement agencies nationwide.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this important resolution:

Ms. ISSA. I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATSON) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1132.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1153) celebrating Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. Res. 1153

Whereas this year marks the 30th anniversary of President Jimmy Carter's signing of the joint resolution designating the first ten days of May as Asian Pacific American Heritage Week;

Whereas section 102 of title 36, United States Code, officially designates May as Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month, and requests the President to issue each year a proclamation calling on the people of the United States to observe Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities;

Whereas according to the Bureau of the Census, an estimated 14,900,000 United States residents identify themselves as Asian alone or in combination with one or more other races, and an estimated 1,000,000 United

States residents identify themselves as Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone or in combination with one or more other races;

Whereas even though Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders faced the injustices of racial prejudice as exemplified by the Chinese Exclusion Act, Japanese internment, Vincent Chin case, and other events, the community has made considerable contributions to the vast cultural, military, economic, educational, and technological advancements of the United States;

Whereas Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders such as civil rights activist, Yuri Kochiyama, Medal of Honor recipient, Herbert Pililaa, the first Asian American Congressman, Dalip Singh Saund, the first Asian American Congresswoman, Patsy Mink, and others have made significant strides in the political and military realm; and

Whereas Asian Pacific American Heritage Month provides the people of the United States with an opportunity to recognize the achievements, contributions, history, and concerns of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes that the incredible diversity of different racial and ethnic groups, including Asian American and Pacific Islander, is a source of strength for the United States;

(2) recognizes that the Asian American and Pacific Islander community is influential and crucial to the society and culture of the United States;

(3) reaffirms its commitment to the goals and ideals of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month; and

(4) celebrates the contributions of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders to the United States.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATSON) and the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from California?

There was no objection.

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Representing the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, I'd like to join my colleagues in the consideration of H. Res. 1153, as amended, which proudly expresses our support for the celebration of May as National Asian Pacific American Heritage Month.

H. Res. 1153 was originally introduced on April 24, 2008, by Representative MAZIE HIRONO of Hawaii, along with members and associate members of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus. In addition to these 14 members of CAPAC, the measure is also co-sponsored by over 60 Members of Congress. On May 5, 2008, the bill was approved by the Oversight Committee by voice vote after being amended.

I would like to offer as much time as she needs to Mazie Hirono.

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlelady from California for yielding me time.

I rise today in support of H. Res. 1153, celebrating Asian Pacific American Heritage Month. First, I want to thank the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus and the 78 cosponsors of the resolution. I hope all the Members of the House will join me in supporting this measure.

The Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community is composed of over 15 million people. AAPIs own 1.1 million businesses, generating an estimated \$326 billion for our economy. The community is a crucial element in the cultural fabric of the United States, representing people from East Asia, Southeast Asia, the Indian subcontinent and the Pacific islands. We celebrate the month of April as Asian Pacific American Heritage Month to not only commemorate the achievements of the AAPI community, but to remind us of the work that is left to do.

In this resolution I highlight four leaders of the AAPI community. One such leader is Yuri Kochiyama, a Japanese American civil rights activist who was involved in attaining reparations for Japanese Americans, and the reformation of the Harlem school system in the 1960s.

Another notable member is Private First Class Herbert Pililaa, a native Hawaiian Medal of Honor recipient who died in combat during the Korean War while courageously volunteering to defend his fellow soldiers as they withdrew from their posts.

Also noteworthy is Dalip Singh Saund, the first Asian American and Sikh American elected to Congress, who advocated for naturalization rights for people of South Asian descent.

Finally, I'd like to commend my predecessor, the late Patsy Takemoto Mink, for becoming not only the first Asian American woman, but also the first woman of color elected to Congress. Her work to increase access to education, particularly through title IX, is an inspiration for my bill, the PRE-K Act, which focuses on our youngest children.

The AAPI community has accomplished much and given much, given their history of discrimination. For example, in 1882, the Chinese Exclusion Act barred Chinese laborers from entering the United States, even though prior to this date, Chinese laborers built our transcontinental railroad.

And another example, in 1942, 120,000 Japanese American citizens and legal residents were relocated to internment camps, while many of their sons served in the 442nd regimental combat team, the most decorated unit in U.S. history.

□ 1330

We've repealed the Chinese Exclusion Act and have granted reparations for surviving Japanese Americans. But

there is still much to do to address social and political challenges facing the AAPI community.

One major issue is securing self-determination rights for native Hawaiians. H.R. 505, the Native Hawaiian Government Reorganization Act, grants native Hawaiians the same rights to manage their affairs currently enjoyed by other indigenous people, the American Indians and the Alaskan Natives. I thank the Members who supported passage of H.R. 505 in the House last year.

Additionally, about 2,000 Filipinos fought alongside American servicemen in World War II. These Filipino veterans were promised full veterans benefits, yet in 1946, President Truman signed the Rescission Act which stripped them of benefits that were accorded to all other soldiers. Compounding this inequity are the immigration quotas that delayed for up to 20 years the issuance of visas to sons and daughters of these Filipino veterans, a major hindrance to the reunification of these families.

We have an opportunity in the House to remedy these situations through two measures that address these issues. S. 1315, which passed the Senate by an overwhelming 96-1 vote, would allow the surviving Filipino World War II veterans to obtain veteran benefits; and my bill, H.R. 1287, the Filipino Veterans' Family Reunification Act, which would exempt the sons and daughters of naturalized Filipino veterans from immigration quotas.

I look forward to working with my colleagues in advancing these legislative priorities for the AAPI community.

In closing, our vast pool of knowledge, talent, and cultural diversity is a source of strength for the United States. I urge my colleagues to support H. Res. 1153 and to participate in events celebrating AAPIs throughout your communities.

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 1153. I think the gentlelady from Hawaii did a wonderful job of going through the highlights and contributions of Asian Americans, and I think, quite frankly, she did a very good job of recognizing some of the well-known and not-so-well-known examples of when we have failed the Asian Americans.

I support the United States Asian American Heritage Month. I also support many of the things that were commented on that we have, in fact, left undone. Very, very clearly, when it comes to the Philippine veterans, we stand in shame in this body. The Rescission Act was signed by Truman while Truman said, in fact, we didn't live up to a moral obligation, and made it very clear that this would be yet another example of America not being proud. That was a long time ago.

I am one of the cochairs of the Philippine Caucus and one of the authors of the underlying bill that is included in the Senate bill 1315, which is a package

of noncontroversial U.S. benefit extensions for American veterans, but it's also an extension of a long-overdue benefit to people from the territory of the Philippines who fought with us in World War II.

Mr. Speaker, I would hope that this body would take note that these Asian Americans, and they were Asian Americans, had a governor, his name was MacArthur, at the beginning of the war. They fought to keep us from being driven off by an invading Army until, hopelessly, they had to withdraw; and yet these Rangers and Scouts continued fighting whenever possible in the jungles for years, even while MacArthur planned to return. MacArthur made this promise, America made this promise. We haven't kept that promise. As the gentlelady rightfully so said, there were over 200,000 Filipinos who fought with us for their country.

I take note that there are 4 million-plus Puerto Ricans today. I served in the United States Army from 1970 to 1980 and years beyond that in the Reserves. I was of the assumption that the Puerto Ricans who were in the service with me were Americans. I'm still of that assumption. Members of our territories are, in fact, Americans.

I might further note that Senator MCCAIN, a U.S. Senator who could well end up being President, was born in the Panama Canal Zone. Is he less an American because he was born in a sovereign asset of the United States? Of course not. He's fully eligible to be President, and these veterans, these Philippine veterans, are American veterans, and they cannot and should not have to come before this body asking us to unstrip what we stripped away in shame 60 years ago.

So I join with the gentlelady in supporting this resolution, but I would like to emphasize as much as I can that we have an important vote this week, a vote about giving American veterans, veterans who are today Americans, veterans who, on that day, were Americans when they fought with us.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. ISSA. I yield to the gentleman from American Samoa.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I want to commend the gentlemen for his remarks concerning the legislation that has been recently considered and passed in the Congress in providing for the needs of our Filipino veterans.

My understanding is it has been requested a little over \$200 million to provide proper compensation. Sixty years. We're spending \$12 billion a month on this war in Iraq, and after 60 years, we cannot manage ourselves not only morally but as a matter of legal obligation that we should have for these fellow patriots who helped us fight the war in World War II that we've just now gotten around to trying to provide justice and fairness to the system.

So I want to commend the gentleman for noting that, as well as my good

friend, the gentlelady from Hawaii, the chief sponsor of this legislation.

Mr. ISSA. Reclaiming my time, I might note that under our PAYGO rules, the bill that will come before the floor will even be less than that. It has been reduced below the mark that was set and passed 96-1 in the Senate in order to maintain a balance under PAYGO.

So the gentleman is absolutely right. This represents one or two days of the cost of what we're doing for our future veterans in Iraq and Afghanistan and, in fact, should not be controversial. And I hope when it comes to the floor on a bipartisan basis, it clearly shouldn't and wouldn't be controversial.

I reserve my time.

Ms. WATSON. I would like to call on the gentleman from Pennsylvania, Representative JOE SESTAK, for 2 minutes.

Mr. SESTAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate Asian Pacific American Heritage Month which does take place this year during May.

The Asian American Pacific Islander, AAPI, community is, as was already noted, a very culturally and ethnically diverse community with a very rich heritage in the United States of America. The AAPI community, as was noted, is composed of over 15 million people across the United States and is one of the fastest growing minority groups in America. It represents nearly 5 percent of my Seventh Congressional District in Pennsylvania, and without any doubt plays a very vibrant part of the rich cultural fabric of my district.

The AAPI community has also made significant contributions in developing our Nation. As was just noted in this brief exchange, there were many leaders, which I saw in my nearly four decades of military service from this rich community, whether from the Philippines, Japan, China, or across to India or the United Arab Emirates from being leaders in education, to fostering business and economic development, to promoting arts and media, and to helping develop innovative breakthroughs in health care medicine technology.

In 1978, a joint congressional resolution was established which had the Asian Pacific American Heritage Week finally come about. The first 10 days of May were chosen to coincide with two key anniversaries: The arrival in the United States of the first Japanese immigrants on May 7, 1843, and the completion of the transcontinental railroad on May 10, 1869, bringing together two parts of America, and I hope in more and more all the world. In 1992, Congress expanded the week finally to a month-long celebration.

Therefore, I am proud to join my colleagues in celebrating the rich heritage of the AAPI community that I see every day in my district and to recognize the contributions of the community during Asian Pacific Heritage Month.

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers at this time and continue reserving.

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call now on Representative FALEOMAVAEGA from American Samoa for 3 minutes.

(Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentlelady from California for her management of this legislation and also my good friend from California (Mr. ISSA) for bringing this legislation to the floor and for its consideration. I especially also want to thank my good friend and dear colleague, the dear lady from Hawaii as the author and chief sponsor of this important legislation. I know that the chairman of our Asian Pacific Congressional Caucus would have been here, Congressman HONDA, to also make comments concerning this proposed legislation.

I do want to say that in honor of Asian Pacific Heritage Month in which this Nation pays a special tribute to the contributions of some 15 million of our fellow Americans who are of Asian Pacific descent, I want to honor especially in particular the thousands of our Asian Pacific Americans who served in the Armed Forces of our Nation. In fact, this weekend it will be my privilege and a personal honor for me to visit Fort Bragg which has a lot of my fellow Samoan tribesmen who are members of the 82nd Airborne. We're going to have a tribal gathering there in Fort Bragg. There are going to be a whole bunch coming out of Fort Campbell, Kentucky, the 101st Airborne group, and I'm looking forward to meeting with them and also as part of our Asian Pacific Heritage Month.

Fifteen million Americans, Mr. Speaker, Asian Pacific Americans, are considered among the fastest growing demographic groups in the United States today. Although it makes up only 4 percent of our Nation's population, permit me to share with you an overview of some of the contributions of our Asian Pacific Americans. I know time will not permit me to give you the whole story here but just a couple just to note.

A couple years ago, a world-renowned physicist by the name of Dr. Chien-Shiung Wu, a Chinese American lady, perhaps little known to the average American, passed away quietly in her home in New York but for decades dedicated her life in study of beta ray physics. She was born in Shanghai and in her youth studied with Nobel Laureate E.O. Lawrence, the inventor of the cyclotron facility at U.C. Berkeley, where Dr. Wu also received her doctorate degree in physics. For some 30 years she taught physics at Columbia University. And in 1957, she also won the Nobel Prize in physics for her work on emission of electrons from radioactive nuclei.

Years ago, Time magazine featured as its Man of the Year Dr. David Ho for

his medical research in an effort to finding a cure for HIV/AIDS.

Dr. Makio Murayama, a Japanese American, conducted vital research in the United States that laid the groundwork for combating sickle-cell anemia.

There is also Dr. Leo Esaki, another Japanese American, who was awarded the Nobel Prize in physics for his electron tunneling theories.

And in the field of engineering, few have matched the architectural masterpieces created by the genius of I.M. Pei.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman's time has expired.

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, how much time do I have remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlelady has 9 minutes remaining.

Ms. WATSON. I would like to offer Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA another 3 minutes.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. I could talk to you about Bruce Lee. I could talk to you about Jet Li. But there is another one.

Now, another sports and movie icon is coming through his way in the movie industry. Believed to be the heir apparent to Sylvester Stallone and Arnold Schwarzenegger, none other than the former World Wrestling Federation champion wrestler, Dwayne Johnson, or commonly known as The Rock. After starring in his first movie, The Scorpion King, the Rock has also completed his sixth movie now, Get Smart, which is scheduled for release next month. Some of you may remember him in Be Cool, The Game Plan, The Rundown, and Walking Tall. His newest movie, G.I. Joe, is slated for release in the fall of next year.

The unique thing about the Rock is that while his father is African American/Native American and of European descent, his mother is pure Samoan Polynesian. Now just about every Samoan alive claims to be related to the Rock, including myself, Mr. Speaker.

Years ago, Duke Kahanamoku, a native Hawaiian, won the Olympic gold medal in swimming for the United States. And then there was Korean American Dr. Sammy Lee, who also won the Olympic gold medal in high diving for the United States in the Olympics. The interesting thing about Dr. Lee when I met him at the Olympics in Korea in 1988, because he was non-white, he was not allowed to train along with his fellow American Olympic athletes.

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So he had to become creative by performing high dives off cliffs and all the trees and I suspect even coconut trees, and despite all this, he still won the gold medal for our country.

Then we have our fellow Polynesians whom we exported to Japan. One happens to be a relative of mine, a Samoan Polynesian by the name of Saleva'a Atisano, who's a Sumo wrestler named Konishiki, that followed the other great Sumo wrestlers, Chad Rowen, Akebono; Peitani Fiamalu, also

a grand champion, Musashimaru. These are some of the great athletes.

As a Vietnam veteran, Mr. Speaker, it's ludicrous for me not to say something in honor and respect for the hundreds of thousands of Asian Pacific Americans who served then and now in all the branches of the armed services of our Nation. As a former member of the U.S. Army Reserve unit known as the 100th Battalion, 442nd Infantry Combat group, I would be remiss if I did not share with you the contributions of the tens of thousands of Japanese American soldiers who volunteered to fight our Nation's enemies in Europe during World War II.

Some of you may not be aware that after the surprise attack on Pearl Harbor, December 7, 1941, by the Imperial Forces of the Japanese government, there was such an outrage and cry for an all-out war against Japan, days afterward our President and the Congress formally declared war. But caught in this crossfire were hundreds of thousands of Americans, Americans mind you who just happened to be of Japanese ancestry.

Our national government immediately implemented a policy where some 100,000 Americans of Japanese ancestry were forced to live in what we call relocation camps.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman's time has again expired.

Ms. WATSON. I yield the gentleman an additional 1 minute.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. In our Nation's history, Mr. Speaker, let me just share with you the results of the bravery and the courage of these Japanese Americans who fought in Europe. 18,000 individual declarations for heroism; over 9,000 awards of the Purple Heart; 560 Silver Stars; and after some corrective action taken by the Congress, 19 Medals of Honor were awarded to these Japanese Americans who fought for our Nation.

We need to be reminded that forevermore we should never have this kind of thing happening in our Nation's history where people who happen to be of different ancestry or ethnicity are discriminated against simply because they are not like the rest of our fellow Americans.

I fully support this proposed legislation, and I ask my colleagues to approve this legislation. I thank again my good friend from Hawaii for her sponsorship and authorship of this bill.

Ms. WATSON. I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SKELTON).

Mr. SKELTON. I thank the gentlelady for yielding, and I speak in favor of this resolution.

Saturday morning in my hometown of Lexington, Missouri, I attended the graduation ceremonies of my alma mater, Wentworth Military Academy and Junior College, and at that ceremony, I had the privilege of presenting a scholarship to one of the young women of that student body in memory of my late wife, Susie Skelton.

But one of the most memorable aspects of this was the commissioning of 10 of the junior college graduates to receive their second lieutenancy in the United States Army Reserve. After two more years of college, they will be able to go into the active duty of our country or be full-time active members of the National Guard or Reserve.

What I speak about today very briefly is, of the 10, half of those newly commissioned second lieutenants at Wentworth Military Academy were from American Samoa, outstanding students, good soldiers, fine young Americans. I think that it should be brought to this body's attention that they are doing their best and their part in the national security of our Nation, and I must say I'm very proud of them.

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I would inquire of the gentlelady if she has additional speakers.

Ms. WATSON. We continue to reserve. There's no more speakers, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I'll close by urging support for this noncontroversial bill but also reminding my colleagues that there are many things undone in the way of righting the wrongs to Asian Americans and in thanking Asian Americans for what they have done for our country for 150-plus years.

So with that, I would yield back the balance of my time and urge passage.

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the over 14 million Asian and Pacific Islander Americans and the entire population of America for that matter, let us demonstrate our full support of this year's celebration of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month by passing H. Res. 1153 without reservation.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Asian Pacific American Heritage Month and to pay tribute to the many achievements and honor the countless unique contributions to the United States made by Asian Pacific Americans across our Nation.

May 7, 1843 marked the first arrival of Japanese immigrants to the United States and May 10, 1869 signaled the completion of the transcontinental railroad which is greatly credited to the labor of the Chinese immigrants. Therefore, it is appropriate that during this month we recognize the contributions and sacrifices made by Asian Pacific Americans.

Today, there are over 14 million Asian Pacific Americans living in the United States, representing 5 percent of the population. The rich history associated with the Asian Pacific American has left a lasting imprint on our country.

Over the years, the Asian Pacific American communities have made significant contributions to Texas's diverse culture. In my district, Dallas, TX, I am privileged to have the largest Asian American Chamber in the United States with more than 1,200 members. I believe that we all can learn from those who come from different backgrounds and cultures, and I can truly say that I have learned a great deal from my Asian Pacific friends and constituents.

I would also like to offer my deepest condolence to the families and friends of those who perished from recent tragedies in China and Myanmar.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to support this resolution and the Asian Pacific American communities in North Texas and across the United States.

Ms. WATSON. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATSON) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1153, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE CONGRESSIONAL CLUB

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1026) recognizing the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Congressional Club.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1026

Whereas the Congressional Club was organized in 1908 by 25 women who were influential in Washington's official life and who wanted to establish a nonsectarian and nonpolitical group that would promote friendship and cordiality in public life, and founded the Club to bring the wives of Members of Congress together in a hospitable and compatible environment in the Nation's Capital;

Whereas the Congressional Club was officially established in 1908 by a unanimous vote in both the House and Senate and is the only club in the world to be founded by an act of Congress;

Whereas the resolution establishing the Congressional Club was signed by President Theodore Roosevelt on May 30, 1908;

Whereas the Congressional Club's founding was secured by womanly wiles and feminine determination in the passage of the enacting resolution unanimously on May 28, 1908, in order to overcome the opposition of Representative John Sharp Williams of Mississippi, who opposed all women's organizations;

Whereas when Representative Williams was called out of the chamber by Mrs. Williams, the good-mannered representative obliged and withdrew his opposition and request for a recorded vote, saying, "upon this particular bill there will not be a roll call, because it would cause a great deal of domestic unhappiness in Washington if there were";

Whereas the first Congressional Clubhouse was at 1432 K Street Northwest in Washington, DC, and opened on December 11, 1908, with a reception for President-elect and Mrs. William Taft, but after Mrs. John B. Henderson of Missouri donated land on the corner of

New Hampshire Avenue and U Street, the cornerstone of the current Clubhouse was laid at that location on May 21, 1914;

Whereas the Congressional Clubhouse was built by George Totten in the Beaux Arts style and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and its mortgage was paid for by the sales of the Club's cookbook and burned by Mrs. Bess Truman in a silver bowl on the 40th Anniversary of the Club's founding;

Whereas the Congressional Club has remained a good neighbor on the U Street corridor for over 90 years, encouraging the revitalization of the area throughout the time of socioeconomic challenges, and leading the way in upkeep and maintenance of historic property;

Whereas the Congressional Club honors and supports the people of its neighborhood by inviting the local police and fire departments to the Clubhouse for lunch and delivering trays of Member-made cookies and candies to them during the holidays, by hosting an annual Senior Citizens Appreciation Day luncheon for residents of a neighborhood nursing home, and by hosting an annual holiday brunch for neighborhood children each December which includes a festive meal, gifts, and a visit from Santa;

Whereas the Congressional Club hosts the annual First Lady's Luncheon every spring since 1912 to honor our First Lady, and donates tens of thousands of dollars to charities in the name of the First Lady annually;

Whereas the Congressional Club has chosen among its many charitable recipients mentoring programs, United National Indian Tribal Youth, literacy programs, the White House library, youth dance troupes, domestic shelters, and child care centers;

Whereas the Congressional Club members, upon the suggestion of Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt, are encouraged to become discussion leaders on national security in their home States, from the trials of World War II to the threats of terrorism;

Whereas the Congressional Club extends the hand of friendship and goodwill globally by hosting an annual diplomatic reception to entertain the spouses of ambassadors to the United States;

Whereas the Congressional Club is solely supported by membership dues and the sale of cookbooks, and has never received any Federal funding;

Whereas the 14 editions of the Congressional Club cookbook, first published in 1928, reflect the life and times of the United States with recipes and signatures of Members of Congress, First Ladies, Ambassadors, and members of the Club;

Whereas the Congressional Club membership has expanded to include spouses and daughters of Representatives, Senators, Supreme Court Justices, and Cabinet members, and has included 7 members who became First Lady: Mrs. Florence Harding, Mrs. Lou Hoover, Mrs. Bess Truman, Mrs. Jacqueline Kennedy, Mrs. Patricia Nixon, Mrs. Betty Ford, and Mrs. Barbara Bush;

Whereas several members of the Congressional Club have been elected to Congress, among whom are Past President Mrs. Lindy Boggs, Mrs. Jo Ann Emerson, Mrs. Lois Capps, Mrs. Mary Bono, and Past President Mrs. Doris Matsui;

Whereas leading figures in politics, the arts, and the media have visited the Clubhouse for the past 100 years;

Whereas the Congressional Club is home to the First Lady's gown display, a museum with replica inaugural and ball gowns of the First Ladies from Mrs. Mary Todd Lincoln to Mrs. Laura Bush;

Whereas the Congressional Club is charged with receiving the Presidential couple, honoring the Vice-President and spouse, the

Speaker of the House of Representatives and spouse, and the Chief Justice and spouse, and for the orientation of spouses of new Members of Congress; and

Whereas the Congressional Club will celebrate its 100-year anniversary with festivities and ceremonies during 2008 that include the ringing of the official bells of the United States Congress, a Founder's Day program, a birthday cake at the First Lady's Luncheon, an anniversary postage stamp and cancellation stamp, a 100-year pin/pendant designed by Past President Lois Breaux, and invitations to President and Mrs. Bush, Speaker and Mr. Pelosi, Chief Justice and Mrs. Roberts to visit and celebrate 100 years of public service, civility, and growth at the Congressional Club: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Congressional Club;

(2) acknowledges the contribution of political spouses to public life in America and around the world through the Congressional Club for the past 100 years;

(3) honors the past and present membership of the Congressional Club;

(4) encourages all Americans to strive for greater friendship, civility, and generosity in order to heighten public service, elevate the culture, and enrich humanity; and

(5) encourages all Americans to seek out opportunities to give financially and to volunteer to assist charitable organizations in their own communities.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATSON) and the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from California?

There was no objection.

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform presents for consideration H. Res. 1026, which recognizes the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Congressional Club. The measure was introduced by Representative SANFORD BISHOP from the State of Georgia on March 6, 2008, and I, along with over 75 of my colleagues, are proud to be cosponsors of this bill.

H. Res. 1026 was taken up and approved by the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform as of April 9, 2008, which brings us up to today's consideration of the resolution.

Originally established on May 20, 1908, for the purpose of providing a non-partisan social setting for the spouses of Members of the House and the Senate, the Congressional Club continues to serve its initial purpose, although the breadth and activities of the club have greatly expanded over the past century, to include such annual events as the First Lady's Luncheon and Founders Day.

I yield now to Mr. SANFORD BISHOP for as much time as he may consume.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. I thank the gentlelady for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today along with Representatives TODD TIAHRT, JEFF MILLER, DORIS MATSUI, JO ANN EMERSON, JOHN TANNER and 76 other cosponsors of H. Res. 1026 to commemorate the Congressional Club on its 100th anniversary.

The Congressional Club was established in 1908 "to promote sociability among its members, create a common meeting place, and further a personal acquaintance among the women of the Congressional circle." In the early 20th century, Members of Congress actually had little time for making friends outside of Congress and/or government. It largely fell upon the wives to forge acquaintances in the Nation's capital, since many of them led solitary lives while away from their home States.

In 1914, the club moved into a Beaux Arts-style mansion located on the corner of New Hampshire Avenue and U Street, Northwest, here in Washington, D.C., where it continues to be the meeting place to this day. It has maintained its mission of serving as a place for spouses of Members of both the House and the Senate to develop non-partisan, bipartisan, I might say, friendships. In addition, its membership has been broadened to include both female and male spouses as more women have been elected to Congress over the last century.

The club also counts among its members spouses of Supreme Court Justices and the President's Cabinet, as well as former First Ladies. It has been a center for service since its founding, providing aid to our Nation's soldiers; supporting local police and fire departments; hosting receptions for senior citizens, the disadvantaged, young people and spouses of ambassadors. It is entirely self-supporting from membership dues and the sale of the Congressional Club cookbook, which includes recipes and signatures of Members of Congress, First Ladies, Ambassadors, as well as members of the club.

It's interesting to note that 100 years ago this May it took the charm of a determined wife of a Member of Congress to get the Federal legislation incorporating the club approved by the House of Representatives. The House minority leader, John Sharp Williams of Mississippi, had opposed the bill and was using parliamentary procedures to delay and to defeat the bill.

History has it that when Mrs. Williams, his spouse, who favored the club, heard about her husband's opposition, she invited him to lunch the day that the measure was to be considered on the House floor. After lunch, he withdrew his opposition and his request for a recorded vote, saying that, "It is the opinion of the gentleman from Mississippi that there will not be a roll call because it would cause a great deal of unhappiness in Washington."

As the proud spouse of the current president of the Congressional Club, Vivian Creighton Bishop, I'm pleased to be the sponsor of this resolution commemorating the club on reaching this important milestone.

I want to commend a number of people for their outstanding work in bringing this resolution to the floor: Richard Henkle on Congressman TIAHRT's staff; Doug Thompson on Congressman TANNER's staff; Denise Wilson on the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee; and Jonathan Halpern on my staff. I also would like to thank Vicki Tiahart, Susie Skelton and Lydia de La Vina De Foley for their excellent efforts in support of the club and, of course, in support of this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I again thank my colleagues who are cosponsors for their extraordinary support of this resolution, and I urge its immediate adoption.

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Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I, too, rise in support of this resolution. I certainly believe that 100 years of the attempts by spouses to have this body work together in a better, more collegial fashion is noteworthy.

Today, though, as we honor the work of our spouses, and particularly those who would say that if, in fact, you don't do what I'd like you to do, it could cause a great deal of domestic unhappiness—I believe was the line—in Washington, we should take note that this body is not operating in a collegial fashion. This body has, in fact, broken down. The concept of bipartisan behavior, including the long tradition of a motion to recommit, a long tradition of amendments and opportunities for ideas to be exchanged on and off the dais, has broken down.

So I do think it's important that we turn to recognizing an effort made 100 years ago at a time in which Members of Congress—House, Senate, Republican, Democrat—went to dinner together in each other's homes. Their children played together. They, in fact, lived here in Washington.

Living here in Washington has become sort of a term for misconduct. The idea that you would come and that you would work with 434 of your colleagues to make a better America, that you would walk across the Capitol and work with 100 Senators to make a better America seems to have fallen out of favor.

Today, unfortunately, we spend a lot of time meeting in our conferences on a partisan basis. In those conferences we ask, well, how can we beat them? How can we beat them now? How can we beat them in the election? We should be asking, how do we work together for a better government and a better America?

So I hope that the efforts of this club, which have been long, hard, and successful in many, many ways certainly in bringing our spouses together, certainly in activities for the community, will be a starting point today for us looking across the aisle and asking, why is it that we're afraid to have dinner together? Why is it that our meetings are Republicans with Republicans and Democrats with Democrats? We need to work together.

We have big problems in America today; some of them are obvious to Americans. We talk of the war and we talk of gas prices, we even talk of the Pelosi premium. Well, I believe it's a Pelosi premium, but it's a premium built on years of other people's mistakes and other people's watches.

Today, I use the opportunity given to me to talk about this important bipartisan resolution to say, let's solve gas and oil problems on a bipartisan basis. Let's deal with the challenges we face in Iraq and Afghanistan on a bipartisan basis. Let's deal with the immigration reform challenge on a bipartisan basis. Most of all, let's make sure that America's next 100 years is 100 years of success in competing worldwide. We can do this if we do it on a bipartisan basis. One hundred years ago, mostly women worked tirelessly to form an organization to help us do just that. Let's commit ourselves to doing just that today.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time and urge support.

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, for its rich history and ongoing traditions, I hope that we can come together as a body representing Americans far and wide, and in good humor, and following the procedures of this House, that we join together in recognizing the 100th anniversary of the Congressional Club. They do stand for bipartisanship. They do stand for working together. We, indeed, can eat together as fellows, friends, partners in making policy. And so let's use the example of this Congressional Club by agreeing to pass H. Res. 1026.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to yield the remaining time to the man from Missouri, the Honorable IKE SKELTON.

Mr. SKELTON. I certainly thank the gentlelady from California for her addition and leadership on this bill, as well as my friend from Georgia (Mr. BISHOP) for sponsoring it.

It's with a great deal of understanding as well as a bit of nostalgia that I speak in favor of this resolution.

I know full well of the bipartisanship of which my friends from California speak. I know full well of the work that this Congressional Club has done over, now that I've witnessed, nearly 32 years. I know of the friendships, both Democrat and Republican, that have been formed and have been forged together that will last a lifetime. I know, and I hope this body will fully recognize the fact that this Congressional Club has set forth the real standard on understanding one another in this body in the full spirit of bipartisanship.

It was my late wife, Susie, who had the honor to serve as the Treasurer of this Congressional Club in 1983 and 1984, and again as President of the Club in 1987 and 1988. And it should be of note that our colleague from California, DORIS MATSUI, served as an officer in the Club simultaneously with my late wife, Susie.

It is an excellent resolution for an excellent organization. I hope the next 100 years will see the same effort in

friendship and bipartisanship reign as it has in the past.

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 1026, recognizing the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Congressional Club. Founded by an act of Congress in 1908 and signed into law by President Theodore Roosevelt, the Congressional Club has been a home away from home for spouses of Members of Congress, fostering friendships across party and geographical lines.

The Congressional clubhouse was constructed in 1914, and since that time the club has been a vital and influential member of the U-Street corridor community, encouraging revitalization of the area by hosting programs with inner-city children, planning appreciation days at local nursing homes with senior citizens, and honoring the District's fire and police departments.

Mr. Speaker, the generosity of the Congressional Club members extends well beyond the District of Columbia. Club members have raised funds for the purchase of two evacuation planes for wounded soldiers, and donate tens of thousands of dollars to charity on an annual basis.

As a member of the Congressional Club now for several years, my wife Billie Gingrey has seen first-hand how the club has been a good friend and neighbor to the Washington, DC, community. I encourage all Members to join me today in recognizing the 100th anniversary of the Congressional Club, and to thank its members for their work and contributions to the community.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to today in support of House Resolution 1026, recognizing the 100th anniversary of the Congressional Club. One hundred years ago, the Congressional Club was founded to promote friendship among the spouses of Members of Congress. While keeping true to its purpose, the club throughout the years has become much more. Not only does this distinctive club build relationships between the two political parties, but it also organizes charity events and diplomatic receptions. Every spring since 1912, the spouses gather to host a luncheon in honor of our First Lady, and they donate tens of thousands of dollars to charities in her name. Many of the club's charitable recipients include mentoring programs, literacy programs, the White House library, youth dance troupes, domestic shelters, and child care centers.

Fulfilling their own mission to encourage all Americans to strive for greater friendship, civility, and generosity in order to heighten public service, elevate the culture, and enrich humanity; the spouses extend their hands globally in friendship and goodwill by hosting an annual diplomatic reception to entertain the spouses of Ambassadors to the United States. The Congressional Club encourages all Americans to seek out opportunities to give support and to volunteer to assist charitable organizations in their own communities.

I am proud and honored that my wife, Vicki Miller, is the incoming president of the Congressional Club next year. She follows in the footsteps of admirable Presidents including Mrs. Vivian Bishop, Mrs. Lindy Boggs, Mrs. JO ANN EMERSON, Mrs. LOIS CAPPS, Mrs. MARY BONO MACK, and Ms. DORIS MATSUI. I know Vicki is looking forward to carrying on the friendships and bipartisan traditions of the club.

Mr. Speaker, today I would like to congratulate the Congressional Club on its 100th anniversary and to recognize these spouses in their efforts to promote the greater good both here at home and abroad. May God bless them and may the Congressional Club continue in their friendship and charitable efforts for many years to come.

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 1026, recognizing the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Congressional Club.

As the resolution states, the club was "organized in 1908 by 25 women who were influential in Washington's official life and who wanted to establish a nonsectarian and nonpolitical group that would promote friendship and cordiality in public life."

Congressional spouses are active in the group, which is one of Washington's oldest and most venerable social clubs.

The Congressional Club has hosted the annual First Lady's luncheon for nearly a century, and makes numerous charitable donations in the name of the First Lady each year. The club also plays host to the spouses of foreign ambassadors serving here in the U.S.

For 100 years, the Congressional Club has contributed its time and efforts to numerous charitable causes, improved the cultural atmosphere in Washington, and extended a hand of friendship to the foreign diplomatic corps of countless nations.

The club deserves our recognition today, and I am proud to be a cosponsor of this resolution.

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to support H. Res. 1026, a resolution recognizing the 100th Anniversary of the founding of the Congressional Club.

From its very start, the Congressional Club has helped the spouses of Members to come together on a nonpartisan basis to form friendships and perform public service.

The role of the Congressional Club is as essential now as it was when the club was formed in 1908. Back then, Members and spouses often had to spend a long time traveling to Washington. Once here, spouses in particular faced the challenge of developing acquaintances and friendships in a new city and finding ways to share their talents to benefit the community and their country.

The club provided a refreshing nonpolitical atmosphere for friendships and charitable activities, a hallmark that continues to this day. Its headquarters at New Hampshire Avenue and U Street is listed on the National Registry of Historic Places and serves as an architectural anchor for the neighborhood.

Today, the Congressional Club continues to be a haven of civility and culture where the spouses of Members can meet outside of a political world that sometimes can be all-consuming and far too partisan. It is a testament to the positive things that happen in this town when creative and talented people get together for the sole purpose of serving the public good.

The Congressional Club has provided charitable support to literacy programs, domestic shelters, child care and seniors citizens, the White House library and United National Indian Tribal Youth. It brightens the holidays every December by delivering cookies to our local police and fire departments and hosting luncheons for nursing home residents and neighborhood children.

One of its best-known events is the First Ladies luncheon, which funds charitable activities. My wife Linda was chair of the First Ladies luncheon in 2007, so I well appreciate the tremendous amount of planning and organization that goes into making this such an anticipated and successful event.

The vital role that the Congressional Club plays in the life of the Capitol Hill community and this city at large is evident by the fact that it is the only club in the Nation founded by an act of Congress.

With its tradition of civility and service, the Congressional Club remains as important to the life of the U.S. Congress as it was when it was founded 100 years ago. I extend my sincere commendations to all of its members, past and present, and wish the club all the best on this memorable centennial.

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATSON) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1026.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

FEDERAL ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT DONATION ACT OF 2008

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 752) to direct Federal agencies to donate excess and surplus Federal electronic equipment, including computers, computer components, printers, and fax machines, to qualifying small towns, counties, schools, nonprofit organizations, and libraries, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 752

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Federal Electronic Equipment Donation Act of 2008".

SEC. 2. REQUIREMENT TO TRANSFER USEFUL FEDERAL ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT TO EDUCATIONAL RECIPIENTS.

(a) TRANSFER OF EQUIPMENT TO EDUCATIONAL ENTITIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Each Federal agency shall identify useful Federal electronic equipment that the agency has determined is excess to its needs and—

(A) report such equipment to the Administrator of General Services for processing for transfer to an educational recipient in accordance with section 549 of title 40, United States Code;

(B) transfer such equipment directly to an educational recipient, through an arrange-

ment made by the Administrator of General Services under subsection (b); or

(C) report such equipment to the Administrator of General Services as excess property if transfer under subparagraph (A) or (B) is not practicable.

(2) MANAGEMENT OF NONTRANSFERABLE EQUIPMENT.—For equipment reported under paragraph (1)(C), the Administrator of General Services shall manage the equipment in accordance with subchapters II and III of title 40, United States Code.

(3) EXCEPTION.—Equipment transferred pursuant to section 11(i) of the Stevenson-Wylder Technology Innovation Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C. 3710(i)) is neither transferred pursuant to this Act nor subject to this Act's requirements.

(b) ADVANCE REPORTING OF EQUIPMENT TO GSA.—Each Federal agency shall report to the Administrator of General Services the availability of useful Federal electronic equipment as far as possible in advance of the date the equipment is expected to become excess to its needs, so that the Administrator may attempt to arrange for the direct transfer from the donating agency to educational recipients.

(c) USE OF NONPROFIT REFURBISHERS.—In transferring any equipment pursuant to this Act, at the request of the educational recipient and if appropriate, if the equipment is not classroom-usable, the transferring agency shall convey the equipment initially to a nonprofit refurbisher for upgrade before transfer to the educational recipient.

(d) REMOVAL OF DATA BEFORE TRANSFER.—In transferring any equipment pursuant to this Act, the transferring agency shall remove data from the equipment prior to transfer to the educational recipient according to accepted sanitization procedures. To the maximum extent practicable, the transferring agency shall remove data using a means that does not remove, disable, destroy, or otherwise render unusable the equipment or components.

(e) PREFERENCE.—In transferring any equipment pursuant to this Act, the transferring agency shall give the highest preference to educational recipients located in an enterprise community or empowerment zone designated under section 1391 or 1400 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, a qualifying small town, or a qualifying county.

(f) LOW COST.—Any transfer made pursuant to this Act shall be made at the lowest cost to the educational recipient permitted by law.

(g) TITLE.—Title of ownership of equipment transferred pursuant to this Act shall transfer to the educational recipient receiving the equipment.

(h) NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF EQUIPMENT.—The Administrator of General Services shall provide notice of the anticipated availability of useful Federal electronic equipment to educational recipients by all practicable means, including newspapers, community announcements, and the Internet.

(i) FACILITATION BY REGIONAL FEDERAL EXECUTIVE BOARDS.—The regional Federal Executive Boards (as that term is used in part 960 of title 5, Code of Federal Regulations) shall help facilitate the transfer of useful Federal electronic equipment from the agencies they represent to educational recipients under this Act.

SEC. 3. RULEMAKING.

The Administrator of General Services shall prescribe rules and procedures to carry out this Act.

SEC. 4. EFFECT ON OTHER LAWS.

This Act supersedes Executive Order No. 12999 of April 17, 1996.

SEC. 5. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.

This Act may not be construed to create any right or benefit, substantive or proce-

dural, enforceable at law by a party against the United States or its agencies, officers, or employees.

SEC. 6. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) The term "Federal agency" means an Executive department or an Executive agency (as such terms are defined in chapter 1 of title 5, United States Code).

(2) The term "educational recipient" means a school or a community-based educational organization.

(3) The term "school" includes a pre-kindergarten program (as that term is used in the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965), an elementary school, a secondary school, and a local educational agency (as those terms are defined in section 9101 of that Act.)

(4) The term "community based educational organization" means a nonprofit entity that qualifies as a nonprofit educational institution or organization for purposes of section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and—

(A) is engaged in collaborative projects, the primary focus of which is education, with schools, qualifying small towns, qualifying counties, or libraries; or

(B) provides use of computers and Internet access to members of the community at no charge.

(5) The term "qualifying small town" means a political subdivision with a population of not more than 24,999 individuals where 20 percent or more of the residents earn less than the poverty threshold (as defined by the Bureau of the Census).

(6) The term "qualifying county" means a county where 20 percent or more of the residents earn less than the poverty threshold (as defined by the Bureau of the Census).

(7) The term "useful Federal electronic equipment"—

(A) means—

(i) computers and related peripheral tools (such as computer printers, modems, routers, and servers), including telecommunications and research equipment;

(ii) fax machines; and

(iii) any other electronic equipment determined by a Federal agency to be potentially useful to an educational recipient; and

(B) includes computer software, where the transfer of a license is permitted.

(8) The term "classroom-usable", with respect to useful Federal electronic equipment, means such equipment that does not require an upgrade of hardware or software in order to be used by an educational recipient without being first transferred under section 2(c) to a nonprofit refurbisher for such an upgrade.

(9) The term "nonprofit refurbisher" means an organization that—

(A) is exempt from income taxes under section 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986; and

(B) upgrades useful Federal electronic equipment that is not yet classroom-usable at no cost or low cost to the ultimate educational recipient.

SEC. 7. PREFERENCE IN DONATION OF PERSONAL PROPERTY THROUGH STATE AGENCIES.

Section 549(e)(3)(B) of title 40, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking "The state plan" and inserting the following:

"(i) IN GENERAL.—The state plan"; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new clause:

"(ii) PREFERENCE.—The state plan of operation shall require the state agency to give the highest preference for electronic equipment to eligible institutions (as described in subsection (c)(3)) that are located in an enterprise community or empowerment zone

designated under section 1391 or 1400 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, a political subdivision with a population of not more than 24,999 individuals where 20 percent or more of the residents earn less than the poverty threshold (as defined by the Bureau of the Census), or a county where 20 percent or more of the residents earn less than poverty threshold (as defined by the Bureau of the Census).”.

SEC. 8. REPORT TO CONGRESS.

(a) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator of General Services shall submit to Congress a report.

(b) CONTENTS OF REPORT.—The report shall contain the following:

(1) An inventory of items that Federal agencies identified as useful Federal electronic equipment that the agency has determined is excess to its needs in the first 365 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(2) The number of such items that were—
(A) transferred to educational recipients pursuant to this Act;

(B) transferred to other Federal agencies and organizations pursuant to section 521 of title 40, United States Code;

(C) transferred to State agencies pursuant to section 549 of title 40, United State Code; or

(D) disposed of through other means.
(3) Recommendations for further legislative or administrative action that the Administrator considers appropriate to establish an effective system for transferring excess useful Federal electronic equipment to educational recipients.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATSON) and the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from California?

There was no objection.

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

As a member of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, I am pleased to present for consideration H.R. 752, the Federal Electronic Equipment Donation Act, which will preserve an existing executive order issued during the Clinton administration directing Federal agencies to donate excess computer equipment to schools and education nonprofits, particularly those located in high-need areas.

At this point, I would like to have my colleague, the Honorable G.K. BUTTERFIELD, to have as much time as he will consume.

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. I want to thank the gentlelady for yielding the time and thank her for her leadership on this committee, and certainly thank her for her work on this bill. I also would like to thank Chairman TOWNS, in his absence, for allowing this matter to come to the committee and for his hard work not only on the committee, but here in the Congress.

Mr. Speaker, in short, H.R. 752 codifies Executive Order 12999, making many of the provisions permanent law, but also adds provisions making this much-needed equipment far more accessible to poor and underserved regions of our country.

The FEED Act, as we refer to it, would streamline the process for donating excess and surplus electronic equipment to small cities and towns and counties and school districts and libraries and community-based educational nonprofit organizations.

This legislation gives preference to poorer communities, which often have the greatest needs. This act would direct Federal agencies to transfer excess equipment to the GSA for transfer to the qualifying recipient at little or no cost.

The current system, Mr. Speaker, of acquiring Federal surplus equipment is flawed. It is riddled with governmental redtape. Many times it can take months or even years to receive requested equipment. There was one such case in my district, which was actually the impetus for the introduction of this bill, where GSA only began working on fulfilling the request after direct congressional action. Citizens in need of technology should be able to get it without bureaucratic redtape, which only serves to discourage the applicant from pursuing their goals.

Mr. Speaker, as you know, you and I both represent poor districts. I represent the 15th poorest district in the Nation. If my recollection is correct, you represent the poorest district in the Nation. And so we certainly understand.

My constituents do not have access to the technology afforded to so many. A small county, like Washington County in my district, which is the fifth poorest county in my State, are home to towns like Roper, North Carolina. With the county unemployment rate reaching nearly 8 percent, the visionary leadership of Mayor Estelle “Bunny” Sanders has transformed Roper into a technology oasis with job creation and training.

Roper, North Carolina, houses a technology center where citizens are put to work refurbishing and updating and repairing electronic equipment acquired through the process. They also receive training in Web development, server management and computer maintenance. Without the necessary excess and surplus electronic equipment with which to work, the technology center and its trainees stand the risk of losing years of hard work. Mayor Sanders has the patience and determination required to navigate the murky waters of Federal excess and surplus equipment, but most would not be that resilient.

Mr. Speaker, the Federal Government spends an enormous amount of the taxpayers’ money on technology. Last year, the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s budget included about \$110 million in annual technology-related costs. Once equipment becomes slight-

ly outdated, it shouldn’t just sit idle while there are so many needy small communities and schools and libraries that can still put it to good use.

Throughout the United States, many of our small towns and rural areas lack the very basic technology that many of us take for granted. This important legislation grants underprivileged communities across America access to Federal excess and surplus computers, printers and audio/visual and other technological equipment.

The bill, Mr. Speaker, is particularly important to communities in my district, and will be an important tool in building the electronic infrastructure for local governments, schools, libraries and nonprofits. Many of the communities that I represent need every bit of help they can get from this government, and hopefully this will free up some resources that can be used to address other pressing needs.

I am proud to have offered this legislation that will directly impact the lives of the underserved in this country. I would particularly like to thank Mayor Sanders for her work and dedication, and Mr. John Rosenthal, who has worked so hard with my staff for nearly 2 years in seeing this bill to fruition.

Mr. Speaker, the current system is hurting the very people that it was set up to help. This is a good bill. It is a good piece of legislation that will help not only the people in Roper or in my district, but help people all across the country, and we will all benefit from it.

I urge my colleagues to vote “aye” on H.R. 752.

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this legislation that codifies the 1996 executive order of President Clinton that was issued to promote the proper use of excess Federal computers and electronic equipment to schools of our Nation.

I might want to clarify, because I know a lot of people hear us on the House floor and they only know what they’ve heard. If you hear “excess” and “surplus,” you might think that, in fact, what we’re doing is simply overbuying and letting it sit in warehouses and then giving it away. Virtually all of this equipment in the executive branch, as in the legislative branch, are equipment that we have used for 2, 3, 4 years. It is, in fact, past its prime for us, but very usable by many other institutions.

So, Mr. Speaker, I would like to support this bill. I would like to also make sure people understand that we’re not just simply overbuying. And the term “excess” or “surplus” doesn’t by any means indicate that we’re not using America’s dollars wisely, but rather, we’re using America’s dollars again by making them available to people who can use a slightly used computer, who don’t need the latest version of Windows and might not need the latest version of Pentium software. But, in fact, this can help schools around America in poor neighborhoods and

even not so poor neighborhoods have a better opportunity and use their hard-earned and hard-given dollars in other areas.

□ 1415

So I support this resolution. I hope that the American public understands that this is a great way of causing these products not to go into landfills 3, 4, 5 years earlier than they otherwise would by making them available to those who can use them.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BUTTERFIELD).

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. I want to thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, in my desire to get through my prepared remarks a moment ago, I failed to recognize and thank the minority side for its work on this bill.

I certainly appreciate you, Mr. ISSA, and all that you have done on the committee and particularly your staff. You've been very helpful.

Also, I want to go on record in support of your comments that is not new equipment that's just sitting in a warehouse unused. It's equipment that has outlived its lifetime here on Capitol Hill and in other places but certainly can be used by smaller communities. So I want to associate myself with your remarks.

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the sponsor, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, for his work on the bill, as well as the various Members that helped to move this bill forward. We also got helpful input from the Committee on Science and Technology.

Chairman WAXMAN and Chairman GORDON exchanged letters regarding committee jurisdiction, and I will include these letters in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY,

Washington, DC, May 9, 2008.

Hon. HENRY A. WAXMAN,
Chairman, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I am writing to you concerning the jurisdictional interest of the Committee on Science and Technology in H.R. 752, the Federal Electronic Equipment Donation Act of 2007. The Committee on Science and Technology has jurisdictional interest in this bill based on the Committee's history of jurisdiction over the Stevenson-Wylder Technology Transfer Act of 1980 (P.L. 96-480). The Committee on Science and Technology was the sole House Committee of jurisdiction over the Stevenson-Wylder Technology Transfer Act of 1980 and has maintained jurisdiction over the law ever since. H.R. 752 makes specific mention of the Stevenson-Wylder Technology Transfer Act of 1980 and creates a program with overlapping objectives to those found in that act.

The Committee on Science and Technology acknowledges the importance of H.R. 752 and the need for the legislation to move expeditiously. Therefore, while we have a valid claim to jurisdiction over this bill, I agree

not to request a sequential referral. This, of course, is conditional on our mutual understanding that nothing in this legislation or my decision to forgo a sequential referral waives, reduces, or otherwise affects the jurisdiction of the Committee on Science and Technology, and that a copy of this letter and of your response will be included in the Congressional Record when the bill is considered on the House Floor.

The Committee on Science and Technology also expects that you will support our request to be conferees during any House-Senate conference on this, or any similar legislation. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

BART GORDON,
Chairman.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND
GOVERNMENT REFORM,
Washington, DC, May 9, 2008.

Hon. BART GORDON,
Chairman, Committee on Science and Technology, Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 752, the Federal Electronic Equipment Donation Act of 2008, which the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform reported, as amended, on April 9, 2008.

I appreciate your willingness to work cooperatively on this legislation and I recognize that the bill, as reported, contains provisions that fall within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Science and Technology. I agree that your inaction with respect to this bill does not prejudice the Science and Technology Committee's interests and prerogatives regarding this bill or similar legislation.

I will ensure that our exchange of letters is included in the Congressional Record during consideration on the House floor of H.R. 752.

Sincerely,

HENRY A. WAXMAN,
Chairman.

Mr. Speaker, the bottom line is that the Federal Government spends a lot of money on computers and we owe it to our taxpayers to get as much use out of them as we can. H.R. 752 will help us do just that. And as you just heard from the sponsor, these are pieces of equipment that no longer are being used but they certainly have great use.

So I support this measure and urge my colleagues to do the same.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SERRANO). The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATSON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 752, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

FEDERAL REAL PROPERTY DISPOSAL ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2008

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5787) to amend title 40, United States Code, to enhance authorities with regard to real property that has yet to be reported excess, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5787

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Federal Real Property Disposal Enhancement Act of 2008".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) In January 2003, the Government Accountability Office identified Federal real property as a high-risk area, citing excess property as a long-standing problem.

(2) The magnitude of the problem with excess Federal real property continues to put the government at risk for lost dollars and missed opportunities.

(3) The Administration has stated its goal is to reduce the size of the Federal real property inventory by 5 percent, or \$15 billion, by disposing of unneeded assets by 2015.

(4) The Federal inventory includes many properties that are no longer relevant to agencies' missions and agencies are spending billions of dollars to maintain these unneeded properties.

(5) The costs of preparing a property for transfer or sale continue to hamper some agencies' efforts to address their unneeded properties and serve as a disincentive to disposal because, in the short-term, it can be more beneficial economically to maintain a property that is not being used than to dispose of it.

(6) Agencies should give greater attention to right-sizing their real property portfolios.

(b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this Act is to reduce the Federal inventory of unneeded and costly property.

SEC. 3. DUTIES OF THE GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION AND EXECUTIVE AGENCIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 524 of title 40, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

"§ 524. Duties of the General Services Administration and executive agencies

"(a) DUTIES OF THE GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION.—

"(1) GUIDANCE.—The Administrator shall issue guidance for the development and implementation of agency real property plans. Such guidance shall include recommendations on—

"(A) how to identify excess properties;

"(B) how to evaluate the costs and benefits involved with disposing of real property;

"(C) how to prioritize disposal decisions based on agency missions and anticipated future need for holdings; and

“(D) how best to dispose of those properties identified as excess to the needs of the agency.

“(2) ANNUAL REPORT.—The Administrator shall submit an annual report, for each of the first 5 years after 2008, to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate, based on data submitted from all executive agencies, detailing executive agency efforts to reduce their real property assets.

“(3) ASSISTANCE.—The Administrator shall assist executive agencies in the identification and disposal of excess real property.

“(b) DUTIES OF EXECUTIVE AGENCIES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Each executive agency shall—

“(A) maintain adequate inventory controls and accountability systems for property under its control;

“(B) continuously survey property under its control to identify excess property;

“(C) promptly report excess property to the Administrator;

“(D) perform the care and handling of excess property; and

“(E) transfer or dispose of excess property as promptly as possible in accordance with authority delegated and regulations prescribed by the Administrator.

“(2) SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS WITH RESPECT TO REAL PROPERTY.—With respect to real property, each executive agency shall—

“(A) develop and implement a real property plan in order to identify properties to declare as excess using the guidance issued under subsection (a)(1);

“(B) identify and categorize all real property owned, leased, or otherwise managed by the agency;

“(C) establish adequate goals and incentives that lead the agency to reduce excess real property in its inventory;

“(D) when appropriate, use the authorities in section 572(a)(2)(B) of this title in order to identify and prepare real property to be reported as excess.

“(3) ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS.—Each executive agency, as far as practicable, shall—

“(A) reassign property to another activity within the agency when the property is no longer required for the purposes of the appropriation used to make the purchase;

“(B) transfer excess property under its control to other Federal agencies and to organizations specified in section 321(c)(2) of this title; and

“(C) obtain excess properties from other Federal agencies to meet mission needs before acquiring non-Federal property.”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The item relating to section 524 in the table of sections at the beginning of chapter 5 of such title is amended to read as follows:

“524. Duties of the General Services Administration and executive agencies.”.

SEC. 4. ENHANCED AUTHORITIES WITH REGARD TO PREPARING PROPERTIES TO BE REPORTED AS EXCESS.

Section 572(a)(2) of title 40, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating subparagraphs (B) and (C) as subparagraphs (C) and (D), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after subparagraph (A) the following new subparagraph:

“(B) ADDITIONAL AUTHORITY.—(i) From the fund described in paragraph (1), subject to clause (iv), the Administrator may obligate an amount to pay the direct and indirect costs related to identifying and preparing properties to be reported excess by another agency.

“(ii) The General Services Administration may be reimbursed from the proceeds of the sale of such properties for such costs.

“(iii) Net proceeds shall be dispersed pursuant to section 571 of this title.

“(iv) The authority under clause (i) to obligate funds to prepare properties to be reported excess does not include the authority to convey such properties by sale, lease, exchange, or otherwise, including through leaseback arrangements.

“(v) Nothing in this subparagraph is intended to affect subparagraph (D).”.

SEC. 5. ENHANCED AUTHORITIES WITH REGARD TO REVERTED REAL PROPERTY.

(a) AUTHORITY TO PAY EXPENSES RELATED TO REVERTED REAL PROPERTY.—Section 572(a)(2)(A) of title 40, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(iv) The direct and indirect costs associated with the reversion, custody, and disposal of reverted real property.”.

(b) REQUIREMENTS RELATED TO SALES OF REVERTED PROPERTY UNDER SECTION 550.—Section 550(b)(1) of title 40, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by inserting “(A)” after “(1) IN GENERAL.—”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following: “If the official, in consultation with the Administrator, recommends reversion of the property, the Administrator shall take control of such property, and, subject to subparagraph (B), sell it at or above appraised fair market value for cash and not by lease, exchange, or leaseback arrangements.

“(B) Prior to sale, the Administrator shall make such property available to State and local governments and certain non-profit institutions or organizations pursuant to this section and sections 553 and 554 of this title.”.

(c) REQUIREMENTS RELATED TO SALES OF REVERTED PROPERTY UNDER SECTION 553.—Section 553(e) of title 40, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by inserting “(1)” after “THIS SECTION.—”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following: “If the Administrator determines that reversion of the property is necessary to enforce compliance with the terms of the conveyance, the Administrator shall take control of such property and, subject to paragraph (2), sell it at or above appraised fair market value for cash and not by lease, exchange, or leaseback arrangements.

“(2) Prior to sale, the Administrator shall make such property available to State and local governments and certain non-profit institutions or organizations pursuant to this section and sections 550 and 554 of this title.”.

(d) REQUIREMENTS RELATED TO SALES OF REVERTED PROPERTY UNDER SECTION 554.—Section 554(f) of title 40, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by inserting “(1)” after “THIS SECTION.—”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following: “If the Secretary, in consultation with the Administrator, recommends reversion of the property, the Administrator shall take control of such property and, subject to paragraph (2), sell it at or above appraised fair market value for cash and not by lease, exchange, or leaseback arrangements.

“(2) Prior to sale, the Administrator shall make such property available to State and local governments and certain non-profit institutions or organizations pursuant to this section and sections 550 and 553 of this title.”.

SEC. 6. AGENCY RETENTION OF PROCEEDS.

The text of section 571 of title 40, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“(a) DEPOSIT OF PROCEEDS.—Net proceeds described in subsection (d) shall be deposited

into the appropriate real property account of the agency that had custody and accountability for the real property. Such funds shall be expended only as authorized in annual appropriations Acts and only for activities as described in section 524(b) of this title and disposal activities, including paying costs incurred by the General Services Administration for any disposal-related activity authorized by this title. Proceeds shall not be expended for activities or projects subject to the requirements of section 3307 of this title.

“(b) EFFECT ON OTHER SECTIONS.—Nothing in this section is intended to affect section 572(b) or 574 of this title.

“(c) DISPOSAL AGENCY FOR REVERTED PROPERTY.—For the purposes of this section, the General Services Administration, as the disposal agency, shall be treated as the agency with custody and accountability for properties which revert to the United States under sections 550, 553, and 554 of this title.

“(d) PROCEEDS.—The net proceeds referred to in subsection (a) are proceeds under this chapter from a—

“(1) transfer of excess property to a federal agency for agency use; or

“(2) sale, lease, or other disposition of surplus property.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATSON) and the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from California?

There was no objection.

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I stand in support of H.R. 5787, the Federal Real Property Disposal Enhancement Act, which is a sensible, bipartisan effort to address some of the problems with the current Federal property disposal process.

There are three key provisions in this bill. The first allows the General Services Administration to help pay the cost of other agencies' disposal activities. In particular, GSA will be able to help agencies pay costs with regard to properties that have yet to be declared excess. These costs include environmental cleanup, demolition, surveying, and life cycle costing.

Another key provision modifies existing law to make clear that when a property has been transferred to a non-profit organization or a State or local government for a public purpose and that public purpose is no longer being met, the property must revert to the Federal Government, which must dispose of it.

The final major provision allows all agencies to retain the proceeds from the sale of Federal surplus properties. These proceeds will be used for disposal activities such as developing and implementing a plan to identify and declare properties excess, appraisals, utilization studies, and life cycle planning. The Office of Management and

Budget has stated that allowing agencies to retain the proceeds will provide agencies with the funds necessary to cover upfront costs associated with disposals.

This bill does not waive any existing law regarding the screening process and therefore does not affect the access of homeless providers or State and local communities to these properties.

I want to commend Representatives MOORE and DUNCAN for introducing this bill. I also want to thank Chairman WAXMAN and Ranking Member DAVIS for their dedication to this issue for many years.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 5787, the Federal Real Property Disposal Enhancement Act, which was introduced last month by Representatives DENNIS MOORE of Kansas and JOHN DUNCAN of Tennessee.

This legislation would expand the number of agencies allowed to retain the proceeds from the sale of surplus Federal real property and would expand the authority of the General Services. It is very clear that this is a good bill, and I support it. It is also very clear that it is a step in the right direction but does not get us to where we really need to be. In fact, this is simply the tip of the iceberg.

The Federal Government is the largest landowner in the country. As such, it is essential that the government manage its properties as efficiently and effectively as possible. More importantly, property which is no longer of use to the Federal Government should be removed from the inventory. Unfortunately, over the years Federal property disposal processes have become increasingly cumbersome and unwieldy, and agencies often decide it's easier to sit on property than to try to get rid of it. In fact, when we as a Congress have done rounds of BRAC, we have often had to do supplemental appropriations of dollars in order to give away property that has become surplus. In fact, OMB estimates a backlog of more than 21,000 properties in need of maintenance and repair carrying a price tag of more than \$18 billion.

Under Republican control, the Congress spent a considerable amount of time working, mostly on a bipartisan basis, to reform the Federal real property disposal system. The proposals we put forward for substantial changes provided real reform. Although H.R. 5787 does not contain the kind of substantive reform put forward in prior Congresses, it is nevertheless an improvement on the current system.

I therefore ask my colleagues to strongly support this legislation as a step in the right direction.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, in closing, today we have handled a great many important resolutions on the floor and some laws. We've done this on a bipartisan basis.

As we finish our suspensions for the House Oversight and Reform Committee, I would simply ask my colleagues, the Speaker, to take note that this past week, prices rose once again on gasoline in America. Up 17 cents in a blink of the eye, up a dollar since this Congress switched hands.

It is very clear that we need to begin operating on a bipartisan basis to bring down the price of gas and diesel fuel. We can only do that if we work on as much of a bipartisan basis as we work on these resolutions.

So I would ask all of my colleagues to note that the real problem America cares about today is not the 100 years of the Congressional Club. It is not, in fact, Arnold Palmer's accomplishments. It is not even Frank Sinatra's doing it his way. It is, in fact, America's inability to cope with rising gas prices, staggering unemployment, and the inability to live in one's own home. I ask that my colleagues take note of that and that we work on a bipartisan basis to bring a real resolution to these problems.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, it is wonderful to live in a democracy when we can recognize our athletes, when we can recognize our entertainers, when we can recognize all of our people, along with doing the people's work.

The idea of a democracy says anyone at the lower end of the social economic scale as well as those at the top need recognition. We need to work together across aisles, not to be hampered by games that can be played, but sincerely coming together as a body representing the 280 million Americans and those who are not quite citizens and to do their work without phony procedures blocking our ability to make progress.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5787, as amended, and commend Chairman WAXMAN for taking steps to address Federal excess and surplus property issues.

H.R. 5787 authorizes the Administrator of General Services to obligate funds to pay for a variety of services that must be conducted before a property can be declared excess to the needs of the reporting agency. These services include title searches, site remediation, site security, and other activities necessary for a property to be declared excess. Further, the bill authorizes the General Services Administration to be reimbursed by the agency for these expenses from the proceeds of the sale of the property. The net proceeds are retained by the donor agency and can be used only for disposal-related activities.

I want to thank Chairman WAXMAN for recognizing the concerns of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure regarding the eligible uses of these net proceeds, and for working to address these concerns. The committee was particularly concerned that agencies, using this new-found source of revenue, would engage in real property activities that

would otherwise need to go through the prospectus process and thus the jurisdiction of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. The version of H.R. 5787 being considered today specifically addresses the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee's concerns by prohibiting the use of proceeds for activities or projects subject to the prospectus process and other requirements of section 3307 title 40, United States Code.

Mr. Speaker, I support H.R. 5787, as amended, and support placing the General Services Administration back in a leadership role for property disposal activities of the Federal Government.

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 5787, the Federal Real Property Disposal Enhancement Act. This is a bipartisan solution to address some of the deficiencies that exist in Federal real property management. I want to commend Representatives MOORE and DUNCAN for introducing this bill, and Ranking Member DAVIS for working with me over many years on property issues.

As GAO has indicated by placing Federal real property on its "high risk" list, problems abound. One such problem is that unneeded buildings are in the Federal inventory. The magnitude of the problem with excess Federal real property means that agencies are spending billions of dollars maintaining properties no longer relevant to agencies' missions.

The Federal Real Property Disposal Enhancement Act seeks to address some of the hurdles that agencies are facing regarding disposal of their unneeded property.

One key provision allows the General Services Administration to use its funds to prepare properties to be declared excess by other agencies. Agencies and GAO have testified that the cost of preparing a property for transfer or sale serves as a disincentive to disposal because, in the short term, it can be more beneficial economically to maintain a property that is not being used than to dispose of it. Basically, it is cheaper to pay to mow the grass and have a security guard than to do appraisals, surveys, and environmental studies.

Another key provision allows all agencies to retain 100 percent of the proceeds from sale. Most large landholding agencies already have this benefit. However, smaller ones, such as the Federal Communications Commission, which owns vacant towers, do not. After GSA obtained the authority to retain proceeds in 2005, its disposals increased.

In addition, the bill clarifies that when a piece of property has been given to a non-profit or State or local government for a public purpose and that public purpose ceases to exist, the federal government must revert the property and dispose of it. The bill also calls on GSA to issue guidance on disposing of excess properties and requires agencies to develop and implement plans to dispose of their excess property.

This is a commonsense measure and I am hopeful all members will be able to support it.

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATSON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5787, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the yeas have it.

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

NATIONAL MISSING CHILDREN'S DAY

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1142) recognizing May 25, 2008, as National Missing Children's Day, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1142

Whereas May 25, 2008, will be the 26th National Missing Children's Day;

Whereas National Missing Children's Day honors our Nation's obligation to locate and recover missing children by prompting parents, guardians, and other trusted-adult role models to make child safety an utmost priority;

Whereas in the United States nearly 800,000 children are reported missing a year, more than 58,000 children are abducted by non-family members, and more than 2,000 children are reported missing every day;

Whereas Congress' efforts to provide resources, training, and technical assistance has increased the capabilities of State and local law enforcement to find children and to return them home safely;

Whereas the 1979 disappearance of 6-year-old Etan Patz served as the impetus for the creation of National Missing Children's Day, first proclaimed in 1983; and

Whereas Etan's photo was distributed nationwide and appeared in media globally, and the powerful image came to represent the anguish of thousands of searching families: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes National Missing Children's Day and encourages all Americans to join together to plan events in communities across America to raise public awareness about the issue of missing children and the need to address this national problem,

(2) recognizes that one of the most important tools for law enforcement to use in the case of a missing child is an up-to-date, good quality photograph and urges all parents and guardians to follow this important precaution, and

(3) acknowledges that National Missing Children's Day should remind Americans not to forget the children who are still missing and not to waver in the effort to reunite them with their families.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. BISHOP) and the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. BIGGERT) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I request 5 legislative days during

which Members may revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous material on H. Res. 1142 into the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today in support of H. Res. 1142, which recognizes May 25, 2008, as the 26th National Missing Children's Day and urges everyone to do what they can to prevent the tragedy of a missing child.

In the late seventies, a succession of high-profile missing children's cases helped heighten the awareness and underline the seriousness of child victimization.

□ 1430

When Etan Patz went missing on his way to school in 1979, the first major national media campaign surrounding a missing child took place. The considerable media attention and comprehensive search helped highlight the problem of child abduction nationwide.

Etan's case and others helped expose a flaw in the system. At that time, there was no national response system in place to coordinate State and local cooperation or a central mechanism to support searching families. In 1983, May 25 was proclaimed National Missing Children's Day, and a nationwide movement was born. May 25 was chosen because it is the anniversary of Etan's disappearance.

More than 2,000 children are reported missing every day, but strides have been made to change this disturbing statistic. Programs such as the AMBER Alert Program, which notifies law enforcement officials and the public of child abduction cases, have done a lot to help return missing children to their families. To date, 329 children have been recovered because of the AMBER Alert Program.

Each May, we reflect on missing children and renew our efforts to reunite those young people with their families. National Missing Children's Day is an opportunity to remind families of the importance of maintaining up-to-date photographs of their children and to encourage everyone to give their full attention to the photographs and posters of missing children. Anyone can be a hero and offer the tip that helps return children to their families.

Protecting young children is one of our Nation's top priorities. On May 25 we will pause to remember the children whose lives have been lost, celebrate those who have been reunited with their families, and renew our efforts to continuing searching for children that are still missing.

Mr. Speaker, once again, I express my support for National Missing Children's Day, and I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today as an original cosponsor of House Resolution 1142, recognizing May 25, 2008, as National Missing Children's Day. In 1983, President Ronald Reagan declared May 25 to be National Missing Children's Day. In doing so, he provided an annual reminder of our Nation's obligation to locate and recover missing children. National Missing Children's Day prompts parents, guardians, and other trusted adult role models to make child safety a priority.

It is tragic that every year thousands of children are abducted or go missing in our country. While more missing children come home safely today than ever before, there is still work to be done. Nearly 8,000 children are reported missing each year in the United States. More than 2,000 children are reported missing every day. Too many children do not make it home, and many more continue to be victimized by acts of violence. In fact, children are the most victimized segment of our society, and crimes committed against children of all ages are the most underreported of any victim category.

In 1979, the disappearance of 6-year-old Etan Patz served as the impetus for the creation of National Missing Children's Day. Etan's photo appeared in the media across the Nation and around the world. His image came to represent the anguish of thousands of families searching for their missing children. Today, local, State, and Federal law enforcement work diligently across the country in an effort to find children and reunite them with their families.

In December 2007, the House of Representatives passed H.R. 2517, the reauthorization of the Missing and Exploited Children's Program. I am proud to be the lead Republican sponsor of that bill, and am hopeful that we will be able to complete the reauthorization this Congress.

Our efforts here in Congress provide resources, training, and technical assistance in order to assist in increasing the capabilities of State and local law enforcement to locate missing children. The recognition of May 25, 2008, as the 26th National Missing Children's Day serves to remind us that we still have work to do to reunite families, work that requires parents, families, neighbors, and law enforcement to come together to locate all missing children.

For this reason, I am proud to join my fellow cochair of the Congressional Missing and Exploited Children's Caucus, Mr. LAMPSON, in support of National Missing Children's Day, and thank him for introducing House Resolution 1142. I ask for my colleagues' support, and thank Mr. BISHOP for managing this bill.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res 1142, Recognizing May 25, 2008, as National Missing Children's Day. First, I would like to thank

my distinguished colleague, NICK LAMPSON of Texas, for introducing this important legislation. The sole purpose of this bill is to build awareness around the issue of missing children for the purpose of finding children who are currently missing and to prevent future abductions.

National Missing Children's Day honors our Nation's obligation to locate and recover missing children by prompting parents, guardians, and other trusted-adult role models to make child safety an utmost priority. It is important to create a voice within Congress on the issue of missing and exploited children and introduce legislation that would strengthen law enforcement, community organizing and school-based efforts to address child abduction.

In the United States, nearly 800,000 children are reported missing a year, more than 58,000 children are abducted by non-family members, and more than 2,000 children are reported missing every day. It is also reported that 1,682,900 children ran away or were thrown away, while over 200,000 children were abducted by family members. The National Center for Missing & Exploited Children has been instrumental in improving the recovery rate from 62 percent to 96 percent.

Between 1979 and 1981, a series of high-profile missing-children cases became national headlines. Three such cases contributed to the shock of the Nation's consciousness bringing attention to the seriousness of child victimization and forever changing the response by law-enforcement agencies to reports of missing children. For almost 3 years, national media attention was focused on Atlanta, GA, where the bodies of young boys and girls were discovered in lakes, marshes, and ponds along roadside trails. By the time a suspect was arrested and identified in 1981, 29 bodies were recovered. The suspect was apprehended, convicted, and now serves a life sentence in prison.

On May 25, 1979, Etan Patz disappeared from a New York City street on his way to school. Even before cases of missing children routinely garnered national media attention, Etan's case quickly received a lot of coverage. His father, a professional photographer, disseminated black-and-white photographs of Etan in an effort to find him. The massive search and media attention that followed focused the Nation's attention on the problem of child abduction and lack of plans to address it.

The tragedies of these children and others exposed a fundamental flaw. There was no coordinated effort between Federal, State, and local law enforcement; no national response system in place; and no central resource to help searching families. When it came to handling missing-children cases, the United States was a nation of 50 States often acting like 50 separate countries.

Mr. Speaker, I recognize National Missing Children's Day and request that all Americans join together to plan events in communities across America to raise public awareness about the issue of missing children and the need to address this national problem. One of the most important tools for law enforcement to use in the case of a missing child is an up-to-date, good quality photograph. It is important we urge all parents and guardians to follow this important precaution, and I acknowledge that National Missing Children's Day should remind Americans not to forget the children who are still missing and not to waver in the effort to reunite them with their families.

Mrs. BIGGERT. I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of New York. We have no further speakers, so I would yield back the balance of our time as well.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. BISHOP) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1142, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CONGRATULATING THE NORTHERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY NORSE WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM, CHAMPIONS OF THE 2008 NCAA DIVISION II TOURNAMENT

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1147) congratulating the Northern Kentucky University Norse women's basketball team, champions of the 2008 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division II tournament, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1147

Whereas on March 29, 2008, the Northern Kentucky University Norse defeated the University of South Dakota Coyotes 63-58 to become the 2008 National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division II women's basketball national champions;

Whereas the Norse overcame a 9 point deficit with 6 minutes remaining to secure the victory;

Whereas the Norse had to win 10 of their last 11 games to win the tournament;

Whereas the team finished their extraordinary 2007-2008 season with a 28-8 record;

Whereas Angela Healy, a senior from Fort Thomas, was named the Elite Eight's Most Outstanding Player;

Whereas this championship marks the second time the North Kentucky University women's basketball team has won the national title;

Whereas by excelling in academics and athletics, Nicole Chiodi, Angela Healy, Karen Brackman, Cassie Brannen, Danyelle Echols, Jessie Slack, Jessica Wendeln, Rachel Lantry, Kendra Caldwell, Diondra Holliday, and Rita Stefan are great role models for young women across the Nation;

Whereas Head Coach Nancy Winstel, Assistant Coach Matt Schmidt, Assistant Coach Danielle Zimmerman, and Strength and Conditioning Coach Livey Birkenhauer deserve recognition for their work guiding the Norse to their second national championship;

Whereas the Norse players, coaches, and those associated with the women's basketball team represented Northern Kentucky University and the Commonwealth of Kentucky with exemplary sportsmanship and competitiveness throughout the season; and

Whereas residents of Kentucky and Norse fans worldwide are to be commended for their longstanding support, perseverance, and pride in the team: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) commends the amazing performance of the Northern Kentucky University Norse in the National Collegiate Athletic Association Division II women's basketball tournament; and

(2) recognizes the achievements of the players, coaches, students, and support staff who were instrumental in the Norse championship.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlemen from New York (Mr. BISHOP) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mrs. BIGGERT) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I request 5 legislative days during which Members may revise and extend and insert extraneous material on H. Res. 1147 into the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today to congratulate the Northern Kentucky University Norse women's basketball team for their victory in the NCAA 2008 Division II tournament. On March 29, women's basketball fans were treated to an exceptional game as Northern Kentucky University overcame a nine-point deficit, with 6 minutes remaining, to clinch its second national team title. The show-stopping 63-58 defeat over third-ranked North Dakota broke the Coyotes' 31-game winning streak. The Norse women's basketball team had been strong all season, but was unranked going into the tournament. By winning 10 of their last 11 games, they were able to prove that they should indeed be considered number one.

I want to extend my congratulations to coach Nancy Winstel, who returned to her alma mater to lead the team to an impressive 28-8 record in her 25th season as head coach. Coach Winstel has been involved with the women's basketball program for 30 years at NKU, and reached the 500-win plateau as a college coach 3 years ago. Assistant coaches Matt Schmidt, Danielle Zimmerman, and strength and conditioning coach Livey Birkenhauer round out the coaching team.

Congratulations are also in order for senior Angela Healy of Fort Thomas, Kentucky. Healy, a strong inside scorer and rebounder, was named the tournament's Most Outstanding Player. During the final game she produced a double-double, scoring 14 points and grabbing 13 rebounds, to lead her team to victory.

The Northern Kentucky University women's basketball program is the only school in the State of Kentucky to win a national championship in a women's sport, and it now boasts two. The Norse women's basketball program is top notch, and the extraordinary achievement of this season is a tribute to the skill and dedication of the many

players, coaches, students, alumni, families, and fans that have cheered NKU along the way.

Winning the national championship and finishing the season with a 28–8 overall record has brought national acclaim to Northern Kentucky University. I know the fans of the university will revel in this accomplishment as they look forward to next season.

Mr. Speaker, I once again congratulate Northern Kentucky University for their success.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 1147, congratulating the Northern Kentucky University Norse women's basketball team, the 2008 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division II tournament champions. How far women have come since the days that women basketball players were required to play half court only. I remember those days. This has really changed.

On March 29, 2008, and before a crowd of 3,067, the unranked Northern Kentucky Norse, from Highland Heights, Kentucky, put an end to the third-ranked University of South Dakota's Coyotes' 31-game win streak. NKU's women's basketball team used a 23–9 run to overcome a nine-point deficit and beat South Dakota 63–58 in the 2008 NCAA Division II national championship game.

Only 3 weeks earlier, NKU was just hoping to make it into the NCAA tournament. The Norse improved its NCAA chances by advancing to the Great Lakes Valley Conference finals, where it lost to Drury. Despite the loss, the team received a fourth seed in the Great Lakes regional. Earlier in the tournament, NKU had to overcome a 15-point deficit to win its first round games against Indianapolis, 55–54. The Norse then whipped Drury, 84–65, and edged Missouri S&T, 60–52, on the path to the finals.

NKU is led by one of the top coaches in the NCAA Division II women's basketball, Nancy Winstel. Currently in her 25th season as head coach at Northern Kentucky University, Coach Winstel reached the 500-win plateau 3 years ago. With this most recent championship, Coach Winstel has led NKU to two national titles, having earlier guided NKU to the 1999–2000 NCAA Division II national championship.

We should recognize Northern Kentucky University for embracing a regional stewardship role as reflected by its significant consideration to the intellectual, social, economic, cultural, and civic vitality of the region and the commonwealth. NKU supports multidimensional excellence across the full breadth of its work: Teaching and learning, research and creative activity, and outreach and public engagement. The university fosters a community that values openness, inclusion, and respect, and is committed to intellectual and creative freedom and to the open expression of ideas.

I extend my congratulations to the university's President, Dr. James Votruba; Athletic Director Jane Meier; Head Coach, Nancy Winstel, and her staff; and all of the hardworking the players, the fans, and to Northern Kentucky University. I am happy to be joined by my good friend and colleague, Representative GEOFF DAVIS, in honoring this exceptional team and all of its accomplishments, and wish all involved continued success. I ask my colleagues to support this resolution.

If there are no further speakers on the other side, I would yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of New York. We yield back the balance of our time as well.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. BISHOP) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1147, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

AIRLINE FLIGHT CREW TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS ACT

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2744) to amend the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 to clarify the eligibility requirements with respect to airline flight crews, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2744

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Airline Flight Crew Technical Corrections Act".

SEC. 2. LEAVE REQUIREMENT FOR AIRLINE FLIGHT CREWS.

(a) INCLUSION OF AIRLINE FLIGHT CREWS.—Section 101(2) of the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 (29 U.S.C. 2611(2)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(D) AIRLINE FLIGHT CREWS.—

“(i) DETERMINATION.— For purposes of determining whether an employee who is a flight attendant or flight crewmember (as such terms are defined in regulations of the Federal Aviation Administration) meets the hours of service requirement specified in subparagraph (A)(ii), the employee will be considered to be eligible if—

“(I) the employee has worked or been paid for 60 percent of the applicable monthly guarantee, or the equivalent annualized over the preceding 12-month period; and

“(II) the employee has worked or been paid for a minimum of 504 hours during the preceding 12-month period.

“(ii) DEFINITION.—As used in this subparagraph, the term ‘applicable monthly guarantee’ means—

“(I) for employees described in clause (i) other than employees on reserve status, the minimum number of hours for which an employer has agreed to schedule such employees for any given month; and

“(II) for employees described in clause (i) who are on reserve status, the number of

hours for which an employer has agreed to pay such employees on reserve status for any given month,

as established in the collective bargaining agreement, or if none exists in the employer's policies. Each employer of an employee described in clause (i) shall maintain on file with the Secretary (in accordance with regulations the Secretary may prescribe) the applicable monthly guarantee with respect to each category of employee to which such guarantee applies.”.

(b) CALCULATION OF LEAVE FOR AIRLINE FLIGHT CREWS.—Section 102(a) of the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 (29 U.S.C. 2612(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(5) CALCULATION OF LEAVE FOR AIRLINE FLIGHT CREWS.—The Secretary may provide, by regulation, a method for calculating the leave described in paragraph (1) with respect to employees described in section 101(2)(D).”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. BISHOP) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mrs. BIGGERT) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I request 5 legislative days during which Members may revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous materials on H.R. 2744 into the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mr. BISHOP of New York. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Let me begin, Mr. Speaker, by thanking Chairman MILLER and Ranking Member MCKEON for supporting this bill and helping to bring it to the floor so quickly. I have been proud to be the primary sponsor of this bill. I also want to thank Mr. McCOTTER of Michigan, who was the primary cosponsor of the bill on the Republican side.

The Family Medical Leave Act has been a great program for working families in this country since it was passed in 1993. No one can question the benefit it has provided for working women and men by being able to take time off from work to care for themselves or family members.

The original intent of the law was to provide for 12 weeks of unpaid leave if an employee has worked 60 percent of a full time schedule over the past year, which is about 1,250 hours. So in order to qualify for FMLA coverage, an employee has to have logged in 1,250 hours over 12 months to be eligible.

□ 1445

While 1,250 hours adequately reflects 60 percent of a full-time schedule for the vast majority of employees in this country, that equation does not work for flight attendants and pilots. Flight attendants and pilots work under the Railway Labor Act, rather than the Fair Labor Standards Act, which covers most nine to five workers. Time between flights, whether during the day or on overnights and layovers, is based on company scheduling requirements

and needs, but does not count towards crew member time at work. Flight attendants and pilots can spend up to four to five days a week away from home and family due to the nature of their job. However, all of those hours will not count towards qualification.

The courts have strictly interpreted the law and insisted that crew members must abide by the 1,250 hours for qualification, even though the intent of the law was 60 percent of a full-time schedule. Airline flight crews have been left out of what was intended to cover them. Therefore, a technical correction is needed to ensure that FMLA benefits are extended to these employees. This legislation seeks to clarify the intent of the law.

This legislation simply states that an airline crew member will be eligible for FMLA benefits if they have been paid for or completed 60 percent of their company's monthly hour or trip guarantee and have worked 504 hours. This brings these transportation workers in line with the intent of the original legislation and as promised when the law was passed.

Last month in our Education Committee we heard from Jennifer Hunt, a flight attendant for US Airways. Jennifer was denied FMLA coverage when she applied to take time off to care for her ill husband, an Iraq war vet. Jennifer, like many other flight attendants and pilots as well, unfortunately did not meet the hourly requirement. This bill corrects that oversight.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for his support and for bringing this legislation to the floor, and I urge my colleagues to adopt this legislation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2744, the Airline Flight Crew Technical Corrections Act. Just last week, this bill was approved unanimously by the Education and Labor Committee. The reason H.R. 2744 has secured the level of support that it has is because it sticks to what its name promises, a bill that has been crafted narrowly to address a need identified by flight crew personnel that has arisen because of a technicality in how their work hours are calculated.

Airline personnel, including certain flight attendants, are subject to a unique scheduling process in which they are paid for being on call, but in some cases are not credited with those hours in the work requirement calculation used for Family and Medical Leave Act eligibility. What is the practical impact of this situation? Some flight crew personnel may work a full-time schedule, but fail to qualify for family and medical leave. This is a real concern for those grappling with health conditions or a family obligation.

The bill before us today is an important opportunity to extend the protections of FMLA to flight crew who might otherwise be denied benefits under the law. I am pleased to be a co-

sponsor of this important legislation, and I want to thank Representative BISHOP and Chairman MILLER for working with Members on both sides of the aisle to ensure this bill achieves its stated goal, no more and no less. But no one should look at this bill as a substitute for the type of comprehensive reform that is needed.

Mr. Speaker, many Members have been uneasy about efforts to open up the Family and Medical Leave Act for small changes when it is clear that broader reforms are necessary. The Family and Medical Leave Act has worked well for 15 years, offering workers the flexibility to attend to their own health or care for a loved one in their time of need without fear of losing their job.

But despite the law's many successes, it has also become clear that many changes are needed. The reality of today's workplaces are different than those of a decade-and-a-half ago. In addition, the courts have offered evolving interpretations, and, as is often the case with such a sweeping change to employment law, there have been unintended consequences for both employers and employees.

There is another reason that some of my colleagues have been cautious about opening up FMLA. There is always a danger that by placing special protections in the law for one group of workers, we may end up on a slippery slope of piecemeal changes that breed confusion rather than clarity. This could lead to unintended consequences that could actually harm workers if, for instance, our new protections for one class of workers are interpreted by the courts or Federal regulators as a means to exclude other workers. I think these are valid concerns, and that is why this bill has been drafted carefully in an effort to avoid these dangers. Going forward, I think we must be mindful of the consequences that could come from further attempts to tweak the law, rather than to give it a more thorough update.

So while I continue to believe that we must proceed with the utmost caution, I also believe it is reasonable today to correct this law so flight crews can benefit from the FMLA, just as millions of other workers do. The bill before us today is a small step, but one that will make a meaningful difference to a number of my constituents and other families across the country.

I would like to thank the flight attendants in my district who came in to see me on this topic for all their help. I am hopeful that we can take the same constructive approach on broader FMLA reforms to ensure that FMLA continues to work as it was intended, offering a balance for both workers and employers.

With that, if the gentleman has no further speakers, I will yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, let me just close by thanking also the great deal of support we had on the

Republican side of the aisle for this bill. I also want to thank the flight attendants for their tireless advocacy of their bill and the many long hours of work that they put in to secure approximately 240 cosponsors for this bill. I think the fact that we were able to generate so many cosponsors is a testament to the fact that this is a carefully and narrowly crafted bill that addresses an inequity that was never intended in the original law.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, today, the House has an opportunity to restore Congress' intent to allow flight attendants, pilots, and reserve flight crew members to take unpaid leave under the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 without fear of losing their jobs.

Passage of H.R. 2744, the Airline Flight Crew Technical Corrections Act, will ensure job protection for these workers when they need to time off to recover from an illness or care for newborn children or sick family members.

While millions of American workers are guaranteed up to 12 work weeks of unpaid leave, narrow Department of Labor regulations have rendered more than 200,000 flight crew personnel unable to take advantage of the Family and Medical Leave Act.

The problem is that flight crew workers are not paid or scheduled for work in the same manner as industries that are governed by the Fair Labor Standards Act. Currently, the minimum threshold to qualify under the Family and Medical Leave Act is based on working at least 60 percent of a normal 40-hour work week—or 1,250 hours annually.

However, most fulltime flight attendants' and pilots' work schedules are calculated based on their "in-flight" time—generally only those hours spent while the plane is moving. They are not paid for the time spent between flights or during layovers.

This means that an average flight attendant spends approximately 13 hours on-duty for every 5 hours of actual flight time. But only those 5 hours are counted towards their FMLA eligibility.

Work schedules for full-time flight attendants, pilots, or reserve personnel make it almost impossible to meet the minimum 1,250 threshold because of their unpaid time doing pre-flight and post-flight work activities.

The problem is that flight crew workers are not paid or scheduled for work in the same manner as industries that are governed by the Fair Labor Standards Act. Currently, the minimum threshold to qualify under the Family and Medical Leave Act is based on working at least 60 percent of a normal 40-hour work week—or 1,250 hours annually.

However, most full-time flight attendants' and pilots' work schedules are calculated based on their "in-flight" time—generally only those hours spent while the plane is moving. They are not paid for the time spent between flights or during layovers.

This means that an average flight attendant spends approximately 13 hours on-duty for every 5 hours of actual flight time. But only those five hours are counted towards their FMLA eligibility.

Work schedules for full-time flight attendants, pilots, or reserve personnel make it almost impossible to meet the minimum 1,250 threshold because of their unpaid time doing preflight and post-flight work activities.

On average, a flight attendant is scheduled for 960 in-flight hours each year, and according to FAA regulations, pilots are prohibited from flying more than 1,000 hours a year.

The legislative history is clear that airline attendants and pilots were meant to be covered when Congress enacted the original legislation in 1993.

The Airline Flight Crew Technical Corrections Act clarifies that flight attendants and pilots are entitled the benefits afforded by the Family and Medical Leave Act.

The legislation provides that airline attendants, pilots and reserve personnel meet the hours of service requirement in the Family and Medical Leave Act if they work or are paid 60 percent of the airline's monthly work schedule and if they work or are paid for at least 504 hours.

This number represents about 60 percent of the monthly work schedule of a typical airline.

Hard working flight attendants and pilots should be able to take needed family and medical leave, and they deserve the protection of the law in securing their jobs when they return from tending to their personal and family medical needs.

I would like to thank Congressman TIMOTHY BISHOP for introducing this important piece of legislation. I also thank the ranking member of the Education and Labor Committee, Mr. MCKEON, for working with us to help craft a true bipartisan bill.

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. BISHOP) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2744, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

NATIONAL PUBLIC WORKS WEEK

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1137) supporting the goals and ideals of National Public Works Week, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1137

Whereas public works infrastructure, facilities, and services have far-reaching effects on the United States economy and the Nation's competitiveness in the world marketplace;

Whereas public works infrastructure, facilities, and services play a pivotal role in the health, safety, and quality of life of communities throughout the United States;

Whereas public works infrastructure, facilities, and services could not be provided without the skill and dedication of public works professionals, including engineers and

administrators, representing State and local governments throughout the United States;

Whereas public works professionals design, build, operate, maintain, and protect the transportation systems, water supply infrastructure, sewage and refuse disposal systems, public buildings, and other structures and facilities that are vital to the citizens, communities, and commerce of the United States;

Whereas the Corps of Engineers, in partnership with public port authorities, provides navigational improvements that link United States producers and customers with national and international markets;

Whereas the public waterways, including locks and dams constructed, operated, and maintained by the Corps of Engineers, provide a safe, energy efficient, and cost effective means of transporting goods and services;

Whereas the Corps of Engineers, in partnership with local public entities, provides levees, reservoirs, and other structural and nonstructural flood damage reduction measures that protect millions of families, homes, and businesses;

Whereas highway investment by all levels of government supported a total of 2,140,000 jobs in 2007;

Whereas every \$1 invested in public transportation generates as much as \$6 in economic returns to the Nation's economy;

Whereas the capital asset program of the General Services Administration is authorized annually to provide Federal employees with necessary office space, courts of law, and other special purpose facilities;

Whereas since 1972 the Nation has invested more than \$250,000,000,000 in wastewater infrastructure facilities to establish a system that includes 16,000 publicly owned wastewater treatment plants, 100,000 major pumping stations, 600,000 miles of sanitary sewers, and 200,000 miles of storm sewers;

Whereas the Pipelines and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration is charged with the safe and secure movement of almost 1,000,000 daily shipments of hazardous materials by all modes of transportation and oversees the safety and security of 2,300,000 miles of gas and hazardous liquid pipelines, which account for 64 percent of the energy commodities consumed in the United States;

Whereas the National Railroad Passenger Corporation annually provides more than 25,000,000 people with intercity rail service;

Whereas 8 airfield projects are under construction, including 3 new runways, 2 airfield reconfigurations, 1 runway extension, 1 end around taxiway, and 1 center taxiway, providing some of the busiest airports in the Nation with the potential to accommodate more than 400,000 additional annual operations and improve airport safety and efficiency while decreasing the average delay per operation at these airports by almost 2 minutes;

Whereas in the report of the Department of Transportation entitled "2006 Status of the Nation's Highways, Bridges, and Transit: Conditions & Performance", the Department confirms that investment in the Nation's highway, bridge, and transit infrastructure has not kept up with growing demands on the system;

Whereas the National Surface Transportation Policy and Revenue Study Commission report estimates that the United States needs to invest up to \$340,000,000,000 annually for the next 50 years to upgrade the Nation's existing transportation network to a good state of repair and to build the more advanced facilities the Nation will require to remain competitive; and

Whereas public works professionals are observing National Public Works Week from May 18 through 24, 2008: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of National Public Works Week;

(2) recognizes and celebrates the important contributions that public works professionals make every day to improve the public infrastructure of the United States and the communities that those professionals serve; and

(3) urges citizens and communities throughout the United States to join with representatives of the Federal Government in activities and ceremonies that are designed to pay tribute to the public works professionals of the Nation and to recognize the substantial contributions that public works professionals make to the Nation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) and the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. PETRI) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Hawaii.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous materials on H. Res. 1137.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Hawaii?

There was no objection.

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of House Resolution 1137, supporting the goals and ideals of National Public Works Week. I thank the gentleman from Minnesota, JIM OBERSTAR, Chair of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, for bringing this measure to the floor and for his strong advocacy in support of our Nation's infrastructure needs.

This week, we honor and recognize the oftentimes unsung heroes of this Nation's public health and economic livelihood, the public works professionals who keep our country running smoothly. The infrastructure facilities and services that these professionals design, maintain and repair are critical to addressing our country's vast needs. Without our rail systems, our airports, our pipelines, our water treatment plants and other such services, our country would be unable to function.

Instituted as a public education campaign in 1960, every third week in May recognizes the quiet dedication of the workers who continue to build and maintain our country's transportation and infrastructure each year. For the hard work that these workers put in to improve each citizen's life on a daily basis, it is only fitting that we designate one week a year to celebrate their efforts. In the past, Presidents Dwight Eisenhower and Lyndon Johnson have sent letters of acknowledgment to this event, and a Presidential Proclamation was signed by President John F. Kennedy in 1962.

While we will continue to formally appreciate this week, I believe it would

also be fitting for us to show our appreciation through our actions. Last August, the House of Representatives passed the Water Resources Development Act of 2007, WRDA, by a vote of 381–40. This past November, this body overrode a presidential veto for WRDA 2007 by a vote of 361–54. The vote showed an ever-present need to continue to invest and improve in our country's vast network of infrastructure. We must continue to remind our President that these projects need funding, and that ignoring our Nation's needs will only cause our current problems to grow and our infrastructure to deteriorate.

I support our public works professionals, our transportation and infrastructure systems and National Public Works Week. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I join in support of the resolution before us. It is appropriate and important that we honor the hard-working men and women who make our infrastructure the envy of the world. Investment in the Nation's highway, bridge and transit infrastructure has not kept up with growing demands on the system. Our Department of Transportation found that to maintain highway bridge and transit networks, governments at all levels would need to invest nearly \$95 billion per year for each of the next 20 years, and to improve highway, bridge and transit networks, that level of investment would need to increase to nearly \$154 billion per year.

Recently, the National Surface Transportation Policy and Revenue Study Commission, a bipartisan commission made up of representatives from various transportation sectors appointed by leadership in both parties and from the executive branch, reported to the Congress that the United States needs to invest up to \$340 billion annually for the next 50 years to upgrade the Nation's existing transportation network to a good state of repair and to build the more advanced facilities that our people will require to remain competitive with other emerging economic powers around the world.

We have neglected this work for a generation, and it will come back to haunt our children and our grandchildren, unless we begin the necessary investment and the necessary work, not just to provide the jobs, which is obviously important, but to provide the efficient undergirding of our economy, which will enable us to maintain our standard of living, improve it, and maintain our competitiveness as an international power.

Our committee, the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, has jurisdiction over our water transportation system, and that consists of 926 coastal and inland harbors maintained by the Corps of Engineers and some 25,000 miles of inland and coastal com-

mercial waterways. If we don't keep our harbors and waterways operating efficiently, we obviously threaten our economic prosperity. To meet these needs, as well as the need for flood protection and environmental restoration, passing a Water Resources Development Act for 2008 is high on our committee's agenda.

According to separate studies conducted by the Congressional Budget Office, EPA and municipal groups, the current rate of capital investment will not keep our waterway treatment systems operational. State and local governments are spending nearly \$10 billion a year in capital investments and waste water infrastructure, and most of this funding comes from local ratepayers.

□ 1500

However, to meet the needs of communities all over our country, we should be doubling that spending. We can't continue to take our modern wastewater treatment facilities for granted. Not only are they critical to protect our health and environment, they are important to protect our economy as well.

Public infrastructure plays an important role in enhancing our quality of life, improving our environment, and contributing to our economic prosperity. These systems, and the professionals, engineers, and administrators who maintain them, are sometimes taken for granted. So it is important that Congress recognize the contribution they make to ensure that America remains the world's premier economic power, and passage of this resolution will do that. I urge all Members to support House Resolution 1137.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. HIRONO. In closing, Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the gentleman for his acknowledgement of the importance of maintaining our infrastructure, rail, water, air, and highways.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of House Resolution 1137. This resolution acknowledges and celebrates Public Works Week, which this year is celebrated the week of May 18 through May 24.

We celebrate National Public Works Week for a full week each year during the month of May. This week honors the many public works professionals—those individuals who design, build, operate, maintain, and protect transportation systems, water supply infrastructure, sewage and refuse disposal systems, public buildings, and other structures and facilities that are vital to our Nation. H. Res. 1137 pays tribute to these professionals.

Public works do exactly that—they allow our public to work, and they keep our country safe. Our industries and communities rely on railroads, highways, airports, and public transit to travel, and our government conducts business in public works buildings across this Nation.

Towns and cities around the country are serviced by necessary systems for sewage and waste disposal, as well as water supply for our homes, businesses, and crops. Pipelines safely transport natural gas and haz-

ardous liquids over millions of miles throughout the country.

It is appropriate to designate a week to recognize these entities and those who work for them and the public good. Public works are often not recognized until problems are encountered. As public works professionals work daily to coordinate, design, and maintain our public works, we must also work to fund our country's infrastructure needs, which are so critical to our Nation's economy and its citizens.

Last November, this Congress overrode a veto of the Water Resources Development Act ("WRDA") of 2007 by an overwhelming margin (361–54), showcasing the desires of the American people for renewed investment in our infrastructure. In contrast to this action, President Bush failed to include any projects authorized by WRDA in the fiscal year 2009 budget.

The House of Representatives has passed three additional water infrastructure bills: H.R. 569, the Water Quality Investment Act of 2007; H.R. 700, the Healthy Communities Water Supply Act of 2007; and H.R. 720, the Water Quality Financing Act of 2007. I urge my colleagues in the Senate to promptly take action on similar legislation.

On August 1, 2007, on the same evening that the House passed the WRDA Conference Report, the I-35W Mississippi River bridge collapsed during rush hour traffic in my home State of Minnesota. Of the 597,340 U.S. highway bridges, 73,784 are structurally deficient and 80,317 are functionally obsolete. This tragic event further highlighted the public works investment needs that our Nation faces.

Last week, the leadership of this committee introduced a bill to revitalize the Amtrak intercity passenger rail system.

I continue to vigorously support our country's public works, and I urge my colleagues to join me in agreeing to this resolution.

Ms. HIRONO. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1137.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

AUTHORIZING THE USE OF THE CAPITOL GROUNDS FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA SPECIAL OLYMPIC LAW ENFORCEMENT TORCH RUN

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 309) authorizing the use of the Capitol

Grounds for the District of Columbia Special Olympics Law Enforcement Torch Run.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 309

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring),

SECTION 1. AUTHORIZATION OF USE OF CAPITOL GROUNDS FOR D.C. SPECIAL OLYMPICS LAW ENFORCEMENT TORCH RUN.

On June 6, 2008, or on such other date as the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate may jointly designate, the 2008 District of Columbia Special Olympics Law Enforcement Torch Run (in this resolution referred to as the "event") may be run through the Capitol Grounds as part of the journey of the Special Olympics torch to the District of Columbia Special Olympics summer games.

SEC. 2. RESPONSIBILITY OF CAPITOL POLICE BOARD.

The Capitol Police Board shall take such actions as may be necessary to carry out the event.

SEC. 3. CONDITIONS RELATING TO PHYSICAL PREPARATIONS.

The Architect of the Capitol may prescribe conditions for physical preparations for the event.

SEC. 4. ENFORCEMENT OF RESTRICTIONS.

The Capitol Police Board shall provide for enforcement of the restrictions contained in section 5104(c) of title 40, United States Code, concerning sales, advertisements, displays, and solicitations on the Capitol Grounds, as well as other restrictions applicable to the Capitol Grounds, in connection with the event.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) and the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. PETRI) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Hawaii.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H. Con. Res. 309.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Hawaii?

There was no objection.

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

House Concurrent Resolution 309 authorizes the use of the Capitol grounds for the District of Columbia's Special Olympics Law Enforcement Torch Run. I thank Representative ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON for bringing this measure to the floor.

The Capitol Police, along with the D.C. Special Olympics, will participate in the torch run to be held on June 6, 2008. The D.C. Special Olympics will work closely with the Capitol Police and the Architect of the Capitol to make sure that the event is in full compliance with the rules and regulations governing the use of Capitol grounds. Consistent with all events on

Capitol Hill, the event will be free and open to the public.

The Law Enforcement Torch Run for the Special Olympics is run nationwide by law enforcement officers, leading up to each State's or National Special Olympics summer games. As a matter of fact, I have participated a number of times in Hawaii's Law Enforcement Torch Run.

Each year, nearly 50 local and Federal law enforcement agencies in Washington, D.C. participate to show their support of the D.C. Special Olympics. This torch relay event is a traditional part of the opening ceremonies for the Special Olympics which will take place at Catholic University in the District of Columbia. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this resolution.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

The resolution before us, House Concurrent Resolution 309, as has been pointed out, authorizes the use of the Capitol grounds for the District of Columbia's Special Olympics Law Enforcement Torch Run to be held June 6, 2008. Capitol Police and Metropolitan Police Department will serve as co-sponsors of this year's event.

Special Olympics is an international organization dedicated to enriching the lives of children and adults with disabilities through athletics and through competition. The torch run is a special event that works with Federal and local police departments to run the Flame of Hope to Fort McNair, the site of the local Special Olympics games.

The torch will be lit in a ceremony recognizing supporters of the Special Olympics on the west steps of the United States Capitol. Nearly 1,200 police officers, Special Olympics athletes, and members of the public will be present for the ceremony torch lighting and the start of the run. Once lit, the torch will be carried by police officers to Fort McNair.

More than 26 police departments will join together to support the Special Olympics by raising money, carrying the torch, or running in support of the Special Olympics. Support of Congress has helped this special event hold an opening ceremony on the Capitol grounds that works with both Federal and local police departments to support the Special Olympics. This year's event will be the 23rd held on the Capitol grounds. I encourage my colleagues to join the law enforcement community in supporting the Special Olympics and in joining me in supporting the resolution before us.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Con. Res. 309, authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the District of Columbia Special Olympics Law Enforcement Torch Run.

The District of Columbia Special Olympics is the premier event in this region that highlights the athletic accomplishments of children and young adults with disabilities. We all owe a special thanks to the tenacity to Eunice Kennedy Shriver and her family for exceptional work on behalf of persons with disabilities.

Law enforcement officers, who are part of the extensive volunteer network that support the games, carry the Olympic torch across the Capitol Grounds through the District of Columbia to Catholic University. The event will be open to the public and free of charge. The event sponsors will work with the Capitol Police Board to ensure all rules and regulations are followed.

These games are a wonderful expression of inclusiveness and a confirmation of individual contribution. I enthusiastically support this resolution and the very worthwhile endeavor of the Special Olympics.

I urge my colleagues to join me in agreeing to the resolution.

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 309.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

MOTORCYCLE SAFETY AWARENESS MONTH

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 339) supporting the goals of Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 339

Whereas approximately 7,000,000 motorcyclists ride on our Nation's roads and highways to commute, travel, and recreate;

Whereas motorcycles are a valuable component of the transportation mix;

Whereas motorcycles are fuel-efficient and decrease congestion while having little impact on our Nation's transportation infrastructure;

Whereas the United States is the world leader in motorcycle safety, promoting education, licensing, use of protective gear, and motorcycle awareness;

Whereas the motorcycling community is committed to decreasing motorcycle crashes through licensing, training, education, enforcement, personal responsibility, and increased public awareness;

Whereas, according to a comprehensive study conducted on motorcycle crash causation in the United States the "Motorcycle Accident Cause Factors and Identification of Countermeasures" (Hurt Report), in approximately two-thirds of fatal car-motorcycle crashes, the driver of the car was at fault;

Whereas motorcycle awareness is beneficial to all road users and will help to decrease car-motorcycle crashes;

Whereas May is designated as “Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month”; and

Whereas National Highway Traffic Safety Administration promotes Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month to encourage riders to always wear helmets and other protective gear, never drink and ride, be properly licensed, and get training and to remind all riders and motorists to always share the road: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—
(1) *recognizes the contribution motorcycles make to the transportation mix;*

(2) *encourages all road users to be more aware of motorcycles and motorcyclists’ safety;*

(3) *encourages all riders to receive appropriate training and practice safe riding skills; and*

(4) *supports the goals of Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month.*

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) and the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. PETRI) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Hawaii.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks, and to include extraneous material on H. Res. 339.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Hawaii?

There was no objection.

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in strong support of H. Res. 339, a resolution that supports the goals of Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month, and that brings much needed attention to motorcycle safety on our Nation’s roadways. I thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS) and the gentlewoman from Arizona (Ms. GIFFORDS) for bringing this important issue to the forefront.

As spring arrives, our highways and rural roads will once again see a large increase in motorcycle traffic across the country. Motorcycles make up a valuable component of the transportation network in our Nation, with over 6.2 million registered motorcycles in the United States in 2006. These numbers continue to grow in each year as registrations increase by over 60 percent from 1998 to 2005.

With gas prices approximating \$4 per gallon, motorcyclists benefit from the significant advantage they hold in fuel efficiency over drivers. However, this increasingly popular mode of transportation also requires greater attention to the safety concerns associated with riding. Because of their smaller size, motorcyclists are often hidden in a vehicle’s blind spot. Public awareness of motorcycle safety benefits everyone that uses our Nation’s roadways, not just motorcyclists, because it can lead to a decrease in car-motorcycle crashes.

Mr. Speaker, the statistics on motorcycle fatalities and injuries each year

further illustrate the importance of public awareness and the need for greater education of all roadway users. Per vehicle mile traveled, motorcyclists are approximately 37 times more likely than passenger car occupants to die in a motor vehicle traffic crash and eight times more likely to be injured. In 2006, motorcycle rider fatalities increased for the ninth straight year.

According to NHTSA, between 1996 and 2006 there were 35,546 motorcyclist fatalities, and 708,000 motorcyclist injuries on U.S. roadways. In 2006, there were 4,810 motorcycle fatalities and 88,000 injuries, up from 2,161 fatalities and 55,000 injuries in 1996.

Throughout Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month, riders are encouraged to become educated on the importance of following the rules of the roadway, being alert to other drivers, and always wearing protective gear, such as a helmet. NHTSA estimates that helmets saved 1,658 motorcyclists’ lives in 2006, and that 752 more lives could have been saved if the motorcyclists involved in fatal nonhelmeted crashes had worn helmets.

Mr. Speaker, as these statistics illustrate, increased awareness of motorcycle safety is an important and urgent need in this country. We cannot allow thousands of riders to die each year on our Nation’s highways. Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month helps to decrease motorcycle crashes through licensing, rider training, education, enforcement, personal responsibility, and increased public awareness.

I thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS) and the gentlewoman from Arizona (Ms. GIFFORDS) for introducing this resolution, and urge my colleagues to support its passage.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of House Resolution 339, which was introduced by our colleague, Representative MICHAEL BURGESS from Texas. The resolution expresses support for the goals of Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month.

Each May during Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month, State agencies and motorcycle organizations across our country conduct a variety of activities to remind all riders and motorcyclists to share the road. These activities also encourage riders to wear protective gear, never drink and ride, be properly licensed, and receive proper training. All of these important messages help motorcyclists and other motorists get ready for the busy riding season ahead.

In approximately two-thirds of fatal car versus motorcycle crashes, the driver of the car has been found to be at fault. Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month will help drivers of cars, trucks, and motorcycles remember that they must consider other users of the road as they use their own vehicles.

Additionally, this resolution recognizes the transportation benefits associated with motorcycling. Specifically,

motorcycles are fuel efficient and decrease congestion while having little impact on our Nation’s transportation infrastructure. I support this resolution, and I hope it brings attention to motorcycle safety across our Nation’s highways as well as the benefits associated with motorcycling. Mr. Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to support this resolution.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 339, as amended, a resolution that supports the goals of Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month and that brings much needed attention to motorcycle safety on our nation’s roadways. I want to thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS) and the gentlewoman from Arizona (Ms. GIFFORDS) for bringing this important issue to the forefront.

With warmer weather arriving, our nation’s highways will once again experience a large increase in motorcycle traffic across the country. Motorcycles represent a valuable component of the transportation network in our nation. In 2005 there were over 6.2 million registered motorcycles in the United States. Motorcycles continue to grow in popularity each year with registrations increasing by over 60 percent from 1998 to 2005.

Motorcycles are a fuel-efficient and congestion-decreasing mode of transportation and are a valuable component of our transportation system. This increasingly popular mode of transportation also requires greater attention to the safety concerns associated with riding. Because of their smaller size, motorcyclists are often hidden in a vehicle’s blind spot. Public awareness of motorcycle safety benefits everyone that uses our nation’s roadways, not just motorcyclists, because it can lead to a decrease in car-motorcycle crashes.

The statistics on motorcycle fatalities and injuries each year further illustrate the importance of public awareness and the need for greater education of all roadway users. In 2006, motorcycle rider fatalities increased for the ninth straight year. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (“NHTSA”), between 1996 and 2006, there were 35,546 motorcyclist fatalities and 708,000 motorcyclist injuries on U.S. roadways. In 2006 there were 4,810 motorcycle fatalities and 88,000 injuries, up from 2,161 fatalities and 55,000 injuries in 1996.

Per vehicle mile traveled, motorcyclists are approximately 37 times more likely than passenger car occupants to die in a motor vehicle traffic crash and 8 times more likely to be injured. Further, an estimated 137,000 motorcyclists have been killed since the enactment of the Highway Safety and National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act of 1966. A NHTSA-funded study—the “Motorcycle Accident Cause Factors and Identification of Countermeasures Study”—found that in approximately two-thirds of fatal car-motorcycle crashes, the driver of the car was at fault.

Throughout Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month, riders are encouraged to become educated on the importance of following the rules of the roadway, being alert to other drivers, and always wearing protective gear such as a helmet. NHTSA estimates that helmets saved 1,658 motorcyclists’ lives in 2006, and that 752 more lives could have been saved if the motorcyclists involved in fatal non-helmeted crashes had worn helmets.

Mr. Speaker, these striking statistics paint a very clear portrait of the need to decrease motorcycle crashes through licensing, rider training, education, enforcement, personal responsibility, and increased public awareness.

I urge my colleagues to join me in agreeing to the resolution, as amended.

Ms. GIFFORDS. Mr. Speaker, in my home state of Arizona we have 150,000 registered motorcycles.

With over 300 days of sunshine in our state every year, you can imagine why so many Arizonans choose to ride their bikes!

There are many other reasons why motorcycles are so popular, but one explanation is simple economics: the rising cost of gas.

Motorcycles offer a more fuel efficient—and cheaper way—of getting around.

On average, motorcycles can get between 40 and 75 miles per gallon of gas. And even as gasoline prices are hovering near \$3.75 a gallon in many parts of the country, motorcycle riders can fill up for less. According to the U.S. Department of Transportation, motorcycles consume 56 percent less fuel per mile traveled.

Many people are now taking the plunge to own and ride a motorcycle regularly. Over the past decade, U.S. motorcycle sales have more than tripled. They are growing in popularity as a fun and fuel-efficient alternative.

As a member of the House Science and Technology Committee, I am committed to working with all my constituents and colleagues in Congress to move our country forward and continue our tradition of international leadership on environmental issues.

And I am proud that, as a motorcyclist for over 20 years, I am leaving a smaller footprint on our earth by just riding my bike.

But, I do have concerns about road safety and that drivers sharing the road with me aren't looking out for my well-being. That is why I introduced House Resolution 399, recognizing the importance of motorcycles and supporting the goals of "Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month."

Motorcycles have a higher rate of fatal accidents than automobiles. U.S. Department of Transportation data for 2005 shows that for motorcycles, 75 fatal crashes occur per 100,000 registered vehicles—four times higher than for cars.

H. Res. 399 encourages riders to always wear helmets and other protective gear, to never drink and ride, and to be properly licensed and trained. It also serves as a reminder to all riders and motorists to always share the road respectfully.

These are important messages for all road users and timely information for motorcyclists in many areas of the country gearing up for the upcoming riding season.

I, for one, am ready to dust off my boots, grab my helmet, and get on the road!

Happy "Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month."

Mr. PETRI. I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 339, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF BICYCLING IN TRANSPORTATION AND RECREATION

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 305) recognizing the importance of bicycling in transportation and recreation.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 305

Whereas a national transportation system conducive to bicycling produces enriched health, reduced traffic congestion and air pollution, economic vitality, and an overall improved quality of living is valuable for the Nation;

Whereas by dramatically increasing levels of bicycling in United States cities tangible and intangible benefits to the quality of life for cities and towns across the country will be realized;

Whereas we now live in a Nation with 300 million people, and that number is expected to grow to 365 million by 2030 and to 420 million by 2050 with the vast majority of that growth occurring in urban areas with limited ability to accommodate increased motor vehicle travel;

Whereas since 1980, the number of miles Americans drive has grown 3 times faster than the United States population, and almost twice as fast as vehicle registrations;

Whereas one-third of the current population does not drive due to age, disability, ineligibility, economic circumstances, or personal choice;

Whereas the United States is challenged by an obesity epidemic, 65 percent of United States adults are either overweight or obese, and 13 percent of children and adolescents are overweight, due in large part to a lack of regular activity;

Whereas the Center for Disease Control estimates that if all physically inactive Americans became active, we would save \$77 billion in annual medical costs;

Whereas over 753 of our Nation's Mayors have signed onto the climate protection agreement of the United States Conference of Mayors urging the Federal Government to enact policies and programs to meet or exceed a greenhouse gas emission reduction target of a 7 percent reduction from 1990 levels by 2012;

Whereas the transportation sector contributes one-third of the greenhouse gas emissions in the United States and passenger automobiles and light trucks alone contribute 21 percent;

Whereas bicycle commuters annually save on average \$1,825 in auto-related costs, reduce their carbon emissions by 128 pounds, conserve 145 gallons of gasoline, and avoid 50 hours of gridlock traffic;

Whereas the greatest potential for increased bicycle usage is in our major urban areas where 40 percent of trips are 2 miles or less and 28 percent are less than one mile;

Whereas in 1969 approximately 50 percent of children in the United States got to school by walking or bicycling, but in 2001 only 15 percent of students were walking or bicycling to school;

Whereas as much as 20 to 30 percent of morning traffic is often generated by parents driving their children to schools, and in the United States, motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for children ages 3 to 14;

Whereas many public agencies in cities are using bicycles to deliver critical municipal services, for example, more than 80 percent of police departments serving populations of 50,000 to 249,999 and 96 percent of those serving more than 250,000 residents now have routine patrols by bicycle;

Whereas surveys show that a majority of people want to ride and walk more but are dissuaded by concern over traffic danger and other barriers, and case studies have shown that when those barriers to bicycling are removed, people start riding;

Whereas investment used for improvements for bicyclists and promoting bicycle use resulted in the quadrupling of bicycle use in Portland, Oregon, since 1994 and a recent report to Congress on the nonmotorized transportation pilot program reveals that 19.6 percent of trips in Minneapolis, Minnesota, are made by biking and walking, reflecting the benefit of initial investments in nonmotorized infrastructure;

Whereas the American bicyclist generates enormous economic returns, in 2006, the national bicycling economy contributed \$133 billion to the United States economy, supported nearly 1.1 million jobs across the United States, generated \$17.7 billion in annual Federal and State tax revenue, produced \$53.1 billion annually in retail sales and services, and provided sustainable growth in rural communities;

Whereas a national network of interconnected urban and rural bikeways can provide valuable community benefits, including low or no-cost recreation and alternative transportation options for people of all ages and abilities;

Whereas mountain biking is an environmentally friendly, healthy nonmotorized outdoor recreation activity that encourages young people to experience our natural world, and engenders community support for preservation of open space;

Whereas each year major charity bike rides in communities across the country raise in excess of \$100 million for critical medical research to find cures for life-threatening diseases;

Whereas 57 million adults in the United States bicycle each year, and bicycling and walking currently account for nearly 10 percent of trips and 13 percent of traffic fatalities, yet less than 2 percent of Federal transportation safety funding is currently spent to make bicycling and walking safer; and

Whereas communities across the United States are seeking ways to reduce traffic congestion, improve air quality, increase the safety of their neighborhoods, and decrease petroleum dependence, bicycles offer a simple, healthy, energy-saving alternative to driving: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That the Congress—

(1) recognizes that increased and safe bicycle use for transportation and recreation is in the national interest;

(2) supports policies that—

(A) establish national target levels for increased bicycle use, reduce the number of motor vehicle miles traveled (VMT), improve

bicycle safety to be achieved within a specific timeframe, and collect data needed to monitor progress;

(B) increase intermodal travel between public transportation and bicycles;

(C) provide incentives for State and local governments to adopt and implement complete street policies designed to accommodate all users, including motorists, pedestrians, bicyclists, transit riders, and people of all ages and abilities;

(D) encourage bicycle use in communities where significant segments of the population do not drive and where short trips are most common;

(E) expand funding for core Federal transportation programs that support non-motorized infrastructure, education, and encouragement programs by—

(i) safeguarding existing funding sources for nonmotorized transportation from inequitable treatment in the Federal transportation funds rescission process;

(ii) supporting funding for core Federal transportation programs that support non-motorized travel, including transportation enhancements, safe routes to school, and recreational trails; and

(iii) ensuring that highway safety improvement program funds are spent in proportion to the percentage of bicyclist and pedestrian fatalities in each State;

(F) facilitate the development of a coordinated system of United States bicycle routes across the country that cross state borders and connect metropolitan regions;

(G) create bicycle-friendly Federal land protection legislation, such as national recreation areas, to encourage regulations and management practices for mountain biking as an environmentally friendly non-motorized use of natural surface trails;

(H) provide flexibility in Federal transportation law that would speed up the delivery of nonmotorized infrastructure without sacrificing necessary environmental protections;

(I) provide Federal tax or funding incentives to—

(i) States that adopt motor vehicle laws that protect the rights of bicyclists to share the road;

(ii) businesses that expand bicycle-friendly programs for their employees;

(iii) the health care industry to develop more member discount programs, that target increased physical activity such as bicycling and walking; and

(iv) provide bicycle commuters the transportation fringe benefits currently provided to people who commute by car or mass transit; and

(J) build upon the "Green the Capitol Initiative" as a model, create and provide an environmentally sustainable and healthy working environment for employees that includes the promotion of bicycling as a transportation alternative;

(3) encourages the Department of Transportation to provide leadership and coordination by reestablishing the Federal bicycle task force to include representatives from all relevant Federal agencies.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) and the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. PETRI) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Hawaii.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their re-

marks, and to include extraneous material on H. Con. Res. 305.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Hawaii?

There was no objection.

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today in support of H. Con. Res. 305, a resolution that recognizes the important role bicycling plays in both recreation and transportation. I thank Representative EARL BLUMENAUER, an avid cyclist, for bringing this measure to the floor. May has been designated as National Bike Month, making it an appropriate time to consider this measure.

Cycling is a healthy, environmentally friendly activity and mode of transportation. At a time when our Nation is facing a growing obesity epidemic and the challenges of global climate change, we in Congress should be making every effort to encourage and accommodate cyclists.

□ 1515

H. Con. Res. 305 expresses the support of the Congress for a number of commonsense approaches to increase bicycling and to protect cyclists, including setting goals to reduce vehicle miles traveled, or VMT, and to increase the safety of cyclists, spending highway safety funds proportionately to the percentage of cyclist and pedestrian deaths, implementing "complete streets" policies that take into account the needs of all users when designing a road, streamlining non-motorized transportation project delivery while upholding environmental standards, creating bicycle-friendly Federal lands and developing a national bike route system, continuing and strengthening Federal programs that support nonmotorized transportation and increasing intermodalism, building on the Green the Capitol initiative, which includes a bike sharing program and sets an example for employers to be bicycle friendly.

In 1994, the U.S. Department of Transportation, DOT, delivered the National Bicycling and Walking Study to Congress, which created a now-defunct interagency task force to coordinate bicycling and walking safety and mobility efforts across Federal agencies. This resolution encourages DOT to reestablish this task force with representatives from all appropriate Federal agencies.

H. Con. Res. 305 gives us a foundation to use as we consider the role cycling will play in the upcoming surface transportation authorization, and lays out a number of thoughtful approaches to increase bicycling and keep cyclists safe.

I thank, again, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) for introducing this resolution, and urge my colleagues to support its passage.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of House Concurrent Resolution 305, introduced by our colleague, EARL BLUMENAUER from Oregon. The resolution expresses the importance of bicycles in our transportation system. Bicycles provide a way to reduce congestion on our highways, decrease air pollution and enrich the health of Americans who use them.

The resolution supports the implementation of State and local street policies that accommodate all users of transportation, and supports funding for core Federal transportation programs that support nonmotorized infrastructure.

With rising fuel prices, bicycling offers a way for Americans to save money and time on our busy highways, while maintaining and improving their fitness. I hope this concurrent resolution will bring attention to the many benefits of bicycling.

Mr. Speaker, I support passage of the resolution, and urge my colleagues to do the same.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Con. Res. 305. H. Con. Res. 305 recognizes the important role bicycling plays in both transportation and recreation, and is an appropriate resolution to consider in May, which has been designated as National Bike Month. This resolution expresses the support of the Congress for a number of policies that would encourage cycling and advance our intermodal transportation network. I thank the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) for introducing this resolution.

Our transportation choices can play a key role in solving the serious problems of worsening congestion and air quality, the obesity epidemic that afflicts millions of children and adults, and the threat of global climate change. To achieve these solutions, our transportation planning must be refocused to accommodate users of environmentally-friendly and healthy modes of transportation such as cycling. My experience has taught me that people want to get out of their cars; they want to lead active and healthy lifestyles; and they want to do their part to protect our environment. By providing the appropriate infrastructure, we can give people the option to make smart travel choices.

H. Con. Res. 305 expresses the support of the Congress for a number of common sense approaches to increase bicycling and to protect cyclists, including:

Setting goals to reduce vehicle miles traveled, VMT, to increase the safety of cyclists, and encouraging and allowing people to bicycle for short trips;

Spending highway safety funds proportionally to the percentage of cyclist and pedestrian deaths;

Implementing "complete streets" policies that take into account the needs of all users when designing a road;

Providing flexibility for nonmotorized transportation project delivery while upholding environmental standards;

Creating bicycle-friendly Federal lands and developing a national bike route system;

Continuing and strengthening Federal programs that support nonmotorized transportation and increasing intermodalism; and

Building upon the "Greening the Capitol" initiative, which includes a bike sharing program

and sets an example for employers to be bicycle-friendly.

In 1994, the U.S. Department of Transportation, DOT, issued the National Bicycling and Walking Study, establishing a national goal of doubling the percentage of trips made by foot and bicycle while simultaneously reducing crashes involving the two modes by ten percent. It also created a now-defunct interagency task force to coordinate these efforts across Federal agencies. This resolution encourages DOT to re-establish this task force with representatives from all appropriate Federal agencies.

H. Con. Res. 305 provides a framework for some of the choices that the Congress will need to make in the upcoming surface transportation authorization legislation. The Federal Government has a long history of visionary leadership in the transportation field, and we need to again show the leadership necessary to encourage mode shift, reduce congestion, and create a cleaner and healthier society. We must work to build a transportation system that enhances our quality of life and gives users modal choice, and bicycle infrastructure needs to be a part of this.

I urge my colleagues to join me in agreeing to the resolution.

Mr. PETRI. I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. HIRONO. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 305.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the yeas have it.

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

GAS PRICE RELIEF FOR CONSUMERS ACT OF 2008

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6074) to amend the Sherman Act to make oil-producing and exporting cartels illegal and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6074

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Gas Price Relief for Consumers Act of 2008".

TITLE I—AMENDMENT TO SHERMAN ACT

SEC. 101. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the "No Oil Producing and Exporting Cartels Act of 2008" or "NOPEC".

SEC. 102. SHERMAN ACT.

The Sherman Act (15 U.S.C. 1 et seq.) is amended by adding after section 7 the following:

"Sec. 7A. (a) It shall be illegal and a violation of this Act for any foreign state, or any instrumentality or agent of any foreign state, to act collectively or in combination with any other foreign state, any instrumentality or agent of any other foreign state, or any other person, whether by cartel or any other association or form of cooperation or joint action—

"(1) to limit the production or distribution of oil, natural gas, or any other petroleum product;

"(2) to set or maintain the price of oil, natural gas, or any petroleum product; or

"(3) to otherwise take any action in restraint of trade for oil, natural gas, or any petroleum product; when such action, combination, or collective action has a direct, substantial, and reasonably foreseeable effect on the market, supply, price, or distribution of oil, natural gas, or other petroleum product in the United States.

"(b) A foreign state engaged in conduct in violation of subsection (a) shall not be immune under the doctrine of sovereign immunity from the jurisdiction or judgments of the courts of the United States in any action brought to enforce this section.

"(c) No court of the United States shall decline, based on the act of state doctrine, to make a determination on the merits in an action brought under this section.

"(d) The Attorney General of the United States may bring an action to enforce this section in any district court of the United States as provided under the antitrust laws."

SEC. 103. SOVEREIGN IMMUNITY.

Section 1605(a) of title 28, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (6) by striking "or" after the semicolon;

(2) in paragraph (7) by striking the period and inserting "; or"; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

"(8) in which the action is brought under section 7A of the Sherman Act."

TITLE II—CREATION OF DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE PETROLEUM INDUSTRY ANTI-TRUST TASK FORCE

SEC. 201. ESTABLISHMENT OF DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE PETROLEUM INDUSTRY ANTI-TRUST TASK FORCE.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT OF TASK FORCE.—The Attorney General shall establish in the Department of Justice a Petroleum Industry Antitrust Task Force (in this title referred to as the "Task Force").

(b) RESPONSIBILITIES OF TASK FORCE.—The Task Force shall have the responsibility for—

(1) developing, coordinating, and facilitating the implementation of the investigative and enforcement policies of the Department of Justice related to petroleum industry antitrust issues under Federal law,

(2) consulting with, and requesting assistance from, other Federal entities as may be appropriate, and

(3) preparing and submitting to the Congress an annual report that—

(A) describes all investigatory and enforcement efforts of the Department of Justice related to petroleum industry antitrust issues, and

(B) addresses the issues described in subsection (c).

(c) ISSUES TO BE EXAMINED BY TASK FORCE.—The Task Force shall examine all issues related to the application of Federal antitrust laws to the market for petroleum and petroleum products, including the following:

(1) The existence and effects of any price gouging in sales of gasoline.

(2) The existence and effects of any international oil cartels.

(3) The existence and effects of any collusive behavior in controlling or restricting petroleum refinery capacity.

(4) The existence and effects of any anti-competitive price discrimination by petroleum refiners or other wholesalers of gasoline to retail sellers of gasoline.

(5) The existence and effects of any unilateral actions, by refiners or other wholesalers of petroleum products, in the nature of withholding supply or otherwise refusing to sell petroleum products in order to inflate the price of such products above competitive levels.

(6) The existence and effects of any anti-competitive manipulation in futures markets or other trading exchanges relating to petroleum or petroleum products.

(7) The existence and effects of any other anticompetitive market manipulation activities involving petroleum or petroleum products.

(8) Any other anticompetitive behavior that impacts the price or supply of petroleum or petroleum products.

(9) The advisability of revising the merger guidelines to appropriately take into account particular aspects of the petroleum and petroleum products marketplace.

(10) The advisability of amending the antitrust laws in light of any competitive problems in the petroleum and petroleum products marketplace described in paragraphs (1)–(8) that cannot currently be effectively addressed under such laws.

(d) DIRECTOR OF TASK FORCE.—The Attorney General shall appoint a director to head the Task Force.

(e) INITIAL REPORT.—The 1st report required by subsection (b)(2) shall be submitted to the Congress not later than December 31, 2008.

TITLE III—STUDY BY THE GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE

SEC. 301. STUDY BY THE GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE.

(a) STUDY.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study evaluating the effects of mergers addressed in covered merger consent decrees on competition in the markets involved, including the effectiveness of divestitures required under those consent decrees in preserving competition in those markets.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall submit a report to Congress and the Department of Justice regarding the findings of the study conducted under subsection (b).

(c) ATTORNEY GENERAL CONSIDERATION.—Upon receipt of the report described in subsection (b), the Attorney General shall refer the report to the Task Force established under section 201, which shall consider whether any further enforcement action is warranted to protect or restore competition in any market affected by a transaction to which any covered merger consent decree relates.

(d) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term "covered merger consent decree" means a consent decree entered in the 10-year period ending on the date of the enactment of this Act, in an enforcement action brought under section 7 of the Clayton Act against a person engaged in the business of exploring for, producing, refining, processing, storing, distributing, or marketing petroleum or petroleum products.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from

Virginia (Mr. SCOTT) and the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. KING) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Virginia?

There was no objection.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, we have seen the price of oil skyrocket, from about \$50 a barrel only a year ago, to nearly \$128 a barrel as of last week. The retail price of gasoline has likewise jumped and is now in the range of \$4 a gallon. Americans are finding it increasingly more difficult to fill up their gas tank in the family car.

A number of factors undoubtedly contribute to this dire situation. Some might cite the war in Iraq which the President has waged for 5 years, which has both diverted trillions of dollars from more productive uses in our economy and, at the same time, contributed to the weakening of the dollar against other currencies.

Others will say that we should be devoting more resources to alternative fuels. But let's not overlook the elephant in the room. We have a dysfunctional marketplace for oil. We depend on a few large oil refining companies to supply gasoline. They have become even fewer and even larger as a result of a wave of mergers over the last decade or so. What's more, at the center of it all is an international oil cartel, OPEC.

The Gas Price Relief For Customers Act of 2008, introduced by the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. KAGEN) addresses that marketplace dysfunction in three important ways.

First, it clears away the dubious legal doctrines that have been twisted to prevent us from holding the OPEC cartel accountable under antitrust laws. It will now be clear that price fixing violates antitrust laws just as much when committed by OPEC as it does by other cartels.

Just last week, President Bush traveled to Saudi Arabia, hat in hand, to ask King Abdullah to relax just a little OPEC cartel's choke hold on the world oil marketplace. King Abdullah said no, he would not.

OPEC's concerted manipulation of world oil marketplaces calls for more than begging for help. It calls for full antitrust enforcement. Our antitrust laws are international in their reach, and over the years they've been used effectively against numerous cartels around the world to vindicate the rights of American consumers to receive the benefits of honest competi-

tion. There is no excuse for giving the most notorious cartel a free pass.

Second, the bill requires the Justice Department to establish a task force to better ensure that it is effectively monitoring all parts of the petroleum and petroleum products marketplace for anticompetitive practices that artificially restrict supply or inflate prices, such as, for example, the illegal manipulation of investments in the futures market.

Third, the bill requires GAO to take a retrospective look at oil industry mergers that were allowed to take place over the past decade to assess to what extent the resulting increase in market concentration has contributed to the high gas prices Americans are now paying at the pump. This will help inform Congress and the antitrust enforcers as to what needs to be done to better ensure a competitive gasoline marketplace going forward.

These three important steps we can take now to better ensure, to better secure lower market prices for gasoline that the honest competition will bring about for all Americans.

I would, again, like to thank the gentleman from Wisconsin Mr. KAGEN for bringing this bill before us to the House.

I urge my colleagues to support it and reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself so much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, it's painfully obvious to the American people that the price of gasoline is going up. This week the national average price per gallon of gas hit \$3.77; that's up 63 cents from the same period last year. At every fill-up, American families are reminded that driving anywhere is going to cost them more than ever.

Higher gas prices cause a real drain on family finances, and if they remain high, they could serve as a drag on our economy. In fact, I believe they do serve as a drag on our economy.

Rising gas prices and subsequent congressional interest are not a new phenomenon. It seems that every year Congress conducts a new investigation of the oil industry. By my estimation, in this House, House committees have held no less than 20 hearings, and that's on the gas prices. In the House Judiciary Committee, alone, we've held two hearings just this year, and there's another one scheduled for this Thursday. Those hearings were last year, one more scheduled for this Thursday.

Despite all of this, all this oversight, the price at the pump continues to rise. As the Federal Trade Commission has reported, though, changes in world oil prices have explained 85 percent of the changes in the price of gasoline in the U.S. The price of gas at the pump closely tracks the price of a barrel of oil in the world market.

Further, the FTC has repeatedly found that there is no broad-based collusion to fix prices or engage in price gouging in the retail sale of gasoline.

Another factor impacting the price at the pump has been the decline of the dollar. While the cost of oil has gone up worldwide, its impact has been felt more in the United States because of the lower value of the dollar, vis-a-vis other countries. For example, while the price of West Texas intermediate crude, in dollars, has increased almost 109 percent since January of 2007, that would be the beginning of the 110th Congress, Mr. Speaker, it has only increased 78½ percent if it's calculated in euros or 84 percent in yen. "Only" seems like an interesting phrase to put in there. But a 109 percent increase in dollars, 78½ percent in euros or 84 percent in yen.

So what can Congress do to reduce fuel prices? It can expand the domestic supply of energy. Yet time and again, the Democratic leadership has rejected opportunities to increase that supply and bring gas prices down.

What has the majority brought to a vote?

Well, this is the second time in this Congress that we're considering NOPEC. Everyone knows that the world oil price is dictated mainly by the quantity of oil that the organization of petroleum exporting countries is willing to supply and, of course, in relation to the demand for that oil.

Most would argue that the presence of this cartel, controlled in large part by totalitarian or hostile regimes, is not helpful. The question is, though, what could or should Congress do about it? NOPEC is one possible solution to this problem, but because of the Act of State doctrine and the concept of sovereign immunity, Americans are precluded from suing the cartel that controls a good portion of the world's oil supply. This bill would change that or at least attempt to.

However, there is no certainty that enabling the Attorney General to sue OPEC for an antitrust violation will result in lower gas prices for Americans. Given the instability that such a suit might create in the world oil market, this legislation would be long on psychical compensation, but short on actual returns to America's pocketbook.

I'm concerned about the unintended consequences of this bill. Moreover, this particular bill has no consideration, has had no consideration in the House Judiciary Committee. In addition to the NOPEC provision which the House considered last year, it also creates a task force at the Department of Justice to study the anticompetitive aspects of the oil and gas markets. Yet the Federal Trade Commission has studied this area repeatedly and found no widespread collusion.

So, Mr. Speaker, what we are doing here is administratively burdensome on the Department of Justice and at best is duplicative of efforts that already take place at the FTC.

I recognize this bill will likely pass the House again today, but I urge the majority to quit with the cheap theatrics and easy votes. This Congress

should be considering legislation to actually expand oil supply such as drilling in ANWR. We're not seeing a vote on drilling in ANWR in this Congress, in this 110th Congress, or drilling in the Outer Continental Shelf, where I happen to know there are 406 trillion cubic feet of natural gas. But, rather, these bills are brought up that might prompt OPEC countries to turn off their supply of oil to the U.S. or to squeeze it down.

That's my opening statement and my view on this bill.

I would reserve the balance of my time, Mr. Speaker.

□ 1530

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the distinguished author of this bill, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. KAGEN).

Mr. KAGEN. Mr. Speaker, I wish to thank my colleagues for bringing attention to this important aspect of our economy. As everyone understands, the cost of oil and the cost of energy is hamstringing and pulling down every one in our economy. Northeast Wisconsin, much like the State of Iowa, is very similar to many places in the country. It's highly rural, and in large part in Wisconsin we've got the northern forest lands and farm lands.

Our way of life, like the rest of America, depends upon oil as a primary source of energy. Our way of life depends on affordable energy for our industries, such as agriculture, manufacturing of paper, of ships, and many other essentials.

Why all of this insight into northeast Wisconsin? Well, much like your friends and your families and your co-workers, my friends in Wisconsin are wondering how much longer they will be able to continue to farm, to drive to work, to transport their goods, to run their trucks at today's impossible gas prices. And what about our senior citizens who are struggling to live on fixed incomes? We owe them and everyone in the Nation to respond to the oil energy crisis that we face together.

Now, there are many causes for the increased price of gasoline, and Congress cannot address all of them. But the one thing Congress can do is to make certain that the price paid by our constituents for gasoline is not the result of anti-competitive practices and that the Department of Justice will devote necessary resources to address this issue.

In May of 2007, Congress passed H.R. 2264, the No Oil Producing and Exporting Cartels Act, otherwise known as NOPEC. This was by a vote of 345-72. And at that time, we were outraged, outraged that the price of crude oil was \$65 a barrel and at that time, \$3 for every gallon of gasoline. Now, compare that to today in May of 2008 when crude oil is over \$125 a barrel and \$4 at the pump. By passing NOPEC, the House agreed it was time to give U.S. authorities the ability to prosecute

anti-competitive conduct committed by international cartels that restricts supply and drives up prices.

OPEC, the world's most well-known oil cartel, accounts for more than two-thirds of global oil production, and OPEC's oil exports represent 65 percent of the oil traded internationally.

What NOPEC did was to remove the immunity of sovereign states, and appropriately so. However, the conduct of OPEC and its members has been beyond the reach of Federal prosecutors. NOPEC addressed this legal barrier for prosecution by removing their sovereign immunity and bringing the conduct of international oil cartels within the reach of United States antitrust laws.

This bill I submit today, the Gas Price Relief for Consumers Act of 2008, builds on NOPEC by doing three things: first, it incorporates the NOPEC provisions as passed last year; secondly, the bill authorizes the creation of the Department of Justice Petroleum Industry Antitrust Task Force. Among its responsibilities, the task force will examine such issues as the existence and effects of price gouging in the sale of gasoline, anti-competitive price discrimination by petroleum refineries, unilateral actions to withhold supply in order to inflate prices, and manipulation of the futures markets; and third, the bill provides for a GAO study as to the effect of prior mergers on competition and order divestitures in the petroleum industry.

Recent data reveal that at the same time oil supplies were going up and U.S. demand was going down, the oil prices continued to rise due, as some have suggested, to speculators in the oil and gas marketplace.

Well, like many others, I believe it's time to shed some light into the dark regions of the speculated oil markets, and this bill will do just that by allowing the Department of Justice, the GAO, and Congress to do its work to guarantee that oil prices reflect supply-and-demand economic rules instead of the wild and speculative and, perhaps, illegal activities of some.

Until we finally have an energy policy other than drill and burn, this bill will begin to set things right for the American people. Although this bill will not end the pain at the pump for us this month, it will deliver the information and the insight we need to construct a meaningful energy policy aimed at beginning to become an energy independent nation once again.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the minority whip, Mr. BLUNT of Missouri.

Mr. BLUNT. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I think we've already passed this bill in this Congress 345-76 or something like that. And I'm not surprised we're seeing it again. We're not seeing answers to the energy problems we face. Gas prices reached another high yet today. \$3.79 a gallon is the average in the country. American families and

small businesses are paying \$1.46 per gallon more today than they were paying when NANCY PELOSI became the Speaker.

In 2006, the minority leader at that time, NANCY PELOSI, said, Democrats have a commonsense plan to bring down skyrocketing gas prices. Well, for weeks now Republicans have been asking what that commonsense plan was, and we've given up on that; and so we will begin in the next new days going ahead and rolling out our plans as to what we think we could do to do something about these prices.

This bill was not an answer last year. It is not an answer this year. NOPEC is no answer. NOPEC is no policy. NOPEC actually means more dependence. Why we would want to continue to head down the road of more dependence on oil from outside the United States is amazing to me.

Ninety-one percent of all Americans commute to work using an automobile. And the increase in gasoline costs for the 3.3 million Americans who drive at least 50 miles each day to work has increased by \$1,200 since this Congress began its work 16 months ago.

I had a roundtable in my district last week with people, a lot of whom probably at the table I was at, the average was a drive of about 45 or 50 miles; and if you're working at a job that pays by the hour and you're driving 45 or 50 miles a day, you really don't have a choice. Where I live and where many of our Members live, there is no mass transit, there is no bus, there is no alternative other than to get there in your own car or to ride with somebody else.

And so you're now either paying an extra \$100 a month just to get to work or you're somehow sharing that \$100 with the person you figured out how to ride with. The average American drives about 15,000 miles per year, and that means the average Americans are now paying almost \$700 more for gasoline than they were when this new majority took over.

The upcoming Memorial Day weekend is really known as the traditional start of the summer driving season. It's only 4 days away, and 9 out of 10 trips made during that summer travel season are made in an automobile, 9 out of 10 family vacations occur in an automobile; and we're setting record prices every day. In fact, this is the twelfth consecutive day for an all-time record gas price increase. Last week was the ninth consecutive week for an all-time gas price increase record. And we have NOPEC back on the floor.

Mr. Speaker, it's time we got bills on the floor that did the things that need to be done to get the country heading in the right direction. Republicans have sponsored those bills, Democrats have sponsored those bills. But where are they? They don't have a hearing in the Energy Committee, they don't have a place on the floor, and gas prices continue to go up.

We need to do things that promote clean and reliable power generation.

We need to do things that improve expanding American energy production. We need greater energy efficiency, greater conservation, and in the short term, we could do things like we finally did last week on the Strategic Petroleum Reserve and like we've urged this Congress to do which is to abandon the 18½ cent Federal gas tax for the summer driving months and at least have that kind of impact on the driving public as we take another hundred days to try to find a real solution. We are not going to find the solutions by repeating work we did last year.

Americans are tired of these gas prices going up. This Congress should do something about it. It can't do something about it without energy bills on the floor that do more than study a problem that we all know only makes the dependence on foreign countries worse.

Let's reduce dependence, let's encourage research, and let's do what we can to get America moving again with energy policies that make sense for American families and American workers.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself very briefly such time as I may consume just to reference a report.

A comment was made about committee hearings. The report that I am referencing references the committee hearings and committee considerations and committee votes on the bill in the last year. It's essentially the same bill. The report is report number 110-160. It's an 11-page report that outlines what we did in terms of committee consideration.

I would yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Wisconsin.

Mr. KAGEN. Thank you, Mr. SCOTT.

Mr. Speaker, we just heard an argument made for that we shouldn't do another study, that we shouldn't look into the darkness of these oil-speculative marketplaces, that we shouldn't do anything but continue more of the same, more and more of the same.

Well, let me offer, Mr. Speaker, some numbers. The first number is 7. For 7 years, we have not had an energy policy. We have had an energy policy that was designed behind closed doors. The next number is 300, 300-percent increase in the cost of gasoline at the pump. The people in Wisconsin, the people across America need a positive change in their energy policy, and that we can do some time this fall.

The other number I would offer is 200. It's a 200 percent increase in fuel oil prices. Now, if you're living in northern Wisconsin and you are using fuel oil to heat your home and you are on a fixed income, this is pain not just at the pump but also at home. And I want to bring attention to the fact that we are bringing about that change, but we can't do it without studying and getting the facts; and this bill will offer that opportunity.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I would yield 3 minutes to the gentleman

from California (Mr. LEWIS), the ranking member of the Appropriations Committee.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I want to express my appreciation to the gentleman from Iowa for yielding me this time.

I must say that I came to the floor with great expectancy that we were discussing something that would actually provide gas price relief. Instead, we have another study that reviews the question of cartels and their impact upon prices of gasoline or oil in the United States presuming that unilaterally America, one way or another, can control what other countries do in terms of their partnerships known as cartels.

I must say that it's very clear that there are any number of avenues that can be followed, that should have been followed formerly that can affect the availability of crude oil in the United States. We have a huge, huge domestic supply.

In my own State, California, you have heard a bit today about a thing called the Pelosi premium. Frankly I'm not excited much about the Pelosi premium. The fact that the gentledady from San Francisco is now the Speaker of the House is significant to California, but her district, just like mine, must be suffering as much as everybody with the price per gallon of gasoline at the pump. So together, we've got to try in California to find policy and program that will bring about change.

For example, for a long time for appropriate reasons we've been very sensitive about offshore drilling in California because of our beautiful Pacific Coast. We also now know that there are technologies developed and available beyond the site line that could cause us to at least take a look at how we tap that crude oil far off of our coast as a potential alternative supply. Without supply to meet the demand, America is not going to have independence from the Middle East.

Look to the south. The gulf region has tremendous potential in terms of future crude development. Could we not have developed policies that are foreign policies dealing with Latin countries to help them technologically better tap those sources so in spite of what goes on in Florida or in Texas or otherwise near the gulf, we could be reaching out in ways to allow that crude oil to become available here in our domestic supply and thereby put pressure on OPEC.

□ 1545

The technology that is developing relative to what we do with shale has tremendous potential in terms of tapping our reserves. We know that takes time but it also takes priority.

Instead of phony cartel bills, where are the bills that bring forward those policy changes and add to the research, as well as the specific funding for technology to reach into those reserves?

My friends on the floor have talked about the fact that it would take 10 years for us to effectively tap resources in Alaska, but for 10 years, those same people have been resisting our tapping into those resources. If we'd begun 10 years ago, that crude oil would be online right this moment, putting pressure on the process to allow us to meet our demand more effectively here at home rather than depending upon those overseas.

So, Mr. Speaker, it's time we got onto the policies in both bodies that make sense for America, and I appreciate the time.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume just to point out that this isn't the only thing that we're trying to do. This is just one of the things that we're trying to do about excessive gas prices.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentledady from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) such time as she may consume.

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. I thank the distinguished gentleman from Virginia for his leadership, and I appreciate greatly the leadership of Dr. KAGEN of Wisconsin for this enormously thoughtful legislation for it is focused, if you will, on moving the ball forward for suffering constituents, whether they're in Wisconsin, Virginia, Texas. Even oil- and gas-producing States such as Texas are facing the crisis of oil shortages, gasoline high prices and difficulties for working men and women.

Why is this thoughtful? I serve on the Antitrust Task Force on the House Judiciary Committee, and we're looking at broad-based issues, domestic and international, on how prices are being either constrained or expanded by the idea of maintaining price controls.

And so OPEC itself, being with many of its members who are part of the WTO, certainly can be subjected to the question that is raised by this legislation.

The bill authorizes the Attorney General to establish a Department of Justice petroleum industry antitrust task force, very thoughtful and forward-thinking. This task force has the responsibility to develop, coordinate and facilitate the implementation of the investigative and enforcement policies of the Department of Justice related to the petroleum industry.

We must do something, and this is a complement to the very important work that the Democrats did moving forward very important energy legislation that deals with alternatives, that really spoke to Mom and Pop, that spoke to the truck drivers.

And I look forward to working with my colleagues as we move this legislation forward to address the question of whether OPEC is manipulating prices. Certainly, it can be a better approach on what happened over the last couple of days when we know that one of the

OPEC members simply said I'll give you a few pennies on the market by offering up an extra couple of barrels of oil.

This is a reasoned perspective, and so I would reach out to the administration to work with us. The energy bill is languishing. Why? Because we hear that the administration will, in fact, veto it.

There are some ideas that I think are important. Those of us on the gulf region have supported a safe, environmental process of exploring in the gulf. Some of us do believe that there can be a moratorium on gasoline taxes if it comes from someplace other than the Highway Trust Fund.

Dr. KAGEN's bill is meaningful; it is forthright. It says what it wants to do, and it gives the procedures for doing so with an important task force that questions OPEC and its ability to manipulate prices. It is answering the question of those Americans who are in need of relief, those truck drivers who are in need of relief, and I ask my colleagues to support again this very thoughtful legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 6074, the "Gas Price Relief for Consumers Act of 2008." I support this bill.

The purpose of this bill is to amend the Sherman Act to make oil-producing and exporting cartels illegal and for other purposes. The bill makes it illegal for any foreign state or instrumentality to act collectively or in combination with any foreign state, to limit the production or distribution of oil, natural gas, or any other petroleum product. It also makes it illegal to set or maintain the price of oil or natural gas, or petroleum product or otherwise take any action in restraint of trade for such products.

The bill authorizes the Attorney General to establish in the Department of Justice a Petroleum Industry Antitrust Task Force. This Task Force has the responsibility to develop, coordinate, and facilitate the implementation of the investigative and enforcement policies of the Department of Justice related to the petroleum industry.

The bill authorizes the Task Force to provide an annual report to Congress describing the investigatory and enforcement efforts. The bill also requires the Government Accountability Office to conduct a study evaluating the effects of mergers addressed in merger consent decrees on competition within 1 year of enactment of this bill.

This bill is an important effort to address the oil crisis faced by the United States. Americans are in desperate need of relief. Increasingly, as the economy spirals into a recession, Americans must choose between food, energy, and gas. This crisis is of national and international importance.

Oil prices have not been regulated since the Reagan Administration; however, the market situation since 2004 has yielded little excess capacity. Because OPEC determines the supply of oil vis-a-vis demand, it plays a significant role in the determination of the price of oil in the world market. Whereas OPEC is comprised of approximately 13 countries, it has 75 percent of the world's oil reserves, which affords it considerable control over the global market. OPEC produces 40 percent of the

world's oil needs with approximately 30 million barrels of oil per day. The rest of the oil refineries in the world are producing at full capacity. Given their large oil reserves, OPEC countries have considerable capacity, which if utilized could ameliorate the current oil crises.

The weakening value of the dollar, political uncertainty and unrest in places such as Nigeria, Venezuela, India, and China exacerbate the problem. Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, member countries of OPEC, have the capability of producing more oil. In addition, another OPEC member country, Iraq, has the capability of producing more oil. Despite this excess capacity, the OECD countries and other major oil importers such as Japan and the EU, are paying higher prices for oil. Worse still is the plight faced by the developing world. While the developed world is facing high oil prices, the developing world is facing even higher prices with the weakening value of the dollar. Food prices all over the world are rising and instability is growing. Something must be done and this bill is a first step.

In Houston, Texas, retail gas prices are above \$3.60 a gallon and will likely continue to rise this summer. Many analysts see prices peaking closer to \$4 a gallon. Gas prices are rising on concerns about supplies and demand. Analysts say refiners have cut back on gasoline production because of low profit margins; the rising price of crude means it costs them more to refine gas.

Demand for gasoline is expected to fall by 85,000 barrels a day this summer compared to last because of high prices and the weak economy. This would be the first summertime decline in gasoline demand since 1991. To date, however, falling demand has failed to deflate surging gas prices, which are putting more pressure on consumers. Consumers are already suffering from higher food prices, falling home values, and a tight job market.

This important bill seeks to address the oil crisis from a domestic standpoint. It is an important first step. While the bill amends the Sherman Act to make oil-producing and exporting cartels illegal, I believe more can be done, and I work to ensure that all Americans will benefit from affordable oil and gas prices.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire as to how much time remains on each side.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Iowa has 7 minutes remaining, and the gentleman from Virginia has 6¼ minutes remaining.

Mr. KING of Iowa. I have no further speakers, and Mr. Speaker, I'd yield myself so much time as I may consume.

I would remind Mr. Speaker and remind the body, the substance of this bill and what it really does; that is, it outlaws OPEC. It outlaws the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, and it removes the sovereign immunity for these countries and establishes a task force in the Department of Justice, and then, additionally to that, it produces a GAO study to study mergers. That's how I go through and read the bill, those three things I think we should keep that in mind on what the bill does.

What it doesn't do, this bill doesn't outlaw the congressional cartel that

has blocked our energy production in this country. I take us back to the 109th Congress when we had almost all Republicans that were ready and did come to this floor and voted to drill in ANWR, the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, which by the way you'd be hard-pressed to find wildlife up there, and I've been there to look.

But we had almost all Republicans that voted for it. A small group of them joined together with the Democrats and blocked drilling in ANWR. That was the 109th Congress. That's when we were pushing to put more oil on the market, more energy on the market, instead of this effort, the 110th Congress, this Pelosi Congress, to take energy off the market.

The same kind of situation prevails with drilling in the Outer Continental Shelf. Well, within that definition of the Outer Continental Shelf, with the exception of borders between us and Cuba, the Chinese are drilling for natural gas at 45 miles off of Key West. And we aren't willing to go out and drill the Outer Continental Shelf, either off Florida or off of California, as Mr. LEWIS talked about in his presentation.

Instead, we're here sending a message to the rest of the world that we want to set up the scenario so the Department of Justice can step into this and file a suit against sovereign countries that are conducting business.

Now, I don't know how someone on the other side can be for unions collectively bargaining and against OPEC collectively bargaining, but that is one of the ways to define this.

Another thing that's going on is an attempt to suspend, maybe, logic, but attempt to suspend the law of supply and demand. We rail away against high gas prices. We've heard that over here. I'm opposed to high gas prices, but I'm for putting more energy on the market, more Btus into every form of energy that comes in, but instead, we intimidate and send a message.

Even if this bill gets vetoed, which I believe it will, we're sending a message over to the OPEC countries that we want to litigate. Rather than develop our own oil supplies, we want to litigate? What does that say to them? If you're sitting on a board of directors of a corporation, you get that kind of message, you make a decision about what to do with the capital.

Now, if you're an OPEC country, you're going to be making a decision on what to do with your oil. If the United States Congress says we're going to sue you, OPEC countries, what are those countries going to do? They've got about three alternatives. They can hurry up and hustle up and put more oil supply out there, which is what I think the majority hopes they will do. Or they can say, wait a minute, I'm going to hold this the way it is because we've got a good business plan here; I'm offended but I'm not changing anything. Or they might just decide a little bit out of spite to turn the spigot down a little bit to say we'll show you.

Now, the gentleman from Virginia said the President went over to the OPEC countries with hat in hand, and he did, and I'm sorry to see that. I'm sorry to see the President of the United States ask and get the response that he got, but that's driven because we have not opened up the energy supplies that we have in this country. We haven't moved ourselves towards energy independence. Instead, we're paying the Pelosi premium on gasoline.

And the gentleman from Wisconsin, when he spoke of \$65 a barrel oil and the last time this bill came up and \$3 gas, and today, by his numbers, and it moves pretty quickly, \$125 a barrel for oil and \$4 gas, and I wondered about this level of outrage then versus now. And so I just did a little math. At what percentage of the price of gasoline then, the last time an OPEC bill was here on this floor, what percentage of that was wrapped up in the cost of crude oil, oil at \$65 a barrel and \$3 gas? If you take a gallon of crude oil, the cost of a gallon of crude oil was 52 percent of the cost of that gallon of gas. \$1.55 a gallon was the cost of the crude oil. Today, the cost per gallon of crude oil, according to the gentleman from Wisconsin's numbers, which I don't dispute, is \$2.98 a gallon just to buy the crude oil. That relates out to 75 percent of the cost of a gallon of gasoline is tied up in the cost of the crude oil, if you rate it accordingly.

We're getting a better bargain now in relation to the cost of crude oil than we were then. It's a higher percentage of the overhead of our refineries and distributing companies. They are doing, I think, a good job of getting it here, but the oil markets are high. They are high because of the cheap dollar. They're high because we have sent the wrong message out there, and speculators are taking advantage of this. This sends another wrong message out there.

So if you're an OPEC country, what do you do? You can, as I said, provide the same or less oil on the market. One thing you might do is maybe pull some investments out of the United States to send another message, don't be trying to intimidate us from Congress; let us do some business. Or another thing that happens is that it erodes, Mr. Speaker, our relationship with those Middle Eastern countries. Those countries that are our allies, those countries that are our friends, those countries that we need strategically in that part of the world, and they need us, this makes it harder for us to work together strategically.

So everything in this Pelosi Congress has taken energy from the market. Instead, now we have legislation that outlaws cartels and would set it up so the Department of Justice could eventually bring suit and presumably freeze the assets ultimately of the countries that are invested here in the United States of America.

Because of the cartel in Congress, this cartel that says if it is green, it's

good; if it's energy, it's bad; a cartel of people in this Congress that believe that the cost of energy going up is a good thing because people will burn less gas; if they burn less gas, then somehow it saves the planet, you've convinced me. You've convinced me that a significant element of the Democrat Caucus really doesn't care about high energy prices except the higher the prices go, the less gas will be bought and burned and there will be less carbon emissions into the atmosphere. That's the wrong priority.

We need more energy on the market, not less. We've got to grow the size of the energy pie. That pie chart that shows the 360-degree circle, that's got the slices that are gas, diesel fuel, ethanol, biodiesel, solar, wind, hydroelectric, nuclear, coal, all of those, and one slice of the pie for conservation as well, Mr. Speaker, all of those things is what we need to do. More energy on the market, not less, not litigation.

We need to have a vote on ANWR, and I'd challenge the majority to produce that vote so the American people can understand where they stand.

I oppose this bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume just to finally conclude by reminding you, Mr. Speaker, that this bill will just simply make sure that our antitrust laws apply to this oil cartel, just like they apply to every other industry. It is just one element in a strategy to try to get gas prices under control.

Mr. Speaker, I hope we will support this bill, just as much as we did a virtually identical bill last May 22 when 345 of our colleagues voted in favor, only 72 opposed, an overwhelming majority. Even the Republicans supported the bill last year. It's rollcall 398.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6074.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. KAGEN. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

LET OUR VETERANS REST IN PEACE ACT OF 2008

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3480) to direct the United States Sentencing Commission to assure appropriate enhancements of those involved in receiving stolen property where that property consists of

grave markers of veterans, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3480

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Let Our Veterans Rest in Peace Act of 2008".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND DECLARATION.

The Congress finds and declares that—

(1) every cemetery should do all it can to protect each grave marker, headstone, monument, or other object, intended to permanently mark a grave;

(2) every citizen of the United States should be watchful and mindful of desecrations of any gravesite and report any such suspected behavior to local, State, or Federal law enforcement authorities; and

(3) all citizens, including veterans, have earned the right to rest in peace.

SEC. 3. DIRECTION TO THE SENTENCING COMMISSION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Pursuant to its authority under section 994 of title 28, United States Code, the United States Sentencing Commission shall review and, if appropriate, amend the Federal sentencing guidelines and policy statements to ensure the guidelines and policy statements provide adequate sentencing enhancements for any offense involving the desecration, theft, or trafficking in, a grave marker, headstone, monument, or other object, intended to permanently mark a veteran's grave.

(b) COMMISSION DUTIES.—In carrying out this section, the Sentencing Commission shall—

(1) ensure that the sentences, guidelines, and policy statements relating to offenders convicted of these offenses are appropriately severe and reasonably consistent with other relevant directives and other Federal sentencing guidelines and policy statements;

(2) make any necessary conforming changes to the Federal sentencing guidelines; and

(3) assure that the guidelines adequately meet the purposes of sentencing as set forth in section 3553(a)(2) of title 18, United States Code.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT) and the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. KING) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia.

□ 1600

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and exclude extraneous materials on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Virginia?

There was no objection.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, Memorial Day is a solemn time when we, as a Nation, commemorate the ultimate sacrifice that our brave men and women in uniform have made for us. Sadly, there are

those who, despicable as it may be, desecrate the grave sites of these heroes. In cemeteries across our Nation, thieves have even looted the metal parts of grave markers and sold them for scrap metal.

Accordingly, Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3480, the Let Our Veterans Rest in Peace Act, which will protect and honor the final resting places of our Nation's veterans. This bill will ensure that penalties are in place so that these despicable thieves are appropriately punished and would-be thieves are effectively deterred.

Specifically, the bill directs the U.S. Sentencing Commission to review its guidelines in order to provide a fitting sentence for all offenses involving the desecration of, theft of, or trafficking in a grave marker, monument, headstone, or other object that had permanently marked a veteran's grave site.

I commend our colleague, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. CARNEY), for his leadership in this unfortunately necessary measure.

I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation, particularly as we prepare for the solemn observance of Memorial Day. These veterans have sacrificed greatly for us, and they deserve no less than the highest honor and dignity for their final resting places.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3480, the Let Our Veterans Rest in Peace Act, provides increased penalties for the desecration of the graves of America's fallen soldiers.

It is fitting that we consider this bill today on the eve of Memorial Day, a national holiday to honor those who died in defense of our country. Sadly, last Memorial Day weekend in Washington State, the graves of 97 war veterans were desecrated. American flags honoring those men and women were burned or replaced with homemade swastika flags.

Last year, in Luzerne County, Pennsylvania, over 700 markers were stolen from the graves of American soldiers. These bronze plaques and flag holders were placed at every veteran's grave as a memorial to honor their service. In Texas, the grave of Purple Heart recipient Lance Corporal Jeremy Burris was desecrated only 2 days after his burial. Flower arrangements, personal notes, and flags decorating the grave site were torn down and destroyed. All of this destruction to steal and sell wire flower stands.

In Georgia, a bronze statue depicting a Marine's boots, rifle and helmet was ripped out of the ground at the grave site of Corporal John Stalvey. Other graves have also been vandalized to steal the bronze plates traditionally placed on the grave sites of fallen service men and women.

With the price of bronze on the rise, thieves are stealing these markers to

sell as scrap metal. The cost of brass markers has risen to \$28 each. Some counties cannot afford to replace the metal markers, so they are being forced to turn to cheaper aluminum markers.

Whether these acts are motivated by greed or protest, destroying the grave of any person, let alone those who have died fighting for our country, is inexcusable, and these crimes must be met with swift and strong punishment.

Mr. Speaker, the desecration of these graves not only disrespects the men or women that rest there, it dishonors those serving in our Armed Forces today. H.R. 3480, the Let Our Veterans Rest in Peace Act, directs the U.S. Sentencing Commission to review and amend its sentencing guidelines to provide a sentencing enhancement for any offense involving the desecration or theft of, or trafficking in, grave markers of veterans.

Our Nation's fallen heroes fought and died for their country, for our country, and their memories deserve better. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlelady from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE), a member of the Judiciary Committee.

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. I thank the distinguished gentleman from Virginia.

It is of great necessity that we rise today to stand against this horrible and devastating act, and that is, the desecration of our veterans' or our fallen soldiers' graves. So I rise in support of H.R. 3480, the Let Our Veterans Rest in Peace Act of 2008, in honor and tribute to Jeremy Burris of Texas, whose grave site was desecrated.

Might I also suggest that on the eve of the commemoration of Memorial Day, when we acknowledge and honor and pay tribute to our fallen soldiers, this is enormously important legislation. Because the desecration of veterans' graves is becoming so pervasive, States have acted by replacing the stolen markers with aluminum markers instead of the brass and bronze markers they once used. How insulting, how low. And so it is important that this Congress say to the American people, and those who would do such dastardly deeds, we will accept it no more.

With the price of aluminum sharply on the rise, it is expected that aluminum that is being utilized instead of the bronze may also be stolen. So this important legislation is asking for enhanced penalties to make a very strong statement that this is an intolerable act and an unacceptable act.

As we mourn our most recent dead, those who have fallen in Iraq, how much more can families tolerate to know that they buried their loved ones, and then someone desecrated their graves?

It is important that this legislation pass today to recognize again the great debt of gratitude and the great debt of appreciation that we owe our fallen soldiers.

As the great British leader, Winston Churchill, famously stated, "Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few."

We owe, many of us, all of us, so much to the few who have fallen on behalf of this great Nation. And so I support, enthusiastically, the legislation sponsored by our good friend, Representative CARNEY from Pennsylvania, the Let Our Veterans Rest in Peace Act of 2008. Let this be an important statement that we will not tolerate the continuation of such desecration.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3480, the "Let Our Veterans Rest in Peace Act of 2008."

This important piece of legislation is an effort to stop the theft of Veterans' grave markers. Increasingly, these grave markers are being sold to scrap yards and recycling centers as scrap metal. The bill directs the Sentencing Commission to review and enhance the laws that currently protect Veteran grave markers.

Because the desecration of veterans' graves is becoming so pervasive, States have acted by replacing the stolen markers with aluminum markers instead of the brass and bronze markers they once used. However, with the price of aluminum sharply on the rise, it is expected that these will soon be stolen also.

The May Our Veterans Rest in Peace Act of 2008 will bring attention to this issue and increase penalties for this crime so that thieves no longer consider robbing grave markers for scrap metal as easy money and will think twice about desecrating the tombstone of a fallen war veteran.

I firmly believe that we should celebrate our veterans after every conflict, and I remain committed, as a Member of Congress, to ensuring that we respect our fallen veterans. Veterans have kept their promise to serve our Nation; they have willingly risked their lives to protect the country we all love. We must now ensure that we keep our promises to our veterans.

Currently, there are 25 million veterans in the United States. There are more than 1,633,000 veterans living in Texas and more than 32,000 veterans living in my Congressional district alone. On this Veterans Day, I hope we will all take the time to show appreciation to those who have answered the call to duty. As the great British leader Winston Churchill famously stated, "Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few."

With the approval of legislation on June 1, 1954, November 11th became a day to honor American veterans of all wars. Later that same year, on October 8th, President Dwight D. Eisenhower, himself a decorated veteran of war, issued the first "Veterans Day Proclamation" which stated in part: "In order to insure proper and widespread observance of this anniversary, all veterans, all veterans' organizations, and the entire citizenry will wish to join hands in the common purpose." It was with that endearing spirit that America celebrated the first Veterans Day.

We must always remember the debt that we owe our fallen veterans that have paid the ultimate sacrifice. From the four surviving World War I veterans known to be living in the United States, to the over 300,000 veterans of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom we expect to see by the end of 2008. Our gratitude must continue to be unwavering to our fallen soldiers and veterans.

In the words of President John F. Kennedy, "As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them." It is not simply enough to sing the praises of our Nation's great veterans; I firmly believe that we must demonstrate by our actions how proud we are of our American heroes.

I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation. I believe it is necessary for the Nation to act now so that we all can pay respect, tribute, and homage to the lives of the fallen armed services veterans who have fought to keep America free and have fought to make sure that all people and nations partake in the universal freedoms that we find so important in this country. These individuals have given so much and have paid us the ultimate sacrifice: the sacrifice of their lives. The least that we can do, is ensure that these veterans rest eternally in peace and that their grave markers are not stolen for the profit of a few. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, again, I support this bill in its entirety. It is a time that has come. I urge its adoption.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I hope that the House will pass the legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SALAZAR). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3480, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

MAKING TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS TO PROVISION GRANTING SPECIAL IMMIGRANT STATUS FOR CERTAIN IRAQIS

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 2829) to make technical corrections to section 1244 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008, which provides special immigrant status for certain Iraqis, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the Senate bill.

The text of the Senate bill is as follows:

S. 2829

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS TO PROVISION GRANTING SPECIAL IMMIGRANT STATUS FOR CERTAIN IRAQIS.

Section 1244(c) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (Public Law 110-181) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking "each of the five years beginning after the date of the enactment of this Act" and inserting "fiscal years 2008 through 2012"; and

(2) in paragraph (3)—

(A) in subparagraph (A)—

(i) in the subparagraph heading, by striking "ONE THROUGH FOUR" and inserting "2008 THROUGH 2011"; and

(ii) by striking "one through four" and inserting "2008 through 2011"; and

(B) in subparagraph (B)—

(i) in the matter preceding clause (i)—

(I) in the subparagraph heading, by striking "FIVE AND SIX" and inserting "2012 AND 2013";

(II) by striking "the fifth fiscal year beginning after the date of the enactment of this Act" and inserting "fiscal year 2012"; and

(III) by striking "the sixth fiscal year beginning after such date" and inserting "fiscal year 2013"; and

(ii) in each of clauses (i) and (ii), by striking "the fifth fiscal year" and inserting "fiscal year 2012".

SEC. 2. AUTHORITY TO CONVERT PETITIONS DURING TRANSITION PERIOD.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Homeland Security or the Secretary of State may convert an approved petition for special immigrant status under section 1059 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2006 (8 U.S.C. 1101 note) with respect to which a visa under such section 1059 is not immediately available to an approved petition for special immigrant status under section 1244 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (Public Law 110-181) notwithstanding any requirement of subsection (a) or (b) of such section 1244 but subject to the numerical limitations applicable under subsection (c) of such section 1244, as amended by this Act.

(b) DURATION.—The authority under subsection (a) shall be available only with respect to petitions filed before October 1, 2008.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT) and the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. KING) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Virginia?

There was no objection.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, we owe a duty to protect foreign nationals who provide val-

uable service to our soldiers, diplomats, and other government officials overseas. Often these individuals risk their lives and those of their families to assist and protect our endeavors and our people. It's only right that we give them the assistance and protection that they need.

When we pulled out of Vietnam, Vietnamese citizens who worked for our government, as well as their families, were at great risk of being killed if they remained in Vietnam. To protect them, we gave them the opportunity to resettle in the United States. That was the right thing to do then and it is the right thing to do now for those who help us in Iraq.

This bill addresses two problems that currently interfere with our ability to protect those who deserve our protection. The first is a drafting error in the new Special Immigrant Visa Program that we enacted in January for Iraqis whose lives were at risk because of their valuable service to our government. The visas under this program were supposed to be available beginning this fiscal year, but the drafting error has rendered these visas unavailable until the next fiscal year. In the interim, we can't help those who need our help. Many of those could die because of this drafting error. This bill would correct the drafting error to ensure that these visas can be immediately accessed.

S. 2829 also serves to assist several hundred Iraqi and Afghan translators who, because of the error, continue to apply for visas under the older program. Although many of their applications have been processed and approved, they can't come to the United States because of a cap at 500 visas in the program that has already been reached.

Despite having the support of the Department of Defense, the Department of State and the Department of Homeland Security, these translators are without recourse and remain in danger. This bill addresses the problem by creating a 4-month transitional period under which the administration can allow persons with approved petitions in the old program to use one of the 5,000 visas in the new program.

We have all seen in the news that those who have chosen to help us in our efforts in Iraq and Afghanistan are truly risking their lives for our Nation's interests. They are targeted by insurgents for having helped us, their families are targeted, and this bill helps us protect them.

I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Now I must oppose this legislation, Mr. Speaker. It amends flawed legislation enacted this year that unjustifiably bypassed the normal committee process.

The National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2008 contained an expansive new refugee program that could result in well over 100,000 refugee admissions to the United States over the next 5 years. This provision was never considered, let alone approved, by the Judiciary Committee or on the House floor.

It's simply irresponsible for this Congress to hand out over 100,000 green cards without allowing for the normal deliberative review process. The provision grants 5,000 "special immigrant" green cards a year for the next 5 years to Iraqi nationals who meet the following criteria: They are citizens or nationals of Iraq; they were employed by or on behalf of the United States Government in Iraq on or after March 20, 2003, and they were employed for not less than a year; they provided faithful and valuable service to the United States Government; and they have experienced or are experiencing an ongoing serious threat as a consequence of their employment by the U.S. Government.

Now, I would say, Mr. Speaker, that our military that served in the line of fire has experienced a threat as a consequence of their employment of the U.S. Government, so has most everyone who has served any duty in that country. And this is a wide-open definition that allows the State Department to make a determination based upon a broad definition that says if they've experienced an ongoing serious threat as a consequence of their employment, and "ongoing" is not defined.

This provision is well-intentioned, however, it is problematic for a number of reasons. First, the State Department estimates that each of the 5,000 beneficiaries will bring an average of four family members with them who will not count against the cap. Therefore, the provision would result in, according to State Department estimates, upwards of 25,000 green cards being granted per year for 5 years. My math on that is 125,000, Mr. Speaker. Given that legal immigration now regularly exceeds 1 million persons a year, and the American people, by overwhelming margins, do not want to see further increases at least until we enforce the law and get operational control of the border, these numbers today are irresponsible.

Second, the provision will produce a drain for pro-U.S. and pro-democracy Iraqis actually living in Iraq. This potential exodus may prove devastating to efforts to rebuild that country.

Third, the provision grants refugee status to aliens who do not meet the long-standing statutory definition of a refugee—a person who is persecuted or who has a well-founded fear of persecution on account of race, religion, nationality, membership in a social group, or political opinion. That's the definition that exists today that the State Department could act under, Mr. Speaker. But we should not be setting such precedent without very careful deliberation.

Fourth, terrorists could easily infiltrate this program and not only gain access to the U.S., but attain the benefits of legal permanent residence and then U.S. citizenship. These benefits include the ability to travel the world over with the knowledge that one can easily return to the U.S., leaving us more vulnerable.

The inclusion of this refugee program in the Department of Defense authorization bill without adequate deliberation was a mistake, and in this follow-on bill it also is a mistake. Therefore, I cannot support today's legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I would reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlelady from Texas, Ms. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE.

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Again, let me thank the members of the Judiciary Committee, the chairman and ranking member and the manager of this bill, Mr. SCOTT.

Mr. Speaker, this is a question of life or death. Many of us have traveled to Iraq. I just recently came back in the last couple of weeks. In fact, I was utilizing our delegation's Iraqi translators. We were out in the field, we were talking to Iraqi soldiers, and these translators were enormously important. They're utilized in Afghanistan as well.

But it is not just the translators and others in this realm, in this era, that we speak of. We remember those who ventured out in the early stages of this war that was initiated by this administration, individuals who jeopardized the lives of their families and themselves to really align themselves with U.S. soldiers, necessary vital components of serving the soldiers in order to save the U.S. soldiers' lives.

□ 1615

Some of these individuals still remain under threat in Iraq.

This is a balanced approach. This is an approach order offered by Senator KENNEDY along with a number of bipartisan Senators. And let me pay tribute to Senator KENNEDY. He has always looked to balance our security along with benefit. I pay tribute to him, and I particularly pay tribute to him for this initiative because what it says is for those who have been caught in an abyss, who have been caught in between and in betwixt now have 5,000 visas to be able to utilize to provide a safety net for them and their families.

There are millions of internally displaced persons in Iraq. It is a disruptive and an unstable situation. Those individuals who have lent their talents to the U.S. Government and the U.S. military face jeopardy. Many of their neighbors know what they have done.

So I rise to support this legislation because I believe it is a partnership between the Homeland Security Depart-

ment and the State Department, working together to ensure, as they vet these individuals, that they have access to the visas.

The problem that this is fixing is that the loophole or the provision was closed, legitimately closed for legitimate requests, and individuals who were applying under an old process, that would not make them eligible. This simply clears up that problem. It vets the individuals to utilize the visas, and it helps to save lives.

I ask, Mr. Speaker, that our colleagues support this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 2829, an act to make technical corrections to section 1244 of the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2008, which provides special immigrant status for certain Iraqis, and for other purposes.

This bill addresses two problems with our ability to protect those who deserve our protection. In January, we enacted a new Special Immigrant Visa, SIV, program for Iraqis whose lives are at risk because of their valuable service to our government. The SIVs were supposed to be available beginning this fiscal year. But a drafting error rendered the SIVs unavailable until the next fiscal year. The bill fixes these errors.

The bill also helps out a few hundred Iraqi and Afghan translators who, because of the error, continued to apply for visas under an older program. Although many of their applications have been processed and approved, they cannot come to the U.S. because of the 500 visa cap in that program has already been reached.

This bill would create a 4-month transition period under which the Administration can allow persons with approved petitions in the older program to use one of the 5,000 visas in the new program.

We owe a duty to protect foreign nationals who provide valuable services to our soldiers, diplomats, and other government officials overseas. These individuals risk their lives and that of their families, to assist and to protect our endeavors and our people. It is only right that we return the favor.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, this discussion is about the technical changes to existing ill-advised legislation that came through this Congress, not through the Judiciary Committee, but it came to this floor without the due process and the consultation that would come from people on both sides of the aisle that could have examined this and measured the consequences, in fact, the unintended consequences of this legislation.

Under current law the President can set the number of refugees, and the Secretary of State administers this. We've met with the Secretary of State on this, and the definition I provided in my remark of existing law that is well-founded and well-tested says that the refugees meeting this standard can come into the United States under a number of items as agreed to by the administration, generally by the Secretary of State. And a person who would qualify would be a person who is

persecuted or who has a well-founded fear of persecution on account of their race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion. These applicants that would come under this standard don't meet this standard that exists under refugee law because the threat is not as great, and they want to open this up for folks that have not faced a threat that is as great.

So now the language that's in the bill that we are seeking to technically correct here is language that says, well, what kind of standards do they meet? Well, up to 125,000 of them, perhaps, over this 5-year period of this authorization, what do they have to be? They have to be an Iraqi. They have to have worked for Uncle Sam. Their work had to have had value. And then they had to have experienced or maybe currently are experiencing a serious threat. And I will submit that everybody that works for the Federal Government experienced a threat. Anybody that set foot inside the Green Zone experienced a threat. Anybody that set foot outside the Green Zone probably experienced a greater threat. So the experience of the threat that's defined in this bill is opened up to all Iraqis that might want to present themselves if they are an Iraqi; if they worked for the Federal Government, if Uncle Sam cut them a check, worked for a year; and then if their work had value, which I think all work really does have value.

So what we're doing here is a technical correction that shouldn't have been passed in the first place, that should have gone through the regular order, that should have been submitted to the committee process, who would have had the opportunity to examine the effect of the numbers in this open door for perhaps 125,000.

So we can talk about process here, Mr. Speaker, and we can debate about the right way to bring legislation through so that we have an opportunity to perfect that legislation. But I think the bottom line is there's a consequence to this that weighs poorly for the Iraqi people in general. And that is if this legislation is technically corrected today, if this legislation passes and receives the signature of the President and becomes law, perhaps 125,000 Iraqis, perhaps more, can come to the United States under a standard that's looser than the refugee standard that the Secretary of State has to uphold today, and a Nation of about 26 or 27 million people could lose 125,000 of its best citizens and its best people. The allies of the United States of America and coalition forces, the people who believe the most in freedom, those who stepped up and did put their lives on the line, those that will be the vitality to rebuild a country that's emerging from the surge and continuing day by day, and the numbers and the data that we are looking at look more and more optimistic, they need good people.

It's people that are policy. We know that in our own offices. We know that

within our companies. We know that within our own military, within our own government. People are policy. Good people in Iraq will rebuild Iraq. We need people there. I want to see Americans go there to help. I want to see the Iraqi people stay there and rebuild their country. That's a high level of patriotism for them to show.

This is a bill that discourages that and actually works inversely to the best interests of the United States and the best interests of Iraq. So I urge its defeat.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, again, we have seen ongoing news reports that those who have chosen to help us in our efforts in Iraq and Afghanistan are risking their lives for our Nation's interests, and it is appropriate that we give them assistance.

This bill is exactly what we thought we had done earlier in the year. This is a technical correction. It's not a change in policy. It is what we thought we were doing. In fact, I'm surprised we have opposition because we didn't think it was controversial. The Senate bill, just to read the original cosponsors, the Senate bill was introduced by Senators KENNEDY and LUGAR with bipartisan cosponsorship of Senators LEAHY, CORNYN, BIDEN, MCCAIN, LEVIN, SPECTER, OBAMA, HAGEL, DURBIN, SUNUNU, CARDIN, SMITH, COLEMAN, and BOND. An identical bill was introduced in the House by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. ZOE LOFGREN) with original cosponsorship of Mr. FORTENBERRY, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. SEN-SENRENNER, Mr. SKELTON, Mr. HUNTER, Mr. BERMAN, Ms. ROSLEHTINEN, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. PENCE, and Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas.

Obviously those broad bipartisan cosponsors suggest that this is something that should not be controversial, especially when you consider it also has the strong support of the Department of Defense, the Department of State, and the Department of Homeland Security.

I would hope, Mr. Speaker, that we adopt the bill and do what we thought we were doing in January to protect our friends who have protected us.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 2829.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the

Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

EXTENDING PROGRAM RELATING TO WAIVER OF FOREIGN COUNTRY RESIDENCE REQUIREMENT WITH RESPECT TO INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL GRADUATES

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5571) to extend for 5 years the program relating to waiver of the foreign country residence requirement with respect to international medical graduates, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5571

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. EXTENSION OF WAIVER PROGRAM.

Section 220(c) of the Immigration and Nationality Technical Corrections Act of 1994 (8 U.S.C. 1182 note) is amended by striking "June 1, 2008" and inserting "June 1, 2013".

SEC. 2. EXPANDING THE FLEXIBILITY OF THE CONRAD STATE 30 PROGRAM.

Section 214(l)(1)(D)(ii) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1184(l)(1)(D)(ii)) is amended by striking "5" and inserting "10".

SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of the Congress that—

(1) Federal programs waiving the 2-year foreign residence requirement under section 212(e) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(e)) for physicians are generally designed to promote the delivery of critically needed medical services to people in the United States lacking adequate access to physician care; and

(2) when determining the qualification of a location for designation as a health professional shortage area, the Secretary of Health and Human Services should consider the needs of vulnerable populations in low-income and impoverished communities, communities with high infant mortality rates, and communities exhibiting other signs of a lack of necessary physician services.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT) and the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. KING) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Virginia?

There was no objection.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Today we take urgent action to prevent a critically important immigration program from expiring.

No one disputes that there is a health care crisis in this country. With our

population aging, there can be no doubt that the demand for health care will only increase.

The problem is made worse by the fact that many people in communities across America lack access to health care because of a shortage of medical professionals, including doctors. H.R. 5571 will reauthorize the program, the Conrad 30 J Waiver program, that has been successful in helping medically underserved communities attract highly skilled physicians. If Congress does not act, the Conrad program will expire on June 1, 2008.

And how important is this program? Well, to take just one example, a little more than a year ago, in early May 2007, a powerful tornado tore through a Kansas prairie, destroying 95 percent of the town of Greensburg and killing 11 people. Because of the Conrad 30 program, doctors were available in Greensburg to serve this community in need. The Conrad 30 program allows States, like Kansas, to recommend that doctors who have received medical training in the United States on a J-1 visa and who now want to work in medically underserved areas receive waivers from the general requirement that doctors first return to their home countries for 2 years. This is too important a program to let expire.

I want to commend the gentlewoman from California (Ms. ZOE LOFGREN), the Chair of the Immigration Subcommittee, for her leadership on this issue. I also want to thank the ranking member of the full committee, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH); and the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) for their efforts to make sure that this bill came to the floor.

I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, aliens who participate in medical residencies in the United States on J exchange program visas must generally leave the U.S. at the conclusion of their residencies to reside abroad for 2 years before they can be eligible for permanent residence or status as H-1B or L visa non-immigrants. The intent behind this policy to encourage American-trained foreign doctors to return home to improve health conditions and advance the medical professions in their native countries.

In 1994 Congress created a waiver of the 2-year foreign residence requirement. The waiver was available if requested by State departments of public health for foreign doctors who committed to practice medicine for no less than 3 years in a geographic area or areas designated by the Secretary of Health and Human Services as having a shortage of health care professionals. The number of foreign doctors who could receive the waiver was limited to 20 per State.

Congress has extended this waiver on multiple occasions and has also expanded the numerical limitation on waivers to 30 per State. The waiver is set to expire on June 1 of this year. In fiscal year 2007, 768 foreign doctors received waivers.

H.R. 5571 will further extend the waiver until June 1, 2013. I support this bill. The waiver program assists people in rural and inner-city communities in getting good quality and accessible medical care. As I look at the problem of access to health care and the way we have addressed it in this Congress, it gives me a foreboding feeling to see where we will be in 10 years or so. I think it's an important piece, a small piece, but an important piece of our health care plan. I urge its adoption.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE).

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise as well to support the legislation, H.R. 5571, and to commend the chairwoman of the Subcommittee on Immigration of the House Judiciary Committee for her leadership on this issue, Congresswoman ZOE LOFGREN. I thank the manager of the bill, Mr. SCOTT, for his leadership; our chairman of the full committee; our ranking member of the full committee; and the ranking member of the Immigration Subcommittee, Mr. KING of Iowa.

This is an embracing and unifying initiative. Why? Because we all understand the necessity of health care in America. We understand the importance of providing access to health care no matter where you live. And I thank Mr. Blake Chisam and my staff, Mr. Arthur Sidney, for working on language that I proposed to emphasize the importance of the provision that these doctors receive and should be guided by language that indicate that they should be utilized in areas that are underserved, that there are doctors that are not serving the area.

□ 1630

So that foreign doctors who will benefit from the waiver provisions, which means eliminating the need for foreign medical doctors to return to their native land, will be utilized or encouraged to be utilized in areas around the country. The language in particular reads: It is the sense of Congress that Federal programs waiving the J-1 home residency requirement for physicians are generally designed to promote the delivery of critically needed medical services to Americans lacking adequate access to physician care, and that when determining the qualification of location for a waiver petition, the Department of Health and Human Services should always consider the needs of vulnerable populations in low-

income and impoverished communities, communities with high infant mortality rates, rural areas, and communities exhibiting other signs of a lack of necessary physician services.

In my State of Texas, we have been fighting for this for a very long time. In the rural parts of Texas, we are lacking in medical services and physicians. It's very important when these waivers are given that these physicians are utilized where they can best serve, and that is in vast number of areas that do not have access to health care.

I support this legislation, H.R. 5571, and I think as it comes to the floor, it contains all the elements that suggest a benefit that brings about a burden, but not a burden that is negative but a burden to serve those who are in desperate need. Many of our country are, and these physicians can help them. With that, I believe this is an important bill.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 5571, to extend for 5 years the program relating to waiver of the foreign country residence requirement with respect to international medical graduates. The purpose of this bill is to extend for 5 years the program relating to a waiver of the foreign country residence requirement with respect to international medical graduates. I support this bill.

The Immigration and Nationality Act allows for foreign doctors to train in the United States under the "J-1" visa program, otherwise known as non-immigrants in the "Exchange Visitor Program." This Exchange Visitor Program seeks to promote peaceful relations and mutual understanding with other countries through educational and cultural exchange programs. Accordingly, many exchange visitors, including doctors in training, are subject to a requirement that they must return to their home country to share with their countrymen the knowledge, experience, and impressions gained during their stay in the United States. Unless U.S. Customs and Immigration Service approves a waiver of this requirement, the exchange visitors must depart from the United States and live in their home country for 2 years before they are allowed to apply for an immigrant visa, permanent residence, or a new non-immigrant status.

A waiver of the 2 year foreign residency requirement is available for doctors who have trained in the United States under the J-1 visa if a State or an interested Federal agency sponsors the physician exchange visitor to work in a health manpower shortage area within the State for 3 years as a non-immigrant in H-1B status (temporary worker in specialty occupation). The Secretary of Health and Human Services determines which areas have a health manpower shortage.

The availability of this waiver will sunset on June 1, 2008. H.R. 5571 would extend this waiver for 5 years to ensure that areas in the United States with a shortage of doctors have an option to hire a doctor with a J-1 visa for 3 years where there is no other doctor available to fill the job.

I worked with Congresswoman ZOE LOFGREN to ensure that the foreign doctors who will benefit from the waiver provisions, eliminating the need for the foreign medical doctors to return to their native land, will be

required to work in impoverished and underserved inner-city and urban communities. I believe that this is important because Americans who need access to medical care, the poor and needy, will benefit. This would be a tremendous improvement in the U.S. medical system and would move us closer to garnering access to healthcare for all.

Specifically, I worked to include the following language in the bill:

It is the sense of Congress that Federal programs waiving the J-1 home residency requirement for physicians are generally designed to promote the delivery of critically needed medical services to Americans lacking adequate access to physician care and that when determining the qualification of a location for a waiver petition, the Department of Health and Human Services should always consider the needs of vulnerable populations in low-income and impoverished communities, communities with high infant mortality rates, rural areas, and communities exhibiting other signs of a lack of necessary physician services.

Across this great Nation the health disparities between minority and majority populations are staggering. Most major diseases—diabetes, heart disease, prostate cancer, HIV/AIDS, low-birth-weight babies—all hit the minority communities harder. Minorities consistently have decreased access to care, and receive lower quality care, when they do have access. As the economy continues to falter and as the unemployment rate spikes, millions of Americans are losing their health insurance. That state of affairs will only make the health disparities worse. Consider these statistics:

African-American women are nearly three times as likely to die from pregnancy complications and childbirth as White women.

Native American, African-American and Hispanic women are most likely to receive inadequate prenatal care.

Compared with White women, African American women are twice as likely and Hispanic women are nearly three times as likely to be uninsured. Furthermore, African Americans and Hispanics are much more likely than Whites to lack a usual source of care and to encounter other difficulties in obtaining needed care.

Certain minorities also have much higher rates of diabetes-related complications and death, in some instances by as much as 50 percent more than the total population. It is truly an epidemic.

Nearly 31 percent of African American girls in the 4th grade were overweight in 2001.

Thirteen percent of Houston high school students are overweight and 17 percent are at risk.

Thirty-four percent of African American women are obese, compared to 19 percent of White women.

Forty-four percent of African American women are projected to be obese by 2020, and 47 percent by 2040.

As of February 2006, African-Americans represented only 13 percent of the U.S. population, but accounted for 40 percent of the 944,306 AIDS cases diagnosed since the start of the epidemic and approximately half, 49 percent, of the 42,514 cases diagnosed in 2004 alone.

African-Americans also account for half of new HIV/AIDS diagnoses in the 35 States/areas with confidential name-based reporting.

The AIDS case rate per 100,000 population among African-American adults/adolescents was nearly 10.2 times that of Whites in 2004.

African-Americans accounted for 55 percent of deaths due to HIV in 2002 and their survival time after an AIDS diagnosis is lower on average than it is for other racial/ethnic groups.

HIV was the third leading cause of death for African-Americans, ages 25–34, in 2002 compared to the sixth leading cause of death for Whites and Latinos in this age group.

African-American women account for the majority of new AIDS cases among women, 67 percent in 2004; while White women account for 17 percent and Latinos 15 percent. Among African-Americans, African-American women represent more than a third, 36 percent, of AIDS cases diagnosed in 2004.

Although African-American teens, ages 13–19, represent only 15 percent of U.S. teenagers, they accounted for 66 percent of new AIDS cases reported among teens in 2003.

It is my hope that the language that I worked to get included in the bill will promote the delivery of critically needed medical services to Americans in low-income and impoverished communities, rural areas, and communities that are in desperate need of physician services.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. KING of Iowa. I have no further speakers, and I will yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this bill. I think reauthorizing the J visas for access to health care across this Nation, allowing people practicing medicine to come in at the rate of 30 per State, and look around to see which States utilize that and which ones don't, it is easy for us to see those States that need that access to health care. This will help. It will help in a lot of the States. In fact, it will help in all the States, if they use it.

I urge its adoption.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5571, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF LYNDON BAINES JOHNSON

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 354) recognizing the 100th birthday of Lyndon Baines Johnson, 36th Presi-

dent, designer of the Great Society, politician, educator, and civil rights enforcer.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 354

Whereas August 27, 2008, marks the 100th birthday of Lyndon Baines Johnson;

Whereas Lyndon B. Johnson was born in Stonewall, Texas, to Samuel Ealy Johnson, Jr., a Texas representative, and Rebekah Baines, on August 27, 1908;

Whereas upon graduation, Lyndon B. Johnson enrolled in Southwest Texas State Teachers' College, where he vigorously participated in debate, campus politics, and edited the school newspaper;

Whereas Lyndon B. Johnson had several teaching positions throughout Texas, including at the Welhausen School in La Salle County, at Pearsall High School, and as a public speaking teacher at Sam Houston High School in Houston;

Whereas Lyndon B. Johnson went to work as a congressional assistant at the age of 23;

Whereas Lyndon B. Johnson served the 10th Congressional District in the Texas House of Representatives from April 10, 1937, to January 3, 1949;

Whereas Lyndon B. Johnson became a commissioned officer in the Navy Reserves in December 1941;

Whereas during World War II, Lyndon B. Johnson was recommended by Undersecretary of the Navy James Forrestal to President Franklin D. Roosevelt, who assigned Johnson to a three-man survey team in the southwest Pacific;

Whereas Lyndon B. Johnson was conferred the Silver Star, which is the military's third highest medal, by General Douglas MacArthur;

Whereas in 1948, Lyndon B. Johnson was elected to the Senate at the age of 41;

Whereas in 1951, Lyndon B. Johnson was elected Senate minority leader at the age of 44 and elected Senate majority leader at the age of 46, the youngest in our history;

Whereas Lyndon B. Johnson was elected Vice President at the age of 52, becoming president of the Senate;

Whereas Lyndon B. Johnson's congressional career and his leadership spanned the stock market crash, the Great Depression, World War II, the nuclear age, the Cold War, the space age, and the civil rights movement, some of the most turbulent years in American history;

Whereas Vice President Lyndon B. Johnson was appointed as head of the President's Committee on Equal Employment Opportunities, through which he worked with African Americans and other minorities;

Whereas an hour and 38 minutes after the assassination of President Kennedy, Lyndon B. Johnson was sworn in as President aboard Air Force One;

Whereas Lyndon B. Johnson was a bold leader;

Whereas as President, Lyndon B. Johnson believed that government could guarantee human rights, could lift people out of poverty, and provide access to quality education and health care throughout the Nation;

Whereas Lyndon B. Johnson was an idealist, a force of nature, and had the energy and determination and leadership to turn those dreams into reality;

Whereas Lyndon B. Johnson was a "can-do" President because no matter how difficult and daunting the task at hand, he never rested until it was completed;

Whereas in 1964, the Johnson Administration passed the landmark Civil Rights Act of

1964, which banned de jure segregation in the Nation's schools and public places;

Whereas the Johnson Administration passed the Voting Rights Act of 1965, which outlawed obstructive provisions that were rendered impractical and impartial to potential voters;

Whereas in January of 1965, the Johnson Administration introduced the Great Society, which included provisions for aid to education, Medicare, urban renewal, beautification, conservation, the development of depressed regions, a wide-scale fight against poverty, and the removal of obstacles to the right to vote;

Whereas in 1967, President Johnson nominated Thurgood Marshall as the first African-American to serve on the Supreme Court;

Whereas during Johnson's presidency, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration made spectacular steps forward in space exploration when 3 astronauts successfully orbited the moon in December 1968;

Whereas Lyndon B. Johnson died at 4:33 p.m. on January 22, 1973, at his ranch in Johnson City, Texas, at the age of 64;

Whereas Lyndon B. Johnson was posthumously awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1980;

Whereas Lyndon B. Johnson is honored, venerated, and revered for his drive to establish equality for all Americans, illustrated in the momentous legislation passed during his Administration;

Whereas Congress recognizes the 100th birthday of Lyndon B. Johnson, the 36th president;

Whereas Congress extols the contributions of Lyndon B. Johnson to the United States and his commitment to the War on Poverty through the Economic Opportunity Act;

Whereas Congress commends Lyndon B. Johnson for establishing the Medicare Act of 1965 that has helped millions of Americans; and

Whereas Congress requests that the President issue a proclamation calling upon the American people to observe the Centennial Celebration of Lyndon B. Johnson and his "can-do spirit" with appropriate ceremonies, programs, and activities: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That the Congress—

(1) reaffirms its support for the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965;

(2) recognizes the significance of the Voting Rights Act of 1965; and

(3) honors Lyndon B. Johnson for his work as a civil rights enforcer.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT) and the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. KING) will each control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Virginia?

There was no objection.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, August 27 will mark the 100th anniversary of the birthday of

Lyndon Baines Johnson, the 36th President of the United States. President Johnson served his home State of Texas and this Nation during some of the most tumultuous and extraordinary years of our history. From the Great Depression, to the New Deal, to World War II, to the Civil Rights Era, President Lyndon Johnson shaped the events and left this Nation more prosperous, more just, and more free.

Joining the House in 1937, his life embodied the values of the New Deal, progressive values that sought to secure for all Americans President Franklin Roosevelt's Four Freedoms: Freedom of speech and expression, freedom of worship, freedom of want, and freedom from fear. In his own Presidency, the programs of the Great Society were the most ambitious of any administration before or since the New Deal.

In his 1964 State of the Union Address, President Johnson launched an unconditional war on poverty. As a former teacher, he understood the central importance of education. And so he said, "It is our primary weapon in the war on poverty, and the principal tool for building a Great Society."

Among his key accomplishments in the field of education were Project Head Start, still one of the most successful education programs; the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965; and the Higher Education Act of 1965. As a son of Texas' Hill Country, he also understood the importance of economic security. He told the Nation, "The second prong on the attack on poverty is to protect individuals and their families from poverty when their own earnings are insufficient because of age, disability, unemployment, or other family circumstances."

The programs he launched included the Social Security Amendments of 1965 and 1967; the Revenue Act of 1964, which lowered the withholding tax on middle-income workers from 18 percent to 14 percent; the Minimum Wage Bill of 1966, which broadened the Federal minimum wage and overtime pay protection and lifted the minimum wage from \$1.25 to \$1.60 per hour; the School Breakfast Program; the Special Milk Program; and the Food Stamp Program of 1964, which this House recently voted to expand by a bipartisan veto-proof margin.

The third weapon in the War on Poverty was job creation. President Johnson once said, "Our American answer to poverty is not to make the poor more secure in their poverty but to reach down and to help them lift themselves out of the ruts of poverty and move with the large majority along the high road of hope and prosperity." The programs included the Job Corps; the College Work Study Program; the Neighborhood Youth Corps; the Work Experience Program; and the Manpower Act.

Some of the greatest accomplishments were, of course, the Civil Rights Era. More than any other President, he was a guiding force behind the enact-

ment of civil rights legislation that changed our Nation forever. Following bloody Sunday in Selma, Alabama, President Johnson addressed a joint session of Congress to urge the passage of the Voting Rights Act. He told the Nation then that, "What happens in Selma is part of a far larger movement which reaches into every section and State of America. It is the effort of American Negroes to secure for themselves the full blessings of American life. Their cause must be our cause, too. Because it's not just Negroes, but really it's all of us, who must overcome the crippling legacy of bigotry and injustice." He closed with the rallying refrain of the civil rights movement by saying, "And we shall overcome."

Among his historic accomplishments were the Civil Rights Act of 1957, where, as leader of the Senate, he ushered through the first civil rights bill since Reconstruction; the Civil Rights Act of 1964; the Voting Rights Act of 1965, which this Congress recently extended for another 25 years; and the Civil Rights Act of 1968. These landmark measures guaranteed the right to vote for millions of Americans who had been disenfranchised for generations, and outlawed discrimination in public accommodations and in housing, and outlawed discrimination in employment.

President Johnson also made history when, in 1967, he appointed his Solicitor General, Thurgood Marshall, who, as the NAACP legal director from 1939 to 1961 had already argued many cases before the Supreme Court, including *Brown v. Topeka Board of Education*, to be the first African American Supreme Court Justice.

Mr. Speaker, the life and accomplishments of President Johnson should inspire all of us to rededicate ourselves to the mission to which he devoted so much of his energies, to free all Americans from want, from fear, and from discrimination. This resolution is a fitting recognition of his accomplishments and his lasting inspiration.

I want to thank the gentlelady from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) for bringing this to the floor today, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of House Concurrent Resolution 354, honoring the birth of former President Lyndon B. Johnson. This resolution accompanies the LBJ Foundation's upcoming centennial celebration.

Lyndon Johnson was born on August 27, 1908, in central Texas, not far from Johnson City, which his family helped settle. He endured rural poverty in his younger years, working his way through Southwest Texas State Teachers College, now known as Texas State University, San Marcos.

President Johnson's well-known commitment to civil rights began early in his political career. When he was elected to Congress, Johnson worked to get

black farmers and school children equal treatment in his congressional district, and in 1938, secured Federal funding for housing in Austin, Texas, for those who lived in poverty.

After six terms in the House, Johnson was elected to the Senate in 1948. In 1953, he became the youngest minority leader in Senate history. The following year, he became the majority leader.

During his 24 years in Congress, Johnson garnered unprecedented experience in the passage of legislation, experience that materialized into the many civil rights laws he signed as President. When Lyndon Johnson took office following the tragic assassination of President John F. Kennedy, he spearheaded passage of the 1965 Higher Education Act, which quadrupled the number of African American college students within a decade. He did the same with Medicare and Medicaid legislation, and within another decade, African American infant mortality was reduced by half.

Johnson also played a crucial role in ending the de jure segregation in America by signing the landmark 1964 Civil Rights Act into law, which banned discrimination in employment. As a proud Republican, I stand here, Mr. Speaker, I remind you and this body that that was with a majority of Republican votes in the House and in Senate that passed the Civil Rights Act in 1964, and President Johnson truly worked in a bipartisan fashion across the aisle and could not have passed that without bipartisan support and a majority of Republicans in the House and Senate.

After Martin Luther King, Jr.'s voter registration campaign in Selma, Alabama, President Johnson said that even one American's disenfranchisement, "undermines the freedom of every citizen." In that spirit, he signed the 1965 Voting Rights Act. His efforts allowed more African Americans to vote, and to run for office.

As a result of President Lyndon B. Johnson's historic efforts in the fight to end racial segregation, we now live in a more representative America. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this resolution.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlelady from Texas (Ms. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE), the author of the resolution.

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. I thank the distinguished gentleman from Virginia and I thank him for his words of tribute, as I thank the distinguished gentleman from Iowa for his words of tribute, two distinguished gentlemen, and of course the chairman and ranking member of the full committee, Mr. CONYERS and Mr. SMITH.

I rise today with great enthusiasm to be able to commemorate this year, the

100th birthday of President Lyndon Baines Johnson. I am glad that Mr. KING offered the fact that much of the legislation that was monumental, there was bipartisan support. That was a talent of Lyndon Baines Johnson. He managed to craft a legislative agenda as a President that was remarkable, I would say unbelievable, and he did it by reaching across the aisle.

So I rise today in support of H. Con. Res. 354, commemorating President Lyndon Baines Johnson on the occasion of his centennial birthday celebration. I am proud to offer this legislation and to note that the President's official birth date is August 27, 1908. This will give us the opportunity to commemorate his legacy from this time until the month of August. The Lyndon Baines Johnson Foundation is celebrating, however, the remarkable life and Presidency of this great man beginning today and the celebration will culminate with his family members and fellow former cabinet members and staff and supporters and Members of Congress, House and Senate, on this Wednesday, when the Senate will pass this concurrent resolution honoring President Johnson.

It is an honor to recognize President Lyndon Baines Johnson, not simply because he was President, but because he represented an era, because he convened a time in America that was troubled. But he was a true champion of civil rights for all Americans and he led the Nation during very turbulent political times, from the Civil Rights movement, the deaths of President John F. Kennedy, Robert Kennedy, and Dr. Martin Luther King, and the Vietnam War.

But he was a teacher by profession in Texas. He proudly served the 10th Congressional District in the United States House of Representatives. He was a commissioned officer in the Navy and valiantly served in World War II. He was a renaissance man, he was a whole man, he was an American person, an American man, if you will. During World War II he was conferred the Silver Star, the military's third highest medal, by General Douglas MacArthur.

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He was a United States Senator and served as both minority and majority leader. He holds the current distinction of being the youngest Senate majority leader at the age of 46. He was also Vice President, head of the Committee on Equal Employment Opportunities, and President of the United States.

As President, as was noted, he nominated historically the first African American, the first minority to be nominated to the Supreme Court, Thurgood Marshall, who, of course, we all know argued that premier and prominent case civil rights legacy, *Brown v. Board of Education*, to the United States Supreme Court. All the world took note that this southern President from Texas could nominate an African American to the Supreme

Court. That was Lyndon Baines Johnson.

He was truly a great Texan and a great patriot and a great American. He was a devoted husband to Lady Bird Johnson, and we acknowledged her passing sadly this year, and, of course, a father to his two beloved children, Luci Baines Johnson and Lynda Johnson Robb. History shows us that beside this giant of an a man, this historic legend, there were three great women.

President Johnson never forgot his beginnings in Texas. My predecessor in Congress, the incomparable Honorable Barbara Jordan of the 18th Congressional District in Texas, developed a good working relationship with President Johnson, and he appointed her to serve on the Commission on Income Maintenance in 1968.

In addition, after the 1965 Voting Rights Act was created, she along with many African Americans ascended to the United States Congress, for the Honorable Barbara Jordan had run before and had lost. With the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and the redistricting that came about, she was able to be elected to the United States Congress, along with Andy Young, and the rest is history, as we have seen the numbers of African Americans and Hispanics come to the United States Congress, creating a more equal balance because of this legislation.

Of course, Barbara Jordan in 1968 amended the Voting Rights Act of 1965 by adding Spanish language. Later Barbara Jordan would serve as a professor at the Lyndon Baines Johnson School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas and she would accept an appointment to the Lyndon Baines Johnson Centennial Chair in National Policy at the university.

As a teacher, Johnson believed segregation condemned the South to educational and economic backwardness. I think it is important to note, as I said earlier, he was a son of the south. This was a very difficult stance to take. He took it out of his heart. He did not agree with segregation, and coming to the United States Congress and Senate, it freed him to do what was right.

In 1937, Johnson was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives as a liberal New Dealer allied with Democratic President Franklin Delano Roosevelt. Johnson commemorated his legislative life in tribute to Franklin Delano Roosevelt, I truly believe, because he led on the War on Poverty.

Johnson successfully championed civil rights when he successfully ran for the U.S. Senate in 1948. Even then, as I said, as a son of the south, he was unashamed of his belief against segregation. In 1957, when a civil rights bill came before Congress, Johnson favored the bill and worked hard behind the scenes to win its passage. He moved from one side to the other, persuading southern Democrats and northern liberals to compromise. The Civil Rights Act of 1957, the first civil rights legislation to pass since reconstruction, was

signed by President Eisenhower in September 1957. Civil right was bipartisan in this body, and President Johnson knew that.

In 1960, John F. Kennedy invited Johnson to join the Democratic presidential ticket as his running mate. Some would say there could not be two more different individuals. But what a match, what a wonderful match. And they went on to victory. As they went on to victory, they showed the world that different viewpoints can be united.

When Johnson met Dr. Martin Luther King a few days after Kennedy's assassination, Dr. King told Johnson that racial tensions could no longer be tempered by compromise. Johnson appreciated King's powers of persuasion and decided to utilize his experience to pass the 1964 Civil Rights Act. Dr. King and President Johnson continued to work closely to pass the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and the Fair Housing Act.

It was difficult times. There were agreements and disagreements. But, lo and behold, the great and wonderful hopeful dream of Dr. Martin Luther King did his work and asked that President Johnson do his work, and together they did their work for America.

Reminiscing on the trials and triumphs on her young years in the White House, his daughter Luci Baines Johnson stated that her legacy from the White House days were "a thousand friendships, a deep and abiding love of country and public service, a passion for learning, and the recognition that getting in life is truly to be found in the giving and the belief that I should try to live each day as if it is my last."

President Johnson signed these bills into law, as I indicated: the Civil Rights Act, the Voting Rights Act and the Open Housing Act. President Johnson started Head Start, Job Corps and Medicare, among many others. And if you look at his time in Congress and his time as President, you will find not just a Presidency, but you will find an era.

It is amazing the bills that President Johnson passed. I simply want to take note of them and will place into the RECORD two pages of legislation under the auspices and the administration of Lyndon Baines Johnson that included so many bills, the Kennedy Cultural Center, the Urban Mass Transit, Food Stamps, housing acts, Head Start and others.

We understand we are going into a hot summer, a summer where youth are looking for jobs. President Johnson offered Job Corps, Youth Jobs, Medicare for those who are up in years, and, of course, he declared the War on Poverty, the first President to do so. He developed 40 programs to eliminate poverty, and his programs were intended to improve the living conditions of all Americans.

Of course, he was a great educator. His daughter Lynda Robb once stated, "But daddy wasn't as interested in the numbers of laws he helped enact as he

was in the number of lives that he helped to enrich."

I just want to show this body some of the pictures that show the working relationship with major civil rights leaders that worked closely with the President on these civil rights laws. It shows the passion that he had, that he was a hands-on President.

As he met with Dr. Martin Luther King, this picture shows him giving the pen which he signed the 1964-1965 bill, and as well the signing ceremonies that took place during that time. This, of course, shows Barbara Jordan and Vernon Jordan who stood with the President on many, many issues.

Let me close by simply acknowledging one of the greatest moments I think this Congress had a chance to witness, and that was the President's speech to Congress as he dealt with this question of the Civil Rights Act and the Voting Rights Act. As he spoke to the Speaker and to the Members of Congress, he said, "I speak tonight for the dignity of man and the destiny of democracy. I urge every member of both parties, Americans of all religions and of all colors from every section of this country to join me in that cause. At times history and fate meet at a single time in a single place to shape a turning point in man's unending search for freedom. So it was at Lexington and Concord. So it was a century ago at Appomattox. So it was last week in Selma, Alabama."

The President opened up his words by suggesting that we could do this together. These are his final words.

"So I ask you to join me in working long hours, nights and weekends, if necessary, to pass this bill. And I don't make that request lightly. For from the window where I sit, with the problems of our country, I recognize that outside this Chamber is the outraged conscience of a nation, the grave concern of many nations, and the harsh judgment of history on our acts." And, of course, he said "We shall overcome."

Mr. Speaker, I would say to you that President Lyndon Baines Johnson was the President of the United States, but he represents the compilation of all the dreams and aspirations of many who could not speak for themselves. He embraced the civil rights leaders. He understood as a son of the South that he could make a difference. He reached across the aisle and counted every vote. He knew how tough it was going to be to pass the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and then ultimately after the violence of Selma, the 1965 Voting Rights Act.

He opened the doors to many of us. I stand here as a true testimony to all that he has done. All of us who have had the doors of education opened, the doors of political process opened, the doors of poverty removed, opened and then shut, owe that to President Lyndon Baines Johnson.

I started by saying that he is not just a President, but it is an era which we should remember. Joseph Califano said

it is not a President that should be forgotten, but should be remembered. I ask my colleagues to support this legislation, and I ask them to do so enthusiastically.

Mr. Speaker, I include the list of legislation mentioned earlier:

LANDMARK LAWS OF THE LYNDON B. JOHNSON
ADMINISTRATION

1963

College Facilities, Clean Air, Vocational Education, Indian Vocational Training, and Manpower Training.

1964

Inter-American Development Bank, Kennedy Cultural Center, Tax Reduction, Presidential Transition, Federal Airport Aid, Farm Program, Chamizal Convention, Pesticide Controls, International Development Association, and Civil Rights Act of 1964.

Campobello International Park, Urban Mass Transit, Water Resources Research, Federal Highway, Civil Service Pay Raise, War on Poverty, Criminal Justice, Truth-in-Securities, Medicine Bow National Forest, and Ozark Scenic Riverway.

Administrative Conference, Fort Bowie Historic Site, Food Stamp, Housing Act, Interest Equalization, Wilderness Areas, Nurse Training, Revenues for Recreation, Fire Island National Seashore, Library Services, and Federal Employee Health Benefits.

1965

Medicare, Aid to Education, Higher Education, Four Year Farm Program, Department of Housing and Urban Development, Housing Act, Social Security Increase, Deaf-Blind Center, College Work Study, and Rail Strike Settlement.

Voting Rights, Fair Immigration Law, Older Americans, Heart, Cancer, Stroke Program, Law Enforcement Assistance, National Crime Commission, Drug Controls, Mental Health Facilities, Health Professions, and Medical Libraries.

Vocational Rehabilitation, Anti-Poverty Program, Arts and Humanities Foundation, Aid to Appalachia, Highway Beauty, Clean Air, Water Pollution Control, High Speed Transit, Manpower Training, and Presidential Disability.

Child Health, Regional Development, Aid to Small Businesses, Weather-Predicting Services, Military Pay Increase, GI Life Insurance, Community Health Services, Water Resources Council, Water Desalting, and Assateague National Seashore.

Whiskeytown National Recreation Area, Delaware Water Gap Recreation Area, Juvenile Delinquency Control, Arms Control, Strengthening U.N. Charter, International Coffee Agreement, and Retirement for Public Servants.

1966

Food for India, Child Nutrition, Department of Transportation, Truth in Packaging, Model Cities, Rent Supplements, Teachers Corps, Asian Development Bank, Clean Rivers, Aid-to-Handicapped Children, Redwoods Park, and Flaming Gorge Recreation Area.

Food for Freedom, Child Safety, Narcotics Rehabilitation, Traffic Safety, Highway Safety, Mine Safety, International Education, Bail Reform, Tire Safety, New GI Bill, and Minimum Wage Increase.

Urban Mass Transit, Civil Procedure Reform, Federal Highway Aid, Military Medicare, Public Health Reorganization, Cape Lookout Seashore, Water Research, Guadalupe National Park, Revolutionary War Bicentennial, and Fish-Wildlife Preservation.

Water for Peace, Anti-Inflation Program, Scientific Knowledge Exchange, Cultural Materials Exchange, Foreign Investors Tax, Parcel Post Reform, Civil Service Pay Raise,

Stockpile Sales, Participation Certificates, Protection for Savings, Flexible Interest Rates, and Freedom of Information.

1967

Education Professions, Education Act, Air Pollution Control, Partnership for Health, Social Security Increases, Age Discrimination, Wholesome Meat, Flammable Fabrics, Urban Research, and Public Broadcasting.

Outer Space Treaty, Modern D.C. Government, Vietnam Veterans Benefits, Federal Judicial Center, Civilian-Postal Workers Pay, Summer Youth Programs, Food Stamps, Selective Service, Urban Fellowships, and Consular Treaty.

Safety At Sea Treaty, Narcotics Treaty, Anti-Racketeering, Product Safety Commission, Small Business Aid, and Inter-American Bank.

1968

Fair Housing, Indian Bill of Rights, Safe Streets, Wholesome Poultry, Food for Peace, Commodity Exchange Rules, U.S. Grain Standards, School Breakfasts, Bank Protection, and Defense Production.

Corporate Takeovers, Export Program, Gold Cover Removal, Truth-in-Lending, Aircraft Noise Abatement, Auto Insurance Study, New Narcotics Bureau, Gas Pipeline Safety, Fire Safety, and Sea Grant Colleges.

D.C. School Board, Tax Surcharge, Better Housing, International Monetary Reform, International Grains Treaty, Oil Revenues for Recreation, Virgin Islands Elections, San Rafael Wilderness, San Gabriel Wilderness, and Fair Federal Juries.

Candidate Protection, Juvenile Delinquency Prevention, Guaranteed Student Loans, D.C. Visitors Center, FHA-VA Interest Rate Program, Health Manpower, Eisenhower College, Gun Controls, Biscayne Park, and Heart, Cancer, and Stroke Programs.

Hazardous Radiation Protection, Colorado River Reclamation, Scenic Rivers, Scenic Trails, National Water Commission, Federal Magistrates, Vocational Education, Veterans Pension Increases, North Cascades Park, International Coffee Agreement, Intergovernmental Manpower, Dangerous Drugs Control, and Military Justice Code.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Con. Res. 354, commemorating President Lyndon Baines Johnson on the occasion of his centennial birthday celebration. I am pleased to have the opportunity of being the original author of this resolution along with 59 House sponsors.

I note that the President's official birthdate is August 27, 1908. However, the Lyndon Baines Johnson Foundation is celebrating the remarkable life and presidency of this great man beginning today, and the celebration will culminate on this Wednesday when the Senate will pass its resolution honoring President Johnson. I would like to thank my staff for the hard work on this resolution.

It is an honor to recognize President Lyndon Baines Johnson. He was a true champion of civil rights for all Americans, and he led the Nation during very turbulent political times from the Civil Rights Movement, the deaths of President John F. Kennedy, Robert Kennedy, and Dr. Martin Luther King, and the Vietnam war.

He was a teacher by profession in Texas. He proudly served the 10th Congressional District in the United States House of Representatives. He was a commissioned officer in the Navy and valiantly served in World War II, and was conferred the Silver Star, the military's third highest medal, by General Douglas MacArthur. He was a United States Senator

and served as both Minority and Majority leader. He holds the current distinction of being the youngest Senate majority leader at the age of 46. He was also Vice President, head of the Committee on Equal Employment Opportunities, and President of the United States.

As President, he nominated Thurgood Marshall as the first African-American to serve on the United States Supreme Court.

He was truly a great Texan. He was a devoted husband to Lady Bird Johnson and a father to his two beloved children: Luci Baines Johnson and Lynda Johnson Robb. These women give new meaning to the old adage, behind every great man is a great woman. History shows us that beside this giant, this historic legend, there were three great women.

President Johnson never forgot his beginnings in Texas. My predecessor in Congress, the incomparable Honorable Barbara Jordan of the 18th Congressional District in Texas, developed a good working relationship with President Johnson and he appointed her to serve on the Commission on Income Maintenance in 1968. Later, she would serve as professor at the Lyndon Baines Johnson School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas and she would accept an appointment to the Lyndon Baines Johnson Centennial Chair in National Policy at the University.

As a teacher, Johnson believed segregation condemned the South to educational and economic backwardness. In 1937, Johnson was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives as a liberal New Dealer allied with Democratic President Franklin Delano Roosevelt. Johnson successfully championed civil rights when he successfully ran for the U.S. Senate in 1948.

In 1957, when a civil rights bill came before Congress, Johnson favored the bill and worked hard behind the scenes to win its passage. He moved from one side to the other, persuading southern Democrats and northern liberals to compromise. The Civil Rights Act of 1957, the first civil rights legislation to pass since Reconstruction, was signed by President Eisenhower in September 1957.

In 1960, John F. Kennedy invited Johnson to join the Democratic presidential ticket as his running mate. Johnson pushed the more liberal Kennedy to go further and faster on civil rights.

When Johnson met with Dr. Martin Luther King a few days after Kennedy's assassination, Dr. King told Johnson that racial tensions could no longer be tempered by compromise. Johnson, who appreciated King's powers of persuasion, decided to utilize his experience to pass the 1964 Civil Rights Act. Dr. King and President Johnson continued to work closely to pass the Voting Rights of 1965 and the Fair Housing Act.

Reminiscing on the trials and triumphs on her young years in the White House, his daughter Luci Baines Johnson stated that her legacy from the White House days were "a thousand friendships, a deep and abiding love of country and public service, a passion for learning, the recognition that the getting in life is truly to be found in the giving and the belief that I should try to live each day as if it is my last."

Over a quarter century ago, while delivering the commencement address at Howard University on June 4, 1965, President Johnson posed this question: ". . . what is justice?" His response was "It is to fulfill the fair expectations of man."

Throughout his life and administration, President Johnson sought justice for all Americans. His administration produced the greatest outpouring of legislation in America's history. Laws were enacted to end discrimination and to fight poverty, to provide medical care to the old and to extend educational opportunities to the young. In addition, acts were passed to clean the air and water and reverse the pollution of decades, to preserve precious land for public recreation and to protect the natural beauty of the continent. Legislation protected the consumer in the marketplace and enabled art, music and theater to be brought to all parts of America.

President Johnson signed into law the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Voting Rights Act of 1965, and the Open Housing Act of 1968. These Acts removed the barriers that restricted African Americans from using restaurants, restrooms, theaters, and other public accommodations; assured all citizens their constitutional right to vote; and provided African Americans and other minorities with the freedom to decide where they would live.

President Johnson started Head Start, Job Corps, and Medicare, among many other landmark pieces of legislation and programs. With his Head Start initiative, 4 and 5-year old children from disadvantaged families attended classes and were provided with nourishing meals and medical attention, and a chance to learn in schools.

Job Corps taught young men and women trades and vocational skills that would enable them to lead productive lives.

His Medicare initiative provided health care to all Americans over 65. With the passage of the Medicare Act, the threat of financial doom was lifted from senior citizens, and also from the sons and daughters who might also otherwise have been burdened with the responsibility for their parent's care.

His undertaking on the War on Poverty was expansive. He developed 40 programs to eliminate poverty, and his programs were intended not just to improve living conditions but to enable people trapped in the perpetual cycle of poverty the opportunity to lift themselves up out of poverty and improve their own conditions.

President Johnson also added a prodigious number of laws that extended education to young people. "More than 60 education laws were part of the vast number of legislative measures that made up the Great Society," his daughter, Lynda Robb once stated. "But Daddy wasn't as interested in the number of laws he helped enact as he was in the number of lives those laws help enrich." Luci Baines Johnson stated, "Nothing meant more to my father than education."

Today we celebrate the life of President Lyndon Baines Johnson. He has given America many legislative victories. Importantly, his legislation had important elements of self-help that provided the people it was intended to serve with the opportunity to work to improve their own condition. Indeed, President Johnson ensured that all Americans would be assured their constitutional freedoms and that all Americans would enjoy the triumph against oppression and injustice. As President Johnson rightly said, quoting Winston Churchill on another triumph for freedom, "it is not the end. It is not even the beginning of the end. But it is, perhaps, the end of the beginning. That beginning is freedom and the barriers to that freedom are tumbling down."

President Johnson's administration made tremendous strides in the garnering of civil rights of all Americans. Let us be reminded that the barriers to freedom are still tumbling. Indeed, it is not yet the beginning of the end. But it is the end of the beginning. The nation owes the end of the beginning to the leadership, foresight, and effectiveness of President Lyndon Baines Johnson. President Johnson and his administration have started the Nation on its trek to assure civil rights and freedoms to all, but the battle is not yet won, and we must continue to march on, in the courageous spirit of President Johnson, until victory is won, and all people are free.

In his very eloquent speech to the full Congress, President Johnson echoed Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s famous words, "We Shall Overcome." President Johnson's delivered his speech on March 15, 1965, a week after deadly racial violence erupted in Selma, Alabama, as African Americans were attacked by police while preparing to march to Montgomery to protest voting rights discrimination.

In his speech, President Johnson challenged the members of Congress, by stating "I want this to be the Congress—Republicans and Democrats alike—which did all these things for all these people. Beyond this great chamber—out yonder—in fifty states are the people that we serve. Who can tell what deep and unspoken hopes are in their hearts tonight as they sit there and listen? We all can guess, from our own lives, how difficult they often find their own pursuit of happiness, how many problems each little family has. They look most of all to themselves for their future, but I think that they also look to each of us."

This speech was historic not only in what it asked of Congress, but also, what it asked of the American people. I encourage everyone to read the text of this historic address in its entirety.

I will close with the words that President Johnson delivered in his historic commencement speech on June 4, 1965 before Howard University:

"The Scripture promises: 'I shall light a candle of understanding in thine heart, which shall not be put out.' Together, and with millions more, we can light that candle of understanding in the heart of all America. And, once lit, it will never again go out."

President Johnson has lit the candle, let us today continue to carry it and make sure that it will never go out.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I would yield back the balance of my time and urge adoption.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 354.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

NATIONAL AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH

Mr. WYNN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the reso-

lution (H. Res. 1106) expressing support for designation of April 2008 as "National Autism Awareness Month" and supporting efforts to devote new resources to research into the causes and treatment of autism and to improve training and support for individuals with autism and those who care for individuals with autism.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1106

Whereas autism is a developmental disorder that is typically diagnosed during the first 3 years of life, robbing individuals of their ability to communicate and interact with others;

Whereas autism affects an estimated 1 in every 150 children in the United States;

Whereas autism is four times more likely to occur in boys than in girls;

Whereas autism can affect anyone, regardless of race, ethnicity, or other factors;

Whereas it costs approximately \$80,000 per year to treat an individual with autism in a medical center specializing in developmental disabilities;

Whereas the cost of special education programs for school-age children with autism is often more than \$30,000 per individual per year;

Whereas the cost nationally of caring for persons affected by autism is estimated at upwards of \$90,000,000,000 per year;

Whereas despite the fact that autism is one of the most common developmental disorders, many professionals in the medical and educational fields are still unaware of the best methods to diagnose and treat the disorder; and

Whereas April 2008 would be an appropriate month to designate as "National Autism Awareness Month" to increase public awareness of the need to support individuals with autism and the family members and medical professionals who care for individuals with autism: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the United States House of Representatives—

(1) expresses support for designation of a "National Autism Awareness Month";

(2) recognizes and commends the parents and relatives of children with autism for their sacrifice and dedication in providing for the special needs of children with autism and for absorbing significant financial costs for specialized education and support services;

(3) supports the goal of devoting new resources to researching the root causes of autism, identifying the best methods of early intervention and treatment, expanding programs for individuals with autism across their lifespans, and promoting understanding of the special needs of people with autism;

(4) stresses the need to begin early intervention services soon after a child has been diagnosed with autism, noting that early intervention strategies are the primary therapeutic options for young people with autism, and that early intervention significantly improves the outcome for people with autism and can reduce the level of funding and services needed to treat people with autism later in life;

(5) recognizes the shortage of appropriately trained teachers who have the skills and support necessary to teach, assist, and respond to special needs students, including those with autism, in our school systems; and

(6) recognizes the importance of worker training programs that are tailored to the needs of developmentally disabled persons, including those with autism, and notes that

people with autism can be, and are, productive members of the workforce if they are given appropriate support, training, and early intervention services.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. WYNN) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Maryland.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WYNN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Maryland?

There was no objection.

Mr. WYNN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 1106, which designates April 2008 as National Autism Awareness Month and supports efforts to devote new resources to research into the causes and treatment of autism spectrum disorder.

Autism is a developmental spectrum disorder which inhibits an individual's ability to communicate and interact with others. For parents eager to communicate with their child, there is nothing more painful than watching their child fail to provide either a verbal or non-verbal cue of responsiveness. Affecting an estimated 1 in every 150 children and costing an estimated \$90 billion to care for those with this disorder, the toll of autism spectrum disorder on our country is significant.

The resolution before us supports the goals of devoting new resources to researching the root causes of autism, expanding programs for individuals with autism spectrum disorder across their life span and promoting understanding of the special needs of people with autism spectrum disorder. This resolution also emphasizes the need for early intervention services, starting as soon as the child has been diagnosed with autism.

While there is currently no available cure for autism spectrum disorder, early behavioral intervention strategies significantly improve the outcome for those suffering from autism. These strategies can also reduce the level of funding and services necessary to treat people later in life.

I would like to note for the record, Mr. Speaker, Ms. Daisy Maggette, my constituent from the Fourth District of Maryland, who has been a tireless advocate and activist in the fight against autism in our community.

I would also like to thank my colleague, Congressman DAVID REICHERT, for his work in bringing this resolution to the floor today. I would also like to thank Congressman MIKE DOYLE for his leadership on this issue.

I urge my colleagues to join me in support of H. Res. 1106.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today in strong support of House Resolution 1106, acknowledging the month of April as National Autism Awareness Month and supporting research efforts for the causes and treatment of autism, as well as the very special and enormous challenges faced by the parents of autistic children.

As founder and cochair of the Congressional Autism Caucus that I formed along with my good friend and colleague MIKE DOYLE back in 2001, I am very pleased to be here in strong support of this resolution. I would note parenthetically that we have 165 members in our caucus from both sides another aisle. I think with that kind of strength, we have been able to push a lot of new funding, both at NIH and CDC, which is I think appreciated by the community.

Awareness, Mr. Speaker, is in fact a crucial part of our fight, again making this resolution important. The more we inform and educate the general public about autism spectrum disorders, the earlier the medical community can effectively diagnose children with autism and get them the help that they need, and that is important news for the 1.5 million children and adults who currently suffer from autism spectrum disorders and their families.

I would like to first and foremost recognize and commend the parents and the families of individuals with autism for their sacrifice and dedication in providing for the special needs of their children and brothers and sisters with autism.

□ 1700

They are heroic. I also want to extend heartfelt thanks and appreciation to the teachers, physicians, therapists, and all other advocates who work with such diligence and compassion to support individuals with autism and their families.

Mr. Speaker, when I was first elected back in 1980, the prevalence of autism was estimated to be one out of every 10,000. Just 10 years ago, that number had been changed or updated to be one child in every 500. Today, it is estimated that one in 150 children in the United States will have autism spectrum disorder; and, once diagnosed, early intervention is key to significantly improving the outcome of individuals with this developmental disorder.

Autism, as we know, robs individuals of their ability to communicate and interact with others in society, but early intervention can help those individuals live a more satisfying life. I recognize the success of the worker training programs tailored for Americans with autism. With proper support, training, and early intervention, people with autism can be more productive members of our workforce.

I would like to thank the author of the resolution, Mr. DAVID REICHERT of

Washington, for his leadership in raising autism awareness and commending the efforts of those who care for individuals with autism.

It is important that, in addition to this important awareness resolution, that we move forward in Congress with other important legislation to help those with autism and their families, such as the bill that I have introduced, along with MIKE DOYLE, called the Global Autism Assistance Act. This bill would establish a \$10 million program to fund projects to address autism in the developing world over a period of 3 years. Grants would aim to raise awareness and understanding of autism and to aid service providers in less developed countries. The idea actually came when I was in Lagos in Nigeria and met with some individuals who are caring for autistic children who are absolutely without funds, and yet through love and through expertise they were helping children. But only a small number of kids were getting help in Nigeria, and that is where the idea was formed.

Another critical initiative is a bill that I joined MIKE DOYLE in introducing, called the Expanding the Promise for Individuals with Autism Act, H.R. 1881, which would authorize \$350 million over 5 years to improve access to comprehensive treatment, intervention, and services for individuals with autism and their families, including adults with autism. Among its important provisions, it would create a task force of experts to evaluate current therapies and services, establish several grant programs to assist States to provide services for children and adults with autism, and call for a study of public and private financing of treatments and services.

You hear a lot about the lack of bipartisanship in Washington, DC, these days, Mr. Speaker. In the fight to combat autism, nothing could be further from the truth. Members on both sides of the aisle are united and committed to providing care and services for individuals with autism and the families.

I urge strong support for this resolution.

I yield back the balance of my time. Mr. WYNN. Mr. Speaker, before I yield the balance of my time, I want to recognize the gentleman and thank him for his leadership on this issue. He has been truly committed. I also again would like to recognize the work of Mr. DOYLE, my colleague, and also my colleague and sponsor, Mr. REICHERT, for his leadership on this issue.

I yield back the balance of my time. The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. WYNN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1106.

The question was taken. The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the

ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING ESTABLISHMENT OF A BEBE MOORE CAMPBELL NATIONAL MINORITY MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH

Mr. WYNN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 134) expressing the sense of the Congress that there should be established a Bebe Moore Campbell National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month to enhance public awareness of mental illness, especially within minority communities, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 134

Whereas mental illness is one of the leading causes of disabilities in the United States, affecting one out of every four families in America and victimizing both those with the illness and those who care for and love those afflicted;

Whereas according to the National Alliance for Mentally Ill (NAMI), the direct and indirect costs to the workplace resulting from mental illness total over \$34,000,000 annually;

Whereas the National Institute of Mental Health has reported that many people suffer from more than one mental disorder at a given time and 45 percent of those with any mental disorder meet criteria for two or more disorders, with severity strongly related to comorbidity (including diabetes, cardiovascular disease, HIV/AIDS, and cancer);

Whereas according to the 1999 Surgeon General's Report on Mental Illness, more than 54,000,000 Americans have a mental disorder in any given year, although fewer than 8,000,000 seek treatment;

Whereas according to the same Surgeon General's Report on Mental Illness, adult Caucasians who suffer from depression or an anxiety disorder are more likely to receive treatment than adult African Americans with the same disorders even though the disorders occur in both groups at about the same rate, when taking into account socioeconomic factors;

Whereas according to a report from the Office of Minority and National Affairs for the American Psychiatric Association, although mental illness impacts all people, African Americans experience a much greater unmet need for mental health services and receive a lesser quality of care, thereby resulting in mental health disparities;

Whereas the three major brain diseases—schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, and depression—adversely affect the economy, contribute to the rise in incarceration rates, and erode the quality of family life of those involved;

Whereas nearly two-thirds of all people with a diagnosable mental illness do not seek mental health treatment due to stigma,

lack of community-based resources, inadequate diagnosis, or no diagnosis;

Whereas communities of color are in need of culturally competent mental health resources and the training of all health care providers to serve multi-ethnic consumers;

Whereas advocacy for traditional mental health organizations must be encouraged to incorporate and integrate minority mental health education and outreach within their respective portfolios;

Whereas other research studies estimate that 50 to 70 percent of all youth in the juvenile justice system have mental health problems that are usually undiagnosed, misdiagnosed, untreated, or badly treated, thus leaving those incarcerated in vulnerable conditions;

Whereas minority mental health consumers often fall into the category of the "working poor", facing additional challenges because they are underinsured or uninsured, which often leads to late diagnosis or no diagnosis of mental illness;

Whereas the faith, customs, values, and traditions of a variety of ethnic groups should be taken into consideration when attempting to treat and diagnose mental illnesses;

Whereas a small percentage of African Americans receive mental health treatment, and a significant percentage refuse treatment or view mental health treatment as the "treatment of last resort", due to the stigma associated with mental illness;

Whereas according to the 1999 Surgeon General's Report on Mental Illness, African Americans are misdiagnosed at a higher rate within the mental health delivery system, and greater effort must be made to accurately assess the mental health of African Americans;

Whereas there is a need to improve public awareness of mental illness and to strengthen local and national awareness of brain diseases in order to assist with advocacy for persons of color with mental illness, so that they may receive adequate and appropriate treatment that will result in their becoming fully functioning members of society;

Whereas community mobilization of resources is needed to educate, advocate for, and train mental health providers to help remove barriers to treatment of mental disorders;

Whereas access to mental health treatment and services is of paramount importance;

Whereas there is a need to encourage primary care physicians to offer screening, partner with mental health providers, and seek the appropriate referral to specialists and to encourage timely and accurate diagnosis;

Whereas the late Bebe Moore Campbell (mother, grandmother, wife, friend, advocate, celebrated writer and journalist, noted author, radio commentator, community activist, co-founder of National Alliance for the Mentally Ill Urban Los Angeles, University of Pittsburgh Trustee and educator, and recipient of numerous awards and honors) was recognized for her tireless advocacy and fight to bring awareness and attention to mental illness among minorities with the release of her New York Times best selling novel, "72 Hour Hold", and her children's book "Sometimes My Mommy Gets Angry", which both bring awareness to the plight of those with brain disorders;

Whereas Bebe Moore Campbell through her dedication and commitment sought to move communities to support mental wellness through effective treatment options, open access to mental health treatment and services, and improve community outreach and support for the many loved ones who are unable to speak for themselves; and

Whereas July would be an appropriate month to recognize as Bebe Moore Campbell National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That it is the sense of Congress that—

(1) improved access to mental health treatment and services and public awareness of mental illness are of paramount importance;

(2) there is an important need for improved access to care, treatment, and services for those diagnosed with severe and persistent mental health disorders and improved public awareness of mental illness; and

(3) an appropriate month should be recognized as Bebe Moore Campbell National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month to enhance public awareness of mental illness and mental illness among minorities.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. WYNN) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) will each control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Maryland.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WYNN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Maryland?

There was no objection.

Mr. WYNN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, this resolution will designate July as Bebe Moore Campbell National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month.

Mental illness is one of the leading causes of disabilities in the United States affecting one out of every four Americans, and victimizing both those with the illness as well as those who care for and love those afflicted. However, according to a report from the Office of Minority and National Affairs for the American Psychiatric Association, although mental illness impacts all people, African Americans experience a much greater unmet need for mental health services and receive a lesser quality of care, thereby resulting in mental health disparities. Further, according to a Surgeon General's report on mental illness, African Americans who do seek help are misdiagnosed at a higher rate within the mental health delivery system.

Communities of color are in need of culturally competent mental health providers and expanding training for all health care providers to serve multiethnic consumers in order to accurately assess and treat African Americans and other minority patients.

According to the National Institute of Mental Health, one out of every three African Americans are more likely to stop treatment early, and are less likely to receive followup due to a lack of insurance coverage. Without adequate health insurance, mental health cannot be properly treated. Unfortu-

nately, only a small percentage of African Americans receive mental health treatment, and a significant percentage refuse treatment or view mental health treatment as a treatment of last resort due to a stigma associated with mental illness.

To address these problems, obviously we need more resources and access to health insurance. But critically we also need to improve public awareness and encourage minority citizens to confront the illness instead of denying it or being ashamed of its existence in their families and communities.

This bill will, number one, raise awareness about mental illness and mental health disparities among minorities nationwide. Second, it will encourage training for health care providers to ensure proper diagnosis of African American patients and minority communities. And, third, it will improve public health by encouraging the expansion of vital mental health care into underserved communities in every State.

Let me take a moment and tell you about Bebe Moore Campbell. Bebe Moore Campbell was a renowned African American author who died on November 27, 2006, at the age of 56. She was also my college classmate at the University of Pittsburgh. Through her dedication and commitment, Ms. Campbell sought to remove the stigma of mental illness in the African American community. Her novel, "72 Hour Hold," and her children's book, "Sometimes My Mommy Gets Angry," both bring to light the plight of those with brain disorders. Her goal was to move communities to support mental wellness through effective treatment, increased resources, access to mental health services, and improved community outreach and support.

July would be an appropriate month to be designated as Bebe Moore Campbell National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month, since our first book, "72 Hour Hold," which addressed minority mental health was released to the public in July of 2005.

I want to thank my lead cosponsor, Congresswoman DIANE WATSON, as well as all the cosponsors of this bill for their support, and I urge all of my colleagues to support this very important legislation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Let me begin by thanking my good friend and colleague, Mr. WYNN, for authoring this very important resolution. I rise today in strong support of it, recognizing May as the Bebe Moore Campbell National Minority Health Awareness Month. Bebe Moore Campbell will be remembered as a celebrated writer and journalist whose New York Times best selling novel, "72 Hour Hold," challenged minority communities to be open with their mental health and lower the stigma associated with receiving therapy. Her ability to assess

the mental health delivery system from a minority vantage point has helped raise awareness and remove barriers.

Mental illness, Mr. Speaker, can be crippling, not only to the individuals suffering from this disease, but obviously also the family and friends of that person. In some cases, therapy is declined or refused because mental health care is seen as the treatment of last resort. But we must improve public awareness and erase the stigma that is so often associated with mental illness.

Again, I would like to thank my friend and colleague, the author of the resolution, Mr. WYNN of Maryland, for raising public awareness of mental illness in minority communities and the importance of getting proper mental health treatment to those and for those who have been diagnosed. I encourage all of my colleagues to vote in favor of the resolution.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WYNN. Mr. Speaker, it is a great pleasure to me that this bill is met with such bipartisan support. I particularly want to thank my colleague, Mr. SMITH, for his support. He is recognized throughout this institution as a champion for the wellness of our citizens, human rights, and for supporting causes which make our country better. I want to thank him again for his support and thank all the cosponsors.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. WYNN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 134, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

SENSE OF HOUSE REGARDING ESTABLISHMENT OF A NATIONAL BRAIN TUMOR AWARENESS MONTH

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1124) expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that there should be established a National Brain Tumor Awareness Month, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1124

Whereas brain tumors are the leading cause of death from solid tumors in children under the age of 20, and are the third leading cause of death from cancer in young adults ages 20–39;

Whereas more than 190,000 people in the United States are diagnosed with a brain tumor each year;

Whereas of these tumors, approximately 40,000 are new cases of primary brain tumors and approximately 150,000 are metastatic brain tumors, where a cancer spread from another part of the body to the brain;

Whereas some 10–15 percent of all persons with cancer will experience a metastatic brain tumor at some point;

Whereas brain tumors may be either malignant or benign, but can be life-threatening in either case;

Whereas treatment of brain tumors is complicated by the more than 120 different types of such tumors;

Whereas national priorities for dealing with brain tumors include—

(1) supporting research programs at the National Cancer Institute;

(2) strengthening brain tumor research program leadership at the National Institutes of Health, including the National Cancer Institute; and

(3) strengthening access to critical healthcare services for Medicare beneficiaries;

Whereas the North American Brain Tumor Coalition established a Brain Tumor Action Week during the first week of May 2007 and each subsequent first week in May;

Whereas the Lori Arquilla Andersen Foundation is recognized for their efforts to promote awareness of the life-threatening effects of brain tumors, to advocate on behalf of brain tumor patients, and to raise funds for medical research;

Whereas Accelerate Brain Cancer Cure is recognized for their work to bring more treatments to patients, stimulate research and development and otherwise support the accelerated development of new therapies for brain cancer;

Whereas the Goldhirsh Foundation is recognized for being devoted to providing support for innovative brain tumor research with grants awarded through The Brain Tumor Research Awards Program and The Brain Tumor Funders Collaborative;

Whereas the American Brain Tumor Association is recognized for their work to eliminate brain tumors through research and to meet the needs of brain tumor patients and their families;

Whereas The Brain Tumor Society is recognized for their work to find a cure for brain tumors, improve the quality of life for brain tumor patients, survivors, and their families, and raise funds to advance research projects that enhance treatments and find a cure;

Whereas the National Brain Tumor Foundation is recognized for their work to find a cure for brain tumors, and for giving hope to the brain tumor community by funding meaningful research and providing resources and education to patients;

Whereas the Tug McGraw Foundation is recognized for their work to support research that will improve the quality of life in the physical, social, spiritual, and cognitive areas of patients dealing with brain cancer;

Whereas the Childhood Brain Tumor Foundation is recognized for their work to strive to serve the needs of families and children with brain tumors in hopes of improving the quality of life and finding cures for pediatric brain tumors through funding basic science or clinical research;

Whereas the Children's Brain Tumor Foundation is recognized for their work to improve the treatment, quality of life, and the long term outlook for children with brain and spinal cord tumors through research, support, education, and advocacy to families and survivors;

Whereas the Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation is recognized for their work to eradicate brain tumors, providing support for families, and increasing public awareness about the severity and prevalence of childhood brain tumors;

Whereas the Southeastern Brain Tumor foundation is recognized for their work to instill hope, knowledge and comfort by offering information, education, and support services to all affected by brain tumors;

Whereas the Oklahoma Brain Tumor Foundation is recognized for their work in meeting the needs of Oklahoma families, caregivers and patients affected by brain tumors, through education, advocacy, research and service;

Whereas the Michael Quinlan Brain Tumor Foundation is recognized for their work to support those affected by brain tumors through educational, emotional, financial, and spiritual services;

Whereas the Brain Tumor Action Network is recognized for their work to bring awareness to the general public about brain tumors and to educate and empower brain tumor survivors, their families and friends;

Whereas May would be an appropriate month to recognize as National Brain Tumor Awareness Month; and

Whereas there is a need for greater awareness of brain tumors and brain cancer on the part of the public, including awareness of symptoms and warning signs, treatment options, research needs, and public policy implications: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That—

(1) it is the sense of the House of Representatives that there should be established a National Brain Tumor Awareness Month; and

(2) the House of Representatives applauds the actions of medical professionals and other caregivers, researchers, patients and their families, and others who strive to combat and raise public awareness of brain tumors and brain cancer.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Illinois.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I want to express my gratitude to Chairman DINGELL for his support in bringing this resolution to the floor today. I want to also thank Congressman ROSKAM for his support and cosponsorship of this resolution.

For me, the heart and soul behind the effort to establish a Brain Tumor

Awareness Month has been the Lori Arquilla Andersen Foundation, which is in my home district in Illinois.

Many of us have been touched by cancer, my family included. But when Linda Magiera lost her precious daughter, Lori, to brain cancer in 2005, she made sure to continue her daughter's passion for life and desire to help others by creating the Lori Arquilla Andersen Foundation in her name.

Lori was diagnosed with glioblastoma multiforme stage 4 brain cancer, one of the most deadly, at the age of 33, just 3 months after her wedding. She passed away 22 months to the day after her first of five surgeries.

I am told by those who knew her that Lori was always upbeat, positive, courageous, and smiling. The Lori Arquilla Andersen Foundation has exemplified that energy over the past years. They have made important strides in increasing awareness and raising funds for brain tumor research, but they are also responsible for bringing the issues that are important to the brain tumor community as well as this resolution to my attention.

While the Andersen Foundation has managed to put a face on these issues for me, the larger brain tumor community has also done incredible work over the past decade. They have worked tirelessly to support people with brain tumors and their families, raise awareness of the disease and its effects, and to attain resolutions from governors, State legislators, city councils, and mayors in support of establishing a Brain Tumor Awareness Month in May. Today, we take one giant step forward in advancing their cause. And it won't be a moment too soon.

Over 44,500 people in the United States are diagnosed with a primary brain tumor in the brain or spine each year; and among children, brain tumors are the second most common cancer and comprise approximately 25 percent of all pediatric cancers. Although less prevalent than other cancers such as lung, breast, or prostate cancer, brain tumors are in no way trivial for those who have them. Because they are located in the "control center," the thought, memory, emotion, sensation, and movement, brain tumors have serious and at times devastating effects on the lives of patients and their families. Brain tumors can change an individual's personality, their ability to communicate, and their ability to walk or see.

Unfortunately, with over 126 different kinds of primary brain tumors, the development of effective treatments is uncommonly complicated.

□ 1715

The 5-year survival rate following the diagnosis of a primary malignant brain tumor is about 30 percent. However, the average survival rate for patients with glioblastomas is less than 5 percent, and most survive for only 6 to 12 months. We must continue to work towards finding a cure for this terrible disease.

Strong support for ongoing research is the answer, and increased awareness is the first step in getting there. I'm so pleased to be making progress on this resolution today. And with the recent Race For Hope which was held on Sunday, March 4, here in Washington, DC, and raised \$1.62 million for brain tumor research, it is certainly timely.

Again, I want to thank Chairman DINGELL and his staff for their hard work in bringing this resolution to the floor.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today in support of H. Res. 1124, acknowledging the month of May as an appropriate month to celebrate National Brain Tumor Awareness Month. I'd like to commend the North American Brain Tumor Coalition for its work and efforts in establishing Brain Tumor Action Week in the beginning of May each year.

In the United States, Mr. Speaker, more than 190,000 people are diagnosed with brain tumors each year. Of those 190,000 Americans diagnosed, 40,000 cases are primary tumors, and the remaining 150,000 cases are secondary tumors, where cancer has spread from another part of the body.

My mother suffered and passed away 11 years ago from a secondary brain tumor that began as lung cancer. The pain and the anguish she suffered, the convulsions, despite a major surgical procedure and anticonvulsant drugs like dilantin, were absolutely heart-breaking.

Anything and everything we can do to mitigate brain tumors must be done. Thus, I'd like to applaud the efforts and advocacy for brain tumor awareness by the Childhood Brain Tumor Foundation, the American Brain Tumor Association, the Brain Tumor Society and the National Brain Tumor Network and the many other groups valuable contributions to combating these brain tumors.

I would especially like to thank the author of the resolution, Ms. JAN SCHAKOWSKY of Illinois, for her leadership in raising brain tumor awareness and commending the efforts of those groups who have helped educate Americans about the symptoms and the warning signs.

I encourage all of my colleagues to vote in favor of this resolution.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman for his support. It seems that we have something in common. My daughter-in-law passed away from a secondary brain tumor as well, so I appreciate the special meaning that this has for you personally, and for your support for this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by

the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1124, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

REDUCING MATERNAL MORTALITY BOTH AT HOME AND ABROAD

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1022) reducing maternal mortality both at home and abroad, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1022

Whereas an estimated 536,000 women die during pregnancy and childbirth every year which is equivalent to one death every minute;

Whereas an estimated 15 percent of pregnancies and childbirths involve unpredictable and often life-threatening complications that require emergency care;

Whereas girls under 15 are estimated to be 5 times more likely to die during childbirth than women in their 20s;

Whereas nearly all these deaths are preventable;

Whereas survival rates greatly depend upon the distance and time a woman must travel to get skilled emergency medical care;

Whereas care by skilled birth attendants, nurses, midwives, or doctors during pregnancy and childbirth, including emergency services, and care for mothers and newborns is essential;

Whereas the poorer the household, the greater the risk of maternal death, and 99 percent of maternal deaths occur in developing countries;

Whereas newborns whose mothers die of any cause are 3 to 10 times more likely to die within 2 years than those whose mothers survive;

Whereas more than 1,000,000 children are left motherless and vulnerable every year;

Whereas young girls are often pulled from school and required to fill their lost mother's roles;

Whereas a mother's death lowers family income and productivity which affects the entire community;

Whereas in countries with similar levels of economic development, maternal mortality is highest where women's status is lowest;

Whereas the United States ranks 41st among 171 countries in the latest UN list ranking maternal mortality;

Whereas the overall United States maternal mortality ratio is now 11 deaths per 100,000 live births, one of the highest rates among industrialized nations;

Whereas United States maternal deaths have remained roughly stable since 1982 and have not declined significantly since then;

Whereas the Centers for Disease Control estimates that the true level of United States maternal deaths may be 1.3 to 3 times higher than the reported rate; and

Whereas ethnic and racial disparities in maternal mortality rates persist and in the United States maternal mortality among black women is almost four times the rate among non-Hispanic white women: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) affirms its commitment to promoting maternal health and child survival both at home and abroad through greater international investment and participation; and

(2) recognizes maternal health and child survival as fundamental to the well-being of families and societies, and to global development and prosperity.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Illinois.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of House Resolution 1022, which is aimed at reducing maternal mortality, both at home and abroad. As an original cosponsor of this resolution and a member of the Women's Caucus, I am proud to speak out in support of its passage.

This week begins an entire week of maternal mortality awareness events. During this week, women from abroad will provide firsthand accounts of horrific maternal health challenges they've faced. Globally, it is estimated that 15 percent of pregnancies and child births involve unpredictable and often life-threatening complications that require emergency care. What makes this statistic so staggering is that nearly all of these situations are preventable.

Even more astounding is the fact that the United States ranks a staggering 41st among 171 countries in a United Nations list ranking infant mortality. We can and we must do a better job.

The resolution before us affirms our commitment to promoting maternal mortality and child survival, both at home and abroad. It also recognizes that maternal health is fundamental to the well-being of families and societies.

I want to thank my colleagues, Congresswoman LOIS CAPPS, Speaker NANCY PELOSI, and the rest of the Congressional Women's Caucus for their leadership on this issue, and I urge my colleagues to join me in support of its adoption.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 1022, as amended and presented to the House today. Mr. Speaker, reducing maternal and child mortality and providing quality health care and nutrition to ensure the well-being of both mother and baby here and abroad, has been a top legislative priority for me throughout my 28 years as a Member of Congress.

All loss of life is tragic, especially when it is preventable. When a mother dies, the loss, the heartache is compounded by the deleterious impact on her children, on families and on the community.

As H. Res. 1022 points out, each year, more than a million children are left motherless and, as a consequence, are vulnerable. In many places, young girls are pulled from school and required to fill their lost mother's role in the home, cutting short their abilities to pursue an education.

And the evidence suggests that newborns whose mothers die of any cause are 3 times to 10 times more likely to die within the first 2 years than those whose mothers survive.

What is most unfortunate and thereby, should be unacceptable, is the fact that most maternal deaths are avoidable. With proper prenatal care and maternal health care, sanitary conditions for delivery, and available life-saving emergency interventions, essential obstetrical services, these lives need not be lost. Even in our own country maternal mortality, although rarer than in the developing world, occurs. No loss of life is acceptable.

Mr. Speaker, hemorrhaging and blood loss are the top cause of maternal mortality and are of grave concern. During an African subcommittee hearing that I chaired during the previous Congress which concerned itself with safe blood, we heard from Dr. Neelam Dhingra, of the World Health Organization. Dr. Dhingra informed us that the most common cause of maternal death in sub-Saharan Africa is severe bleeding, which can take the life of even a healthy woman within 2 hours, if not properly and immediately treated. She gave us the astounding statistic that in Africa, severe bleeding during delivery, or after childbirth, contributes to up to 44 percent of maternal deaths, many of which could be prevented simply through access to safe blood.

Sufficient quantity and quality of immediately available and usable blood must become the norm and not the exception.

And I want to applaud the efforts of CHAKA FATTAH who has pushed very hard over the years to try to grow the amount, the quality and the quantity of blood in Africa. And USAID is addressing this in a number of programs, including the PEPFAR program.

Women should not die from blood loss, simply due to lack of access to

basic interventions like safe blood. Support of this resolution today puts us on record as focusing on these kinds of interventions.

Mr. Speaker, one severe disfiguring disability that occurs in childbirth is obstetric fistula. Fistula can be treated and repaired through a relatively minor surgical procedure that costs, on average, \$150 per surgery.

I saw that firsthand, Mr. Speaker, on a trip several years back to Addis Ababa, where there is this famous hospital which has now grown and has satellite, and obviously has inspired other similar hospitals that treat the women who make it to them, and they're the lucky ones. I saw many of the women who were waiting in lines, who were incontinent, who were very sorrowful about their conditions but very hope-filled, knowing it was a matter of when and not if they would get this great surgery.

Still, large numbers of women, an estimated 2 million, endure the tremendous pain and numbing isolation that comes from being the walking wounded, incontinent and ostracized, and not able to get to hospitals like that which is in Addis. With just a small investment of health care dollars, the lives of these women could be dramatically changed.

In 2005, I would just point out, I sponsored an amendment that passed on this floor to allocate \$12.5 million dollars to establish 12 centers to provide treatment and surgery that would have allowed thousands of women to be physically cured and emotionally healed from fistula, preventing disease, death, and allowing them to return to normal life.

The amendment authorized funding for preventive measures as well, such as providing skilled birth attendants who can identify an obstructed delivery early and prevent an obstetric fistula from occurring in the first place. Unfortunately, the underlying legislation made it over to the Senate, but died.

However, I did ask the Bush administration, namely Dr. Kent Hill, USAID Assistant Administrator for Global Health, to initiate administratively a robust fistula program, which I'm happy to say he did wholeheartedly with a great deal of skill and compassion. I am happy to report that from 2004 to 2007, USAID has allocated more than \$20 million for fistula prevention and treatment. In 2008 that amount will jump to \$30 million, a great start but still not enough.

Nevertheless, more than 3,500 women have had life-changing fistula repair through this program, not to mention the cases prevented through proper obstetric care.

Helping mothers and helping their babies, Mr. Speaker, goes hand in hand. There is no dichotomy. When women receive proper prenatal care they are less likely to die in childbirth, and when unborn babies are healthy in the womb they emerge as healthier, stronger newborns.

I am pleased that the resolution before us today does not endorse in any way whatsoever the cruel ideology that pits women against their babies by suggesting abortion as a means of combating maternal mortality. Women and their babies deserve better than abortion, and their health and well-being is intrinsically linked.

Unfortunately, some abortion activists in recent years have attempted to exploit the tragedy of maternal mortality as a vehicle for their promotion of abortion.

On one trip to Uganda, Mr. Speaker, I met with the head of the Minister of Gender, and we talked about this problem of maternal mortality. And she said, what African women want is essential obstetrical services, not the demise of their unborn babies.

And so I am pleased that the resolution before us does not embrace abortion and, instead, properly links maternal health care and child survival to survival of all children, including the fragile and the vulnerable unborn baby.

Birth is not the beginning of life, Mr. Speaker. It is merely an event in the baby's life that began at the precise moment of fertilization. Life is a continuum with many, many stages. Human rights should be respected from womb to tomb. We need to recognize this biological fact in policy, funding and programming, and treat both mother and baby, unborn baby as well, as two patients in need of respect, love and tangible assistance. We need to affirm them both.

Mr. Speaker, in 1985, I sponsored the Child Survival Fund Amendment that doubled funding to \$50 million, and it was adopted into law. The legislation financed global vaccinations, oral rehydration therapy. I think many Members will be a little bit shocked to learn that a leading cause of child death is from diarrheal dehydration and the problems that result from that, while oral rehydration therapy can prevent it simply by getting fluids into that young child. It also focuses on growth monitoring and breast feeding. So I'm happy to say that the resolution also speaks to that issue very, very soundly.

UNICEF recognizes that unborn children and newborn children require care and nurturing, stating, and I quote, "significant improvement in early neonatal period will depend on essential interventions for the mother and babies before, during and immediately after birth."

□ 1730

According to the latest estimates for 2000 to 2006, at present in the developing world, one-quarter of pregnant women do not receive even a single visit from a skilled health professional, doctor, nurse, or midwife, and only 59 percent of births take place with the assistance of a skilled attendant, and just over half take place in a health facility. That has to be addressed.

And yet the care for the mother and unborn child cannot be restricted to

medical conditions and consultations, I should say, as important as they are. For example, in its child survival series, the Lancet identified fetal malnutrition and lower maternal body mass index as likely factors in neonatal mortality rates and fetal-growth retardation. Just as undernutrition is the underlying cause of a substantial percentage of all child deaths, the mother's nutritional status has a direct bearing on the unborn child's development and the ability to survive, and of course, on her life as well.

While visiting refugee camps in Sudan in the Darfur region, Mr. Speaker, I asked a group of women what is it that they required most, and I asked this at each and every camp, from the Muchar-Kama camp, all of the camps that I visited, they were unanimous. They wanted access to nutritious food so that these nursing mothers could continue to meet the needs of their infants. It was all about the two working together.

If we are to address child and maternal deaths and go even further to ensure the healthy development of the baby through adolescence and the long-term health of the mother, the baby and the mother must be provided adequate nutrition and health care from the earliest stages of life prior to birth.

In sum, the lack of prenatal care, the lack of adequate nutrition during pregnancy, the lack of sterile birthing environments, the lack of clean blood, and the lack of access to essential obstetrical services all contribute to the deaths of women and children. We must do more to save the lives of both, and the Child Survival and Maternal Mortality Initiatives must recognize, embrace, protect, and assist both women and their children, both born and unborn, from all threats including disease, hunger, trauma, and violence.

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following exchange of letters for the RECORD:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
Washington, DC, May 19, 2008.

Hon. JOHN D. DINGELL,
Chairman, Committee on Energy and Commerce,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I am writing to you regarding H. Res. 1022, a resolution introduced by Representative Lois Capps (D-CA) for the purpose of reducing maternal mortality both at home and abroad. This legislation was initially referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce and, in addition, to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

Representative Capps has requested that the Committee on Foreign Affairs waive consideration of this resolution. Based on the discussions that the staff of our two committees has had regarding this resolution and in the interest of permitting your Committee to proceed expeditiously to floor consideration of this important resolution, I am willing to waive further consideration of H. Res. 1022. I do so with the understanding that by waiving consideration of the bill, the Committee on Foreign Affairs does not waive any future jurisdictional claim over the subject matters contained in the resolution which fall within its Rule X jurisdiction.

Please place this letter in the Congressional Record during consideration of the

measure on the House floor. I look forward to working with you as we move this important measure through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

HOWARD L. BERMAN,
Chairman.

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE,
Washington, DC, May 19, 2008.

Hon. HOWARD L. BERMAN,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I write with regard to H. Res. 1022, a resolution on reducing maternal mortality both at home and abroad, which was introduced by Representative LOIS CAPPS. The resolution was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

It is my understanding that Rep. CAPPS has requested the Committee on Foreign Affairs to waive consideration of the resolution. I appreciate that you have agreed to do so in order to permit the Committee on Energy and Commerce to proceed expeditiously to floor consideration of the resolution. I agree that your willingness to forgo further consideration of this resolution does not waive any future jurisdictional claim over the subject matters contained in the resolution that fall within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Foreign Affairs under rule X of the Rules of the House.

Thank you for your assistance in moving this important measure through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

JOHN D. DINGELL,
Chairman.

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 1022.

I was proud introduce this resolution with my colleague and Co-Chair of the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues, CATHY MCMORRIS RODGERS.

And I am equally proud that 122 Members of the House joined in cosponsoring H. Res. 1022, including almost every single woman Member of the House and our esteemed Speaker NANCY PELOSI.

Last fall, I was fortunate to lead a delegation of women Members to a conference entitled "Women Deliver."

This conference brought together nearly 2000 participants from around the world, including parliamentarians, diplomats, health professionals, patients and activists.

We joined there and resolved to make a greater investment in women in order to improve maternal health.

No woman should have to die giving life and I was proud to see individuals from every background—ethnically, culturally, religiously, and from all income levels—agree that we must deliver for women by ensuring that they can safely deliver.

The 500,000 maternal deaths that occur annually are largely preventable.

We know that through family planning, making emergency care more widely available, and increasing the number of skilled health professionals who can attend to births we can combat the epidemic of maternal death both at home and abroad.

After all, the United States is not immune to maternal death and we experience the highest rate of maternal mortality than all other industrialized nations.

As we close out the month of May, when we celebrated Mother's Day, let's join in making a

stronger commitment to improving maternal health.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1022, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

NATIONAL OSTEOPOROSIS AWARENESS AND PREVENTION MONTH

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 369) supporting the goals and ideals of National Osteoporosis Awareness and Prevention Month, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 369

Whereas osteoporosis, a disease characterized by low bone mass, structural deterioration of bone, and increased susceptibility to fractures, is a public health threat for an estimated 44 million Americans;

Whereas in the United States, 10 million individuals already have the disease and almost 34 million more are estimated to have low bone mass, placing them at increased risk for osteoporosis;

Whereas one in two women and one in four men over age 50 will have an osteoporosis-related fracture in her or his remaining lifetime;

Whereas building strong bones during childhood and adolescence can be the best defense against developing osteoporosis later;

Whereas osteoporosis is often thought of as an older person's disease, but bone health is a concern for any age;

Whereas substantial risk has been reported in people of all ethnic backgrounds;

Whereas although osteoporosis often has no symptoms in its early stages, a bone mineral density test can be used to assess fracture risk and to establish the diagnosis and severity of the disease in people at risk before they start fracturing their bones;

Whereas in 2005 osteoporosis was responsible for an estimated 2 million fractures and \$19 billion in costs;

Whereas the Surgeon General believes that bone health is critically important to the overall health and quality of the life of Americans; that it is in jeopardy and will only get worse if left unchecked; and that great improvements in the bone health sta-

tus of Americans can be made by applying what is already known about early prevention, assessment, diagnosis, and treatment;

Whereas optimum bone health and prevention of osteoporosis can be maximized by a balanced diet rich in calcium and vitamin D; weight-bearing exercise; and a healthy lifestyle with no smoking or excessive alcohol intake; and

Whereas May 2008 would be an appropriate month to observe National Osteoporosis Awareness and Prevention Month: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives supports the goals and ideals of National Osteoporosis Awareness and Prevention Month and urges the people of the United States to observe appropriate programs and activities with respect to osteoporosis, including talking with their health care professionals about their bone health.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) will each control 20 minutes.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today in support of House Resolution 369, supporting the goals and ideals of National Osteoporosis Awareness and Prevention Month. As a cosponsor of this resolution, I'm proud to offer my support for designating May 2008 as National Osteoporosis Awareness and Prevention Month.

Osteoporosis is a disease characterized by low bone mass, structural deterioration of bone, and increased susceptibility to fractures. Osteoporosis is a leading cause of fractures, which is of special concern to the aging as it takes longer for older bones to heal than younger Americans. In 2005 alone, osteoporosis was responsible for an estimated 2 million fractures.

While osteoporosis is rightly associated with aging, bone health is a concern for people of all ages. In this spirit, House Resolution 369 urges everyone to observe appropriate activities with regard to osteoporosis and to talk with health care professionals about bone health.

I want to thank my colleague, Congresswoman SHELLEY BERKLEY, for her leadership in bringing this resolution to the floor today. I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join me in support of its adoption.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 369, recognizing May as National Osteoporosis Awareness and Prevention Month.

Osteoporosis is often thought of as an older person's disease, but building strong bones during childhood and adolescence can be the best defense. A healthy lifestyle can lower the chances of having osteoporosis by maintaining a balanced diet rich in calcium and vitamin D. It is important that Americans monitor their bone health to ensure that they are not one of the 1.5 million victims of fractures that occur annually.

Given its influence on the risk of fragility, fracture, osteoporosis may significantly affect the quality of life for those who do not know about early prevention, assessment, diagnoses, and treatment.

I would especially like to thank the author of the resolution, Ms. SHELLEY BERKLEY of Nevada, for raising public awareness of osteoporosis. I encourage all of my colleagues to vote in favor of the resolution.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield such time as she may consume to the sponsor of this resolution and someone who has been a great leader in bringing attention to the disease of osteoporosis, the gentlelady from Nevada, SHELLEY BERKLEY.

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I want to especially single out Chairwoman SCHAKOWSKY for her concern and her leadership on this issue.

I rise today in support of recognizing May as National Osteoporosis Awareness and Prevention Month. Osteoporosis and low bone density affect more than 44 million Americans over the age of 50. Many are unaware of their risks for osteoporosis and therefore never take the steps that are necessary and relatively easy to prevent this disease.

Like many Americans, I had no idea that I was at risk for developing osteoporosis. When I was running for Congress in 1998, I was first diagnosed with this disease. Fortunately, since I received a proper diagnosis, within 10 months of receiving the diagnosis and getting the proper treatment, I was able to stop my bone density loss and my bones actually began to strengthen again.

Now, it became very apparent to us once I was diagnosed that my two grandmothers more than likely had osteoporosis. As they aged, they became more bent over and they started breaking bones, but we just thought that was part of old age and we never imagined, because in those days you didn't get tested for that sort of thing, that they both probably suffered from osteoporosis as well.

Because of my personal experience with osteoporosis, I'm committed to ensuring that Americans are aware of the importance of strong bones so they can reduce their chances of developing the disease, and that's why I have introduced House Resolution 369, the Osteoporosis Awareness and Prevention Act. Among the resolution's goals

is to bring attention to the importance of building strong bones during childhood and adolescence. Up to 90 percent of peak bone mass or optimum bone strength is acquired by age 18 in girls and age 20 in boys, which makes childhood and adolescence the best time to invest in your bones.

This resolution also addresses the importance of eating a balanced diet rich in calcium and vitamin D, participating in weight-bearing exercises and choosing a lifestyle without smoking or alcohol consumption. Each year, as Chairman SCHAKOWSKY has already stated, there are more than 2 million osteoporotic fractures costing about \$19 billion a year.

I strongly urge my fellow citizens to visit their doctors, get screened for osteoporosis; and I urge my colleagues to support this resolution and other pieces of legislation that are providing for bone density screening. Rather than cutting this important part of preventative care, we ought to be enhancing it, and I urge support of this resolution and others that affect the health and well-being of our fellow Americans.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the support from the other side of the aisle, and I certainly appreciate the leadership of Congresswoman BERKLEY.

I, myself, a while ago was diagnosed with a pre-osteoporosis condition, and it's rewarding to find that if you take the medication and you do weight lifting kind of exercises that you can actually reverse the process. Now my screenings indicate that I no longer have those symptoms, although I continue to take the medication and do the exercises. So people should not see it as totally irreversible or untreatable in any way. But most of all, I think the emphasis on prevention is so very important.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 369, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

THE JUSTICE SYSTEM SHOULD FREE BORDER AGENTS IGNACIO RAMOS AND JOSE COMPEAN

(Mr. POE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, border agents Ignacio Ramos and Jose Compean were the victims of an overzealous and media-hungry Federal prosecutor that seemed to be a political puppet of the Mexican government rather than seeking American justice.

While patrolling the border, Ramos and Compean shot an illegal trespasser and drug dealer who was smuggling \$1 million worth of dope across our border into Texas. Ironically, the two agents were tried for civil rights violations and sent to prison.

Last year, a Federal judge said that the prosecution overreacted in this case. Here is what occurred. The drug dealer was given immunity to testify against the agents, and the bought-and-paid-for witness's testimony, believability, and credibility, was the basis of the entire prosecution. But the prosecutor hid from the jury that the drug smuggler witness continued to bring in drugs into the United States while the trial was pending; and the U.S. attorney has now admitted the back-room-deal witness also lied.

Our justice system should free these two border agents because of the lying paid-for witness, and our government needs to get on the right side of the border war.

And that's just the way it is.

□ 1745

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. CASTOR). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. WOOLSEY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

ENERGY PRICES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DAVID DAVIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DAVID DAVIS of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I'm here tonight to speak a little bit about energy process.

Unfortunately, some folks here in the Congress seem to think that we can tax our pick-up trucks and our cars from empty to full. Just recently, a congressman proposed a 50-cent tax increase on gasoline. You heard me correct, an extra 50 cents added to each gallon. Someone actually proposed

that here in the House of Representatives.

I would say that 99 percent of my constituents don't want another 50 cents in taxes added to their gasoline prices. That 50-cent tax increase would put gas at around \$4.12 cents per gallon.

If you would like to effectively cripple the families and small businesses across the United States and back in my First District of Tennessee, a 50-cent tax increase would do just that. Madam Speaker, that just doesn't make any sense to me.

What we need is some east Tennessee commonsense, along with another lesson from the 8th grade civics class and economic classes. When demand is high, supply is low, then energy prices will be outrageous. That's exactly what we see today. How do you bring down energy prices?

Eighth grade economics: create a bigger supply. How do you create a bigger supply of energy? No more excuses. First, we need to stop making excuses. We need an energy policy that allows us to use American energy. We need to drill for oil in ANWR and off the Outer Continental Shelf. We need to use fuel sources in Colorado and North Dakota, just to name a few. We need to use our abundant coal supply through the use of clean coal technology. We need to create safe nuclear power plants and we need to build new refineries. No more excuses. And we need to expand our green energy initiatives like switchgrass, wind power, solar power and hydroelectric power.

We don't need an energy piece; we need an energy policy. You can't take one part of an energy policy and call it a policy. I'm all for green energy, but green energy will only get you to about 6 percent of our energy needs in America. That only leaves 94 percent. We need an energy policy.

Right now, there is a limited supply of oil being imported into the United States by countries who hate us and hate our freedoms. We're at the mercy of these countries. My family, your family, small businesses across America and the families in the First District of Tennessee are all at the mercy of countries who hate us and hate our freedoms.

A sound energy policy that explores new green initiatives, while investing in American energy sources, is what we need and we need it now. Not another tax increase, not another regulation, not another restriction that some people believe would help fill up our pick-up trucks and our automobiles. We need a common-sense energy policy. No more excuses.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DEFAZIO addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. JONES of North Carolina addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

THE ENEMY WITHIN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, U.S. technology in the Nation's defense industry is unsurpassed anywhere in the world. Because of this, our enemies want to steal it, use it against us, or copy it. They want to do it for their own military operations.

Private American corporations are to be commended for their expertise in national defense technology development. However, fifth column individuals and businesses that sell this sensitive military equipment to our enemies are nothing more than modern-day Benedict Arnolds and should be treated as such.

Our troops in Iraq and Afghanistan, for example, use night-vision goggles and night-vision rifle scopes to search out and destroy our enemies, but this equipment is being stolen in record numbers by businesses and individuals that are selling out America for that filthy lucre, or money. I think these people need to be treated as the treasonous traitors that they are.

According to USA Today, more than 40 businesses or individuals have been charged with stealing or exporting night-vision technology to people who are our enemies. Some charged are alleged to have sent the equipment to Iran, to China and to al Qaeda affiliates. Nations such as China can use reverse technology and copy the highly sensitive equipment and use it for their own benefit.

This equipment is also very costly. Each pair of new, high-tech, night-vision goggles cost around \$4,500. These goggles help our troops in the desert of the sun and the valley of the gun in Iraq and Afghanistan.

USA Today further reports that ITT sent restricted product data to China and other countries with intent to outsource production of this sensitive equipment. It paid a \$100 million fine, and I commend the judge for not only ordering the fine but he ordered half of that fine to be spent in developing a new generation of night-vision technology.

However, just paying a fine for supplying our enemies with advanced defense technology is just the cost of doing business. Corporate executives should not be allowed to hide behind the corporate veil when it comes to supplying aid and comfort to our enemies.

Crooked execs should not be allowed to buy their way out of jail by paying

a fine that they don't even pay for. Their corporation pays that fine.

If business executives that dealt with our enemies went to jail, maybe in Guantanamo Bay prison where we keep other enemies of the United States, they might be careful about selling out America for 30 pieces of silver.

And Congress, rather than investigate steroids in baseball, might need to investigate these businesses and individuals who keep buying and stealing American equipment and selling it to our enemies. We owe our troops this investigation.

And that's just the way it is.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE SURVEILLANCE ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, the gentleman from California (Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Madam Speaker, well, here we are after nine months, today, May 19, and this body is yet to provide Admiral McConnell with the tools he's asked for in order to protect the American people from another cataclysmic attack against our Nation.

When the Director of National Intelligence, Admiral McConnell, first came to Congress for help, he was only given a 180-day authority to conduct surveillance, which he described at the time as necessary to close critical intelligence gaps. Of course, after a short 2-week extension, that authority, which we called the Protect America Act, actually expired on February 16 at 12:01 a.m.

So we're in day 95. Three months and 5 days later, 13 weeks later, 22,080 hours later, 136,800 minutes after the FISA fix which we gave to the intelligence community of our Nation, that fix expired. Unfortunately, the so-called RE-STORE Act, passed as a substitute by the majority party, repealed core provisions requested by Admiral McConnell.

While the Senate passed a bipartisan 6-year extension of a new FISA bill based on the Protect America Act, thus responding to the real world concerns of our Director of National Intelligence, unfortunately the Members of this chamber were denied a clean up-or-down vote on it. The end result is that here we are, nine months from the time this process of fits and starts began, without an effective response to the most serious national security threat of our time.

Madam Speaker, are we supposed to believe that al Qaeda has somehow lost its determination to kill innocent Americans? Well, as recently as Friday, Osama bin Laden was issuing threats against both the little Satan and the big Satan. I don't know about you, but I think we should want to remove all obstacles to listening in on his conversations.

For there is no evidence, none whatsoever, that these homicidal extremists have any less desire to kill us and others perceived by their twisted psychotic logic to be legitimate targets. Yes, innocent men, women and children.

No, the evidence is unequivocal and clear. Since 2001, attacks actual and premeditated have been a constant across the globe: attacks in Bali, Indonesia, in 2002 and 2005; a planned attack on Barcelona 2003; a deadly attack in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, in 2003; a foiled plot in Istanbul, Turkey, in 2003; a deadly attack in Casablanca, Morocco, in 2003; a terrible attack in Madrid, Spain, in March 2004; attempted attacks in the Philippines 2004; a deadly London attack in July 2005; a plan to blow up airliners over the Atlantic in 2006; an attack in Algeria in 2006; an intended attack in Denmark in 2007; and a planned attack in Germany in 2007. Al Qaeda has also tried to overthrow the governments of Egypt in 2004, Jordan in 2005 and Saudi Arabia in 2007.

For we no longer live in a world where wishful thinking is permissible, if we wish to fulfill our obligation to those who sent us here to represent them and to protect them and future Americans, this is the first obligation of government, and we no longer have the option of pretending otherwise. Although, pretending otherwise seems to be in the air these days.

The President of the United States addressed a session of the Knesset in Israel. There, celebrating the 60th anniversary or birthday of the State of Israel, in the context of remarks made by the leader of Iran to wipe off the face of the earth Israel, in light of other comments made by others affiliated with terrorists that we should see the day soon where Israel will no longer exist, in the context of speaking to a country whose birth grew out of the terrible experiences of the Holocaust in Germany, the President of the United States referred to the failure to act at that time by America and other countries around the world, the failure to even admit that there was a serious problem of cataclysmic consequence.

And when the President merely quoted a senator from that era who happened, by the way, to be a Republican, to suggest in the words of this senator of that time that if he'd just had a chance to talk with Hitler perhaps the future of the world would have been different, when the President merely says that in the context of the celebration of the 60th anniversary of the State of Israel, at a time when there are those in this world crying for their destruction, and at a time when rockets are lobbed into Israel on almost a daily basis, the response by some in this country is to criticize the President for uttering those words, to suggest that he had no right to say that, and to suggest that somehow he was accusing others of appeasement, who he had not even named.

Was the President suggesting that terrible circumstances in the world,

adding up to a threat against us and those who ally with us, are dismissed by some as insubstantial or inconsequential? I think the President did suggest that. I think the President thought or stated that people who hold that view are dangerous to themselves and others because they are not confronting the evil that is in the world today.

□ 1800

And sometimes that appears to be the problem we have here. Where is the sense of urgency about the threat that is around us?

Sometimes, when we just talk about it, those that talk about it are accused of being fearmongers, trying to stir up the country, trying to take rights away when, in fact, they are merely reciting the facts in the world today.

Our policy as a Nation must begin with the recognition of reality. However inconvenient or discomfoting it must be for some of us, we must recognize that meeting the challenge posed by those who seek to kill us is going to be not a short-term challenge, but a long-term challenge. It will, therefore, require a long-term commitment to and a long-term investment in our security. And this must begin with the recognition by the leadership of this body that listening to the conversations of terrorists overseas is essential to our ability to protect ourselves and those who live in neighborhoods and communities across this great Nation.

As a member of the Homeland Security Committee, I can say that over the 4 years the committee has been in existence we have sought to work together, Democrat and Republican, to try to protect and secure our homeland from another horrific attack. And it is my view that, although we are considerably safer today than we were on 9/11, we are, nonetheless, not safe enough.

We must never accept the mistaken notion that we can achieve security on the cheap, either in money, tactics or strategy. I fear, however, that we have lost that sense of urgency corresponding to the real risk to our Nation. A proper understanding of the risk requires a vigorous and rigorous assessment of our vulnerability, the consequence of our enemy successfully penetrating that vulnerability, and the threats to our vulnerabilities. In other words, risk equals threat plus vulnerability plus consequences.

And while all three components are important, and some would say all are equal, I would argue that one is more equal than the others, and that is threat. Why do I say that? I say that because we have it within our capacity of knowledge to know what our vulnerabilities are. We can assess a dam. We can assess this building. We can assess the White House. We can assess our distribution systems of electricity and see where the vulnerabilities are. We can run computer models. We can even run simulated attacks and discover what those vulnerabilities are. Similarly, we

have it within our capacity to know the consequences. We can figure out what the consequence of destruction of this building would be, what the destruction of a particular dam would be, what the destruction of a distribution system for power would be in a particular area of this country. But what we don't have in our own arsenal of knowledge is an understanding of the threat, because the threat, in large measure, resides in the minds of those who would attack us and, therefore, we have to try and get into their minds. That is why I would suggest that the threat component of a risk assessment is perhaps more equal than the others.

It remains my belief that the threat of another attack is real, not imaginary. You do not have to take my word for it or anybody on this side of the aisle or the President of the United States, for the murderous extremists themselves have not been shy concerning their purposes and objectives. Al-Zawahiri has said, "Like their glorious ancestors, the Afghan jihadists believed that they, too, had brought down one global superpower, and now these modern-day knights must recommit their efforts to wreaking havoc on the remaining one, the United States."

In October 2001, just one month after September 11, bin Laden said, and I quote him directly, "If inciting people to do that"—he's referring to 9/11—"is terrorism, and if killing those who are killing our sons is terrorism, then let history be witness that we are terrorists. We practice the good terrorism." The next year, Osama bin Laden issued a fatwa authorizing the killing of up to four million Americans and specifying that half of them should be children. Those are not my words, those are not my threats, those are the threats of Osama bin Laden.

I believe the threat to be real. And the consequences of al Qaeda obtaining weapons of mass destruction regrettably cannot be put in the category of unthinkable because of the evidence of their efforts to do so, thankfully unsuccessful to this point.

My point, however, is that we cannot rely solely on our domestic efforts to secure the homeland, as important as they are, and thereby hope that we will reach a level of perfection in that we are capable of foiling every single terrorist plot in order to prevent a cataclysmic attack on our Nation. No. The consequences are simply too horrendous to not use every tool available to us.

The ability to capture the communications of terrorists overseas before they are able to strike is a key component of being able to extend our defensive perimeter beyond the shores of our homeland. As Brian Jenkins of the Rand Corporation has pointed out, in the terror attacks since 9/11 we have seen combinations of local conspiracies inspired by, assisted by and guided by al Qaeda's central leadership. It is essential that while protecting the basic rights of American citizens, we find

ways to facilitate the collection and exchange of intelligence across national and bureaucratic borders.

Again, as this Rand Corporation scholar points out, if we are to be successful in the protection of American citizens, the collection of intelligence must be a central component of our strategy. Our concern here is not to spy on Americans, but, rather, to listen to the conversations of those who want to kill Americans, and to be even more specific, to listen in on those conversations of those who are outside the United States and who happen to be plotting to kill Americans.

Now, some have said, what if such calls happen to be made by, say, Osama bin Laden or one of his lieutenants or some associate to someone inside the United States, doesn't this raise civil liberties and privacy concerns because of the fact that an American happens to be on the receiving end of the call? Again, the objective of our efforts remains to target a foreign terrorist. From a technical standpoint, one should understand that it is only possible to target one end of the conversation. Furthermore, our intelligence agencies have no control over who that overseas terrorist suspect may call. 99.9 percent of the time it may be, and we believe it to be, another foreign person, most likely someone that they are talking about their terrorist activities with.

Admiral McConnell made this very point in responding to questioning during our Judiciary Committee hearing; the admiral responded this way: "When you're conducting surveillance in the context of electronic surveillance, you can only target one end of the conversation. So you have no control over who that number might call or who they might receive a call from." Furthermore, if Osama bin Laden happens to dial the wrong number and gets a pizza delivery boy or girl in San Diego, there are minimization procedures in the law, in the Protect America Act, in the current circumstances in which they operate these programs, minimization procedures to protect the privacy rights of the innocent American on the other end of the line. It is similar to the minimization processes that we use every single day when law enforcement in the United States, acting on a legal wiretap against a suspected criminal, overhears the conversation involving someone on that criminal's phone and somebody else. And if that person is an innocent actor in all of this, that part of the conversation is minimized. If, in fact, it turns out that the specific legal target we have is calling someone who also is involved in the illegal activity, then the process or procedure, as followed for years—I think as many as 50 years—is to go to court and get a warrant with respect to that other person. That is precisely the format that we use under the Protect America Act.

The purpose of the surveillance of foreign terrorists overseas is nothing

more or nothing less than to do this single thing: to listen to the foreign terrorist overseas. I hasten to add, however, that if Osama bin Laden or one of his lieutenants happens to call somebody in the United States, it probably doesn't take a rocket scientist to surmise that this is probably a conversation that our intelligence community might be interested in. Nevertheless, they would have to follow the procedures I've just outlined because the target of the surveillance would be Osama bin Laden outside of the United States. The conversation he has with someone in the United States, if that were to take place, would be subject to minimization.

I would hope that this surely would be an issue we could agree upon. However, here we are, 9 months after Admiral McConnell came to the Congress with the entreaty that we need to "close critical intelligence gaps," 95 days after the short-term fix has gone out of existence—that's 3 months and 5 days ago—and here we are basically accepting a failure to close critical intelligence gaps as requested by Admiral McConnell.

We were told that we were failing to surveil somewhere between one-half and two-thirds of the overseas conversations that we should be listening to. What do we mean by that? We mean the same type of terrorist targets that we've been keying on for years because we didn't have this problem prior to a year ago March, when a FISA judge—that's the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act court judge—said that because the technology had changed from the time the law was originally passed in 1978, from most overseas, long-distance conversations or overseas conversations going through the air, going through satellite transmission and thereby capable of being captured by our intelligence community and therefore not under the FISA law, to the point now where technology actually has most of that, the vast majority of those kinds of conversations being carried by wire with connections that happen to be somewhere in the United States.

So while the content of the conversation hasn't changed, the means by which the transmission of the conversation has changed, and that technicality was used by the judge to say you now have to get a warrant and go through all of those procedures necessary to protect the interests of someone in the United States under the Constitution. Now they have to be applied to these foreign conversations, not because the conversation has changed, not because the target has changed, rather, because the technology of transmission had changed. Oh, by the way, the judge suggested, we are told, that it didn't appear to be the intent of Congress when they wrote the law in 1978, and he suggested that the intelligence community go to the Congress for the change.

So here we are. We have failed to provide the Director of National Intel-

ligence with the tools that he told us he needs if he is able to do his job and able to protect the American people, the job he is sworn to do. In my estimation, this is surely one of the great failures of this or any other Congress, to live up to what is generally recognized to be our primary responsibility, to protect those who have empowered us to act on their behalf.

And let me add at this point that such a failure appears to be entirely inexcusable in a post-September 11 environment. It is for that reason most troubling to learn that U.S. Attorney General Michael Mukasey and Admiral McConnell, Director of National Intelligence, have indicated that we have lost intelligence information as a direct result of "the uncertainty created by Congress' fail to act."

So let me repeat, both the top law enforcement official in the Federal Government and the most senior intelligence officer in our Federal Government have told us that there have been direct consequences resulting from the fact that this body has dropped the ball since February 15th of this year.

It should be interjected that neither of these men have a history of partisan political agendas. Attorney General Mukasey has a solid reputation as a sober-minded former Federal judge with great expertise in national security law. Judge Mukasey presided over the criminal production of Omar Abdel Rahman and El Sayyid Nosair relating to their plot to blow up the United Nations and other Manhattan landmarks uncovered in an investigation of the 1993 World Trade Center bombing. As a testimony to his stature as a jurist, his name was one of four submitted by the senior Senator from New York for consideration as a possible United States Supreme Court nominee.

In a similar vein, Admiral McConnell has a solid reputation of service to his country in both Democratic and Republican administrations. Along with a distinguished military career, his service as Chief of the National Security Agency for I believe 6 years during the Clinton administration is a testimony to his nonpartisan service. One noteworthy incident alone provides us with persuasive evidence of Admiral McConnell's independent judgement. Now, regardless of how one interprets the most recent National Intelligence Estimate concerning Iran, the one that was so controversial, any attempt to attack Admiral McConnell as a "tool" of the Bush administration would appear to lack all credibility. There should be no doubt in anyone's mind that Admiral McConnell is a man of honor who calls it as he sees it.

Both officials have told the Congress what the country needs, and yet the majority of this body has told them no. Both officials have told the Congress that the country needs help, and yet the majority in this body has told them no, told them no, that they know better. Now, although institutional pride makes it painful for me to say it,

the truth requires an acknowledgement that the other body did rise to the challenge of avoiding partisanship.

□ 1815

They did it with a bipartisan bill, which, although distinct in some aspects from the administration proposal, nevertheless was responsive to the request by Admiral McConnell. And this is as it should be. For the responsibility to give the intelligence community what it says it needs for its surveillance of foreign terrorists outside the United States has absolutely nothing to do with partisan politics. Our intelligence needs out there in the real world are critical to what theorists refer to as a zero-sum game. Our failure to obtain the intelligence we need to discover a terrorist attack planned outside the United States is a loss for all Americans. Those killed on 9/11 weren't Republicans or Democrats; they were human beings. Most were Americans but many were not. We owe it to those who perished, to those who live today, and to further generations not to allow transient political considerations to cloud our judgment. The Senate has shown that it's possible, even in even-numbered years, to do what's right.

So how is it, then, that men and women in this body, who I know personally to be persons of goodwill, have resisted the call to bipartisanship by public servants like Attorney General Mukasey and Admiral McConnell? How is it that, unlike the Senate, we have been unable to, in my judgment, rise above partisanship?

Let me make it clear that I have the deepest respect for my colleagues on the other side of the aisle who obviously love their country, as I do, and their patriotism is not an issue in this debate. So I searched to try to figure out what is it? And I have come to the conclusion that at its root, this terrible error can be found in the misgotten judgment of the Democratic leadership of this body to draw a line in the sand over an issue of providing lawsuit immunity protection for those telecommunications companies and individuals who may have come to the aid of their country in the aftermath of the horrific attacks on 9/11. The so-called Restore Act, which passed this body, did nothing, does nothing, to protect those who responded to the call for help from their government. Instead, the response of the leadership of this body was to throw those people into a litigation tank filled with plaintiff's lawyers. The grant of a waiver of the State secrets doctrine resembles anything but a lifeline. The companies remain in the tank left to fend for themselves. As one of the Members of the other side said in hearings that we had in the Judiciary Committee, well, these companies have millions of dollars' worth of lawyers, as if that's the proper answer. This sends the worst possible message to all Americans. After all this who would be dumb

enough to respond to the entreaties of their government in a time of crisis? Would corporate counsel or board of directors anywhere in the land conclude otherwise?

Attorney General Mukasey and Director of National Intelligence McConnell frame the issue clearly in a letter to the Senate supporting the language in that bipartisan Senate bill: Without retroactive immunity the private sector might be unwilling to cooperate with lawful government requests in the future without unnecessary court involvement and protracted litigation.

The House leadership response, unfortunately, turns the notion of the “Good Samaritan” upside down and hits the delete button erasing the ethic of a bygone era when school children, including myself, were taught to type these words: “Now is the time for all good men”—today we would add “women”—“to come to the aid of their country.” Now you can’t say that. In the absence of action here in the House, conforming to what the Senate has done already on a bipartisan basis, you have to turn that around and say, “Now is the time for all good men and women to come to the aid of their country only when they have their lawyers and accountants with them.”

According to statements by the distinguished junior Senator from West Virginia during debate in the Senate, and he is, I believe, the chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee, these companies acted in response to letters, all of which stated the relevant activities had been authorized by the President. All but one, and that was done by legal counsel to the President, stated the activities had been determined to be lawful by the Attorney General of the United States. Now, that is the set of facts presented in the Senate. I believe to suggest that these companies should not be able to rely on such representations from the highest levels of our government is beyond comprehension. Yet instead of receiving gratitude, these modern “Good Samaritans” appear to be captive to a larger dynamic, a political dynamic involving the leadership of this body and the “MoveOn.org” left, which can countenance nothing which involves Bush either directly or indirectly. As a result, these companies and individuals have been caught in a political cross-fire not of their own making. People say, well, we disagree with what the present administration did. We suspect they did things that were not within the authority of the President. Now, I would strongly disagree with that, but that’s the position that some take. So rather than aim at the administration through whatever processes we have under the Constitution, they aim at these three-party “Good Samaritans,” as if they can by litigation bring them into the judicial doc and cause them enough pain that somehow they will stop doing what they’re doing and in the process reveal something that the administration did. And yet there is no

one who I believe has looked at the documents who’s made a credible claim that the administration did anything without an express statement of authority.

However, even if you don’t care about the question of fairness, there’s another overriding consideration relating to the protection of the American public. Again, as the Attorney General and Director McConnell point out:

“Extending liability protection to such companies is imperative. Failure to do so could limit future cooperation by such companies and put critical intelligence operations at risk. The possible reduction in intelligence that might result from this delay is simply unacceptable for the safety of our Nation.”

In short, what they are saying is if the absence of retroactive liability protections leads to private partners not cooperating with foreign intelligence activities, we can expect more intelligence gaps.

Now, here I might even quibble about whether we’re talking about presenting retroactive liability protection. Some believe that these companies already have that liability protection but that because of the strange way in which the laws of intelligence and the courts of intelligence work, they are not able to even present those, and so we ought to clear this up.

So let’s stop for a moment to contemplate what we’ve been told by these public officials. If we fail to provide liability protection in a way that they can use it for these companies who relied on assurances from the highest levels of government, the result may very well be an absence of such cooperation in the future and more intelligence gaps.

As a matter of fact, it goes beyond this. A number of attorneys general of the United States signed a letter expressing their concern about what this would do to the common law oftentimes framed in statute protections given to those people, average everyday citizens or companies, who respond to a request from local and State government to assist when local or State government officials think a crime is about to occur or is occurring or in a state of emergency. These State attorneys general feared that the action of the Congress not recognizing this immunity theory, which although embedded in statute goes back, I believe, at least 700 years into Anglo law, that a disrupting of this concept of cooperation by a citizen of the United States at the request of legitimate lawful authority, that that could stop in the efforts to stop crime and also investigate crimes at the State and local level. So as a matter of public policy, this is simply unacceptable. We have been warned that the failure to step up to the plate on the issue of immunity will mean less intelligence on al Qaeda and greater difficulty in “connecting the dots.” Maybe such a warning could have been ignored in a pre-9/11 environ-

ment with our naive feelings of invulnerability. However, we no longer live in an age of innocence. We know better. We know that we no longer have the ability to delude ourselves into thinking that everything will be okay. Today we live in a world where we must operate from the premise of a very different assumption. There are radical extremists overseas who want to come here with the express purpose of killing us. They have a mens rea of murder on their minds. That is the purpose for which they live, and in their twisted minds, it is only through the achievement of such an objective that they will realize their own expiation.

This is their mindset. This is what drives them. This isn’t what I am saying; this is what they say. As Hasann Butt, a former jihadist, has explained, “I was a fanatic . . . I know their thinking . . . When I was still a member of what is probably best termed the British Jihadi Network . . . I remember how we used to laugh in celebration whenever people on TV proclaimed that the sole cause for Islamic acts of terror like 9/11, the Madrid bombing, and 7/7 was Western foreign policy.” Yet “by blaming the government for our actions, those who pushed this ‘Blair’s bombs’—he’s speaking of it in the context of British terrorism—‘those who pushed this ‘Blair’s bombs’ line did our propaganda work for us. More important, they helped draw away any critical examination of the real engine of our violence,” which Butt goes on to describe concerning the attempted hijacking of Islamic theology.

Madam Speaker, with this in mind, we must not allow the broader debate concerning the United States foreign policy or the war in Iraq to obscure the need for a concerted and unified commitment to defend and protect the American people. This is where our focus ought to be. Not on a food fight over whether something six degrees removed from President George Bush might somehow imply support for him. When it comes to protecting the American people, there’s no room for partisan or ideological wrangling. With respect to our Nation’s need to collect foreign intelligence on foreign terrorists, the maxim that “partisanship must stop at the water’s edge” should be our guide.

The time has come to say “enough already.” Democrats and Republicans have come together in the other body to act in a responsible manner in meeting the needs expressed by the intelligence community relating to foreign surveillance. There’s a clear majority within this body that would support the bill enacted in the Senate if they were given the opportunity to have an up-or-down vote on it. We know that from statements that have been made. We know that from the strong vote on this side of the aisle and the more than 20 Members on the other side of the aisle who signed a letter to the Speaker stating that they would support the

Senate bill. It has been my hope that at some time, the leadership of this body would perceive that they had extracted a sufficient level of political currency with the "Move On" faction of their base to, in fact, move on and finally allow a vote on the bipartisan Senate bill. Even though it might not reflect everything I would have crafted in another possible world where my party was in the majority, it nonetheless reflects a sufficient response to the entreaties of Admiral McConnell concerning what is necessary to protect the American people.

□ 1830

However, it does not appear at this point that my hope that the House leadership would find its way has in fact turned out to be the case. Therefore, it is apparent that the remedy afforded by this, the people's House, to overcome obstructionism by those who would thwart the will of the majority of its Members, must be used. The mechanism of the discharge petition to release the bipartisan Senate-passed bill from procedural captivity, unfortunately, must be utilized at this time. This is clearly where a matter of paramount concern to our Nation requires such action and calls us to rise above partisanship.

There is no issue of greater importance to the functioning of government than the need to protect the American people from threats which originate outside of our borders. That is what is involved here: Intelligence collection relating to foreign terrorists outside of the United States. The willingness of this leadership in this body to allow our Nation to lose intelligence is inexcusable. In essence, we have hit the mute button. This failure has been ac-

knowledged by both the Attorney General and the Director of National Intelligence. It is time for us to remove the obstructions which have been placed in the way of foreign intelligence collection in this great institution of the House of Representatives, in which we are all privileged to serve, is honored when the people themselves are served. We must meet our responsibilities as elected Members of this body to ensure that the safety of the American people is secure.

Madam Speaker, there is no excuse for a day to go by that we do not act on this important matter. Unfortunately, 95 days have gone by. Let us act sooner rather than later, and let us act in a spirit of bipartisanship, taking a lead from the other body, even though we don't always like to do that, but taking a lead from the other body, that set aside partisan differences, did not give the administration everything they wanted, but came up with a bill that Admiral McConnell has assured us will work, Attorney General Mukasey has said will work, and that on the Senate side they were satisfied protects the civil liberties of the American people as we seek to listen in on those communications or capture those communications of those who would wish not to join us as Americans but to kill us as Americans.

Madam Speaker, I cannot think of anything that is more important. The sense of urgency must be here. We should act now. We should wait no longer.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legis-

lative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Ms. SCHAKOWSKY) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DEFAZIO, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. DAVID DAVIS of Tennessee) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, for 5 minutes, May 20, 21 and 22.

Mr. MORAN of Kansas, for 5 minutes, May 20 and 21.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana, for 5 minutes, May 20, 21 and 22.

Mr. DAVID DAVIS of Tennessee, for 5 minutes, today.

BILL PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk of the House reports that on May 6, 2008, she presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bill.

H.R. 5715. To ensure continued availability of access to the Federal student loan program for students and families.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Madam Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 6 o'clock and 32 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, May 20, 2008, at 9 a.m., for morning-hour debate.

EXPENDITURE REPORTS CONCERNING OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL

Reports concerning the foreign currencies and U.S. dollars utilized for Speaker-Authorized Official Travel during the fourth quarter of 2007 and the first quarter of 2008, pursuant to Public Law 95-384 are as follows:

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, REVA PRICE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN MAR. 15 AND MAR. 21, 2008

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Reva Price	3/16	3/21	Switzerland		2,333.00		8,415.56				10,748.56
Committee total											

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.

² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

REVA PRICE, Apr. 17, 2008.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, DELEGATION TO CHINA, SINGAPORE, AUSTRALIA, AND NEW ZEALAND, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 5 AND JAN. 14, 2008

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. James E. Clyburn	1/7	1/8	China		410.80		(3)				410.80
	1/8	1/9	Singapore		398.00		(3)				398.00
	1/9	1/11	Australia		1,221.65		(3)				1,221.65
	1/11	1/13	New Zealand		700.50		(3)				700.50
Hon. Bennie Thompson	1/7	1/8	China		410.80		(3)				410.80
	1/8	1/9	Singapore		398.00		(3)				398.00
	1/9	1/11	Australia		1,221.65		(3)				1,221.65
	1/11	1/13	New Zealand		700.50		(3)				700.50

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, DELEGATION TO UNITED KINGDOM, INDIA AND SPAIN, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN AND MAR. 17 AND MAR. 26, 2008—Continued

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Mike Sheehy					470.00						
Micaela Fernandez	3/25	3/26	Spain		470.00		(³)				470.00
Stacy Kerr											
Jonathan Stivers											
Dr. Ana Unruh Cohen, Ph.D.											
Steve Rusnak											
Jeff Duncan											
Thomas Schreiber											
Committee total											138,729

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.
³ Military air transportation.

HON. NANCY PELOSI, Speaker of the House, Apr. 28, 2008.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, DELEGATION TO ISRAEL, TUNISIA, LIBYA AND MOROCCO, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN MAR. 21 AND MAR. 30, 2008

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. John A. Boehner	3/22	3/25	Israel		1,278.00		(³)				1,278.00
Hon. John R. Carter	3/22	3/25	Israel		1,278.00		(³)				1,278.00
Hon. Peter Hoekstra	3/22	3/25	Israel		1,278.00		(³)				1,278.00
Hon. Jeff Miller	3/22	3/25	Israel		1,278.00		(³)				1,278.00
Hon. Peter J. Roskam	3/22	3/25	Israel		1,278.00		(³)				1,278.00
Dr. Rob Summerlee	3/22	3/25	Israel		1,278.00		(³)				1,278.00
Jennifer Stewart	3/22	3/25	Israel		1,278.00		(³)				1,278.00
Amy Lozupone	3/22	3/25	Israel		1,278.00		(³)				1,278.00
Danielle Maurer	3/22	3/25	Israel		1,278.00		(³)				1,278.00
Trevor Kolego	3/22	3/25	Israel		1,278.00		(³)				1,278.00
James Lewis	3/22	3/25	Israel		1,278.00		(³)				1,278.00
Hon. John A. Boehner	3/25	3/27	Tunisia		443.60		(³)				443.60
Hon. John R. Carter	3/25	3/27	Tunisia		443.60		(³)				443.60
Hon. Peter Hoekstra	3/25	3/27	Tunisia		443.60		(³)				443.60
Hon. Jeff Miller	3/25	3/27	Tunisia		443.60		(³)				443.60
Hon. Peter J. Roskam	3/25	3/27	Tunisia		443.60		(³)				443.60
Dr. Rob Summerlee	3/25	3/27	Tunisia		408.06		(³)				408.06
Jennifer Stewart	3/25	3/27	Tunisia		408.06		(³)				408.06
Amy Lozupone	3/25	3/27	Tunisia		408.06		(³)				408.06
Danielle Maurer	3/25	3/27	Tunisia		408.06		(³)				408.06
Trevor Kolego	3/25	3/27	Tunisia		408.06		(³)				408.06
James Lewis	3/25	3/27	Tunisia		408.06		(³)				408.06
Hon. John A. Boehner	3/26	3/26	Libya				(³)				
Hon. John R. Carter	3/26	3/26	Libya				(³)				
Hon. Peter Hoekstra	3/26	3/26	Libya				(³)				
Hon. Jeff Miller	3/26	3/26	Libya				(³)				
Hon. Peter J. Roskam	3/26	3/26	Libya				(³)				
Dr. Rob Summerlee	3/26	3/26	Libya				(³)				
Hon. John A. Boehner	3/27	3/30	Morocco		1,162.63		(³)				1,162.63
Hon. John R. Carter	3/27	3/30	Morocco		1,162.63		(³)				1,162.63
Hon. Peter Hoekstra	3/27	3/30	Morocco		1,162.63		(³)				1,162.63
Hon. Jeff Miller	3/27	3/30	Morocco		1,162.63		(³)				1,162.63
Hon. Peter J. Roskam	3/27	3/30	Morocco		1,162.63		(³)				1,162.63
Dr. Rob Summerlee	3/27	3/30	Morocco		1,162.63		(³)				1,162.63
Jennifer Stewart	3/27	3/30	Morocco		1,162.63		(³)				1,162.63
Amy Lozupone	3/27	3/30	Morocco		1,162.63		(³)				1,162.63
Danielle Maurer	3/27	3/30	Morocco		1,162.63		(³)				1,162.63
Trevor Kolego	3/27	3/30	Morocco		1,162.63		(³)				1,162.63
Committee total											30,350.66

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.
³ Military air transportation.

HON. JOHN A. BOEHNER, Chairman, Apr. 30, 2008.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMISSION ON SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2008

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. Alcee L. Hastings	1/1	1/2	Germany		571.00		10,014.00				10,585.00
	1/2	1/6	Georgia		1,483.50						1,483.50
	1/6	1/7	Finland		602.36						602.36
Fred Turner	1/2	1/6	Georgia		1,483.50		6,946.00				8,429.50
	1/6	1/7	Finland		602.36						602.36
Lale Mamaux	1/2	1/6	Georgia		1,483.50		10,316.88				11,800.38
	1/6	1/7	Finland		602.36						602.36
Ronald McNamara	1/2	1/8	Georgia		2,006.47		9,243.64				11,250.11
Mischa Thompson	1/14	1/19	Switzerland		1,891.88		6,201.97				8,093.85
Alex Johnson	2/13	2/17	Austria		1,356.00		4,655.93				6,011.93
	2/17	2/18	Czech Republic		347.00						347.00
Winsome Packer	2/16	3/31	Austria		15,255.00		7,734.83				22,989.83
Mischa Thompson	2/18	2/24	Switzerland		1,988.81		8,438.72				10,427.53
Erika Schlager	2/27	3/1	Greece		1,365.48		7,944.59				9,310.07
Shelly Han	3/1	3/7	Russia		3,096.00		8,098.00				11,194.00
Kyle Parker	3/1	3/7	Russia		3,096.00		8,098.69				11,194.69
Marlene Kaufmann	3/15	3/18	Jordan		867.00		11,608.84				12,475.84
	3/18	3/22	Turkey		1,436.00						1,436.00
Lale Mamaux	3/15	3/18	Jordan		867.00		10,418.84				11,285.84
	3/18	3/22	Turkey		1,436.00						1,436.00

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2008—Continued

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Carol Murphy		1/1									
	1/3	1/4	New Zealand		289.80						289.80
	1/4	1/7	Antarctica								
	1/8	1/9	New Zealand		534.56						534.56
Commercial Air	1/10						11,173.56				11,173.56
Kevin Cook		1/1									
	1/3	1/4	New Zealand		234.56						289.80
	1/4	1/7	Antarctica								
	1/8	1/9	New Zealand		589.00						534.56
Commercial Air	1/10						11,173.56				11,173.56
Hon. Patrick Kennedy	12/22	12/23	United Kingdom		231.00						231.00
	12/23	12/26	Israel		501.00						501.00
	12/26	12/27	Pakistan		359.00						359.00
	12/27	12/28	Jordan		141.00						141.00
	12/29	12/30	Syria		111.00						111.00
	12/30	1/2	Austria		748.00		(⁹)				748.00
Michelle Burkett	1/3	1/8	Chile		1,325.00						1,325.00
Commercial Air							7,778.06				7,778.06
Hon. Frank Wolf		1/1									
	1/2	1/2	Kuwait								
	1/2	1/3	Iraq								
	1/3	1/4	Kuwait		164.00						164.00
	1/5	1/6	Jordan		291.00						291.00
	1/6	1/9	Israel		2,095.00						2,095.00
Commercial Air							9,544.00				9,544.00
John Blazey	1/9	1/11	Sri Lanka		797.93						797.93
	1/11	1/17	Indonesia		970.40						970.40
	1/17	1/19	Pakistan		742.42						742.42
Commercial Air							13,438.70				13,438.70
Kris Mallard	1/9	1/11	Sri Lanka		797.93						797.93
	1/11	1/17	Indonesia		970.40						970.40
	1/17	1/19	Pakistan		742.42						742.42
Commercial Air							13,438.70				13,438.70
Sarah Young	1/9	1/11	Sri Lanka		797.93						797.93
	1/11	1/17	Indonesia		970.40						970.40
	1/17	1/19	Pakistan		742.42						742.42
Commercial Air							13,438.70				13,438.70
Tom McLemore	1/9	1/11	Sri Lanka		797.93						797.93
	1/11	1/17	Indonesia		970.40						970.40
	1/17	1/19	Pakistan		742.42						742.42
Commercial Air							13,438.70				13,438.70
John Shank	1/7	1/11	Germany		670.00						670.00
	1/11	1/13	London		518.00						518.00
Commercial Air							9,962.25				9,962.25
Steve Marchese	2/5	2/6	Kuwait		328.00						328.00
	2/6	2/7	Iraq								
	2/7	2/8	Kuwait								
Commercial Air							11,706.76				11,706.76
Craig Higgins	2/5	2/6	Kuwait		328.00						328.00
	2/6	2/7	Iraq								
	2/7	2/8	Kuwait								
Commercial Air							11,706.76				11,706.76
Christine Kojac	2/5	2/6	Kuwait		328.00						328.00
	2/6	2/7	Iraq								
	2/7	2/8	Kuwait								
Commercial Air							11,736.76				11,736.76
Anne Marie Chotvac	2/5	2/6	Kuwait		328.00						328.00
	2/6	2/7	Iraq								
	2/7	2/8	Kuwait								
Commercial Air							11,736.76				11,736.76
Hon. Patrick Kennedy	2/16	2/21	Cape Verde		1,600.00						1,600.00
Commercial							10,140.80				10,140.80
Hon. John Murtha	1/30	1/31	Turkey		189.00						189.00
	1/31	2/1	Afghanistan		75.00		(⁹)				75.00
	2/1	2/2	Austria		504.29						504.29
Hon. David Hobson	1/30	1/31	Turkey		189.00						189.00
	1/31	2/1	Afghanistan		75.00		(⁹)				75.00
	2/1	2/1	Austria		504.29						504.29
Greg Lankler	1/30	1/31	Turkey		186.00						186.00
	1/31	2/1	Afghanistan		75.00		(⁹)				75.00
	2/1	2/2	Austria		504.29						504.29
Hon. Maurice Hinchey	2/16	2/18	Ecuador		590.00						590.00
	2/18	2/20	Bolivia		318.00						318.00
	2/20	2/23	Argentina		939.00		(⁹)				939.00
Hon. Dave Weldon	2/18	2/22	Israel		1,620.00						1,620.00
Commercial Air							5,109.30				5,109.30
Misc. Transportation							200.00				200.00
Hon. Maurice Hinchey	3/24	3/25	Egypt		278.00						278.00
	3/25	3/26	Afghanistan		75.00						75.00
	3/26	3/29	Pakistan		998.31						998.31
	3/29	3/30	Czech Republic		431.12		(⁹)				431.12
Hon. James Moran	3/24	3/25	Egypt		278.00						278.00
	3/25	3/26	Afghanistan		75.00						75.00
	3/26	3/29	Pakistan		998.31						998.31
	3/29	3/30	Czech Republic		431.12		(⁹)				431.12
Hon. Rosa DeLauro	3/15	3/16	Belgium		674.00						674.00
Commercial Air							3,721.00				3,721.00
Elizabeth Dawson	3/16	3/19	Italy		2,065.00						2,065.00
	3/19	3/22	Belgium		1,373.10						1,373.10
Commercial Air							7,467.75				7,467.75
Misc. Transportation Costs							140.00				140.00
John Blazey	3/23	3/27	France		2,133.76						2,133.76
	3/27	3/29	Switzerland		1,407.00						1,407.00
Commercial Air							7,376.00				7,376.00
Adrienne Simonson	3/24	3/27	France		2,133.76						2,133.76
	3/27	3/29	Switzerland		938.00						938.00
Commercial Air							7,565.12				7,565.12
Mike Ringle	3/24	3/27	France		2,133.76						2,133.76
	3/27	3/29	Switzerland		938.00						938.00
Commercial Air							7,560.12				7,560.12
Hon. Adam Schiff	3/18	3/20	Slovakia		724.00		(⁹)				724.00
Christine Kojac	3/26	3/29	Mexico		1,050.00						1,050.00
Commercial Air							1,196.35				1,196.35

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2008—Continued

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Ane Marie Chotvacs	3/26	3/29	Mexico		1,050.00						1,050.00
Commercial Air							830.35				830.35
Committee total					83,442.64		201,580.06		235.91		285,258.61

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; If U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.
³ Military air transportation.

HON. DAVID R. OBEY, Chairman, Apr. 30, 2008.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
EXPENDED BETWEEN ARMED SERVICES AND JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2008

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Visit to Germany, India, Egypt, Jordan, Israel With CODEL Voinovich, December 27, 2007–January 5, 2008:											
Hon. Rob Bishop	12/27	12/28	Germany		425.00						425.00
	12/28	12/30	India		270.00						270.00
	12/30	1/1	Egypt		266.00						266.00
	1/1	1/4	Jordan								
	1/4	1/4	Israel		519.00						519.00
Hon. Phil Gingrey	12/27	12/28	Germany		425.00						425.00
	12/28	12/30	India		270.00						270.00
	12/30	1/1	Egypt		266.00						266.00
	1/1	1/4	Jordan								
	1/4	1/4	Israel		519.00						519.00
	1/4	1/5	Germany								
Visit to New Zealand, Antarctica, Australia With CODEL Baird, December 31, 2007–January 7, 2008:											
Hon. Loretta Sanchez	12/31	1/2	New Zealand		300.00						300.00
	1/2	1/4	Antarctica								
	1/4	1/5	New Zealand		156.00						156.00
	1/5	1/7	Australia		350.00						350.00
Visit to the Philippines, Malaysia, January 3–10, 2008:											
Hon. Adam Smith	1/6	1/8	Malaysia		140.00						140.00
	1/8	1/10	The Philippines		255.00						255.00
Commercial Transportation							4,808.38				4,808.38
William Natter, III	1/6	1/8	Malaysia		140.00						140.00
	1/8	1/10	The Philippines		255.00						255.00
Commercial Transportation							5,434.67				5,434.67
Alexander Kugajevsky	1/6	1/8	Malaysia		140.00						140.00
	1/8	1/10	The Philippines		255.00						255.00
Commercial Transportation							5,434.67				5,434.67
Visit Turkey, France, Morocco, Azerbaijan, January 6–15, 2008:											
Hon. Bill Shuster	1/6	1/9	France		376.00						376.00
	1/9	1/11	Azerbaijan		634.00						634.00
	1/11	1/15	Turkey		432.00						432.00
Commercial Transportation							8,575.21				8,575.21
John Wason	1/6	1/9	France		376.00						376.00
	1/9	1/11	Azerbaijan		634.00						634.00
	1/11	1/15	Turkey		432.00						432.00
Commercial Transportation							8,575.21				8,575.21
Delegation Expenses	1/6	1/9	France					25,943.25			25,943.25
Visit to Japan, South Korea, January 7–13, 2008:											
Hon. Ellen Tauscher	1/9	1/11	Japan		436.00						436.00
	1/11	1/13	South Korea		112.00						112.00
Hon. Rick Larsen	1/9	1/11	Japan		436.00						436.00
	1/11	1/13	South Korea		112.00						112.00
Hon. Trent Franks	1/9	1/11	Japan		436.00						436.00
	1/11	1/13	South Korea		112.00						112.00
Hon. Todd Akin	1/9	1/11	Japan		436.00						436.00
	1/11	1/13	South Korea		112.00						112.00
Adrienne Ramsay	1/9	1/11	Japan		436.00						436.00
	1/11	1/13	South Korea		112.00						112.00
Frank Rose	1/9	1/11	Japan		436.00						436.00
	1/11	1/13	South Korea		112.00						112.00
Kari Bingen Tytler	1/9	1/11	Japan		436.00						436.00
	1/11	1/13	South Korea		112.00						112.00
Visit to England, Scotland, Canada, January 7–13, 2008:											
Hon. Ike Skelton	1/7	1/9	Canada		297.00						297.00
	1/9	1/11	England		362.00						362.00
	1/11	1/13	Scotland		288.00						288.00
Hon. Susan Davis	1/7	1/9	Canada		297.00						297.00
	1/9	1/11	England		362.00						362.00
	1/11	1/13	Scotland		288.00						288.00
Hon. Rick Larsen	1/7	1/9	Canada		297.00						297.00
	1/9	1/11	England		362.00						362.00
	1/11	1/13	Scotland		288.00						288.00
Hon. Mike McIntyre	1/7	1/9	Canada		297.00						297.00
	1/9	1/11	England		362.00						362.00
	1/11	1/13	Scotland		288.00						288.00
Hon. Mike Rogers	1/7	1/9	Canada		297.00						297.00
	1/9	1/11	England		362.00						362.00
	1/11	1/13	Scotland		288.00						288.00
Hon. Loretta Sanchez	1/9	1/11	England		362.00						362.00
	1/11	1/13	Scotland		288.00						288.00
Commercial Transportation							8,383.99				8,383.99
Erin Conaton	1/7	1/9	Canada		297.00						297.00
	1/9	1/11	England		362.00						362.00
	1/11	1/13	Scotland		288.00						288.00
Michael Casey	1/7	1/9	Canada		297.00						297.00
	1/9	1/11	England		362.00						362.00
	1/11	1/13	Scotland		288.00						288.00

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
EXPENDED BETWEEN ARMED SERVICES AND JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2008—Continued

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Lara Battles	1/7	1/9	Canada		297.00						297.00
	1/9	1/11	England		362.00						362.00
	1/11	1/13	Scotland		288.00						288.00
Stephanie Sanok	1/7	1/9	Canada		297.00						297.00
	1/9	1/11	England		362.00						362.00
	1/11	1/13	Scotland		288.00						288.00
Visit to Germany, Greece, Turkey, Kuwait, Iraq, Afghanistan, with CODEL L. Davis, January 8–16, 2008:											
Hon. Niki Tsongas	1/9	1/10	Greece		155.00						155.00
	1/10	1/12	Turkey		154.00						154.00
	1/12	1/16	Kuwait		105.00						105.00
	1/13	1/14	Afghanistan		15.00						15.00
	1/15	1/15	Iraq		11.00						11.00
Commercial Transportation							11,279.15				11,279.15
Visit to Kuwait, Afghanistan, Belgium, Germany, January 18–22, 2008:											
Hon. Susan Davis	1/18	1/18	Belgium		175.00						175.00
	1/19	1/21	Afghanistan		100.00						100.00
	1/21	1/22	Germany		316.00						316.00
Hon. David Loebsack	1/18	1/18	Belgium		175.00						175.00
	1/19	1/21	Afghanistan		100.00						100.00
	1/21	1/22	Germany		316.00						316.00
Hon. Mark Udall	1/18	1/28	Belgium		175.00						175.00
	1/19	1/21	Afghanistan		100.00						100.00
	1/21	1/22	Germany		316.00						316.00
Debra Wada	1/18	1/18	Belgium		175.00						175.00
	1/19	1/21	Afghanistan		100.00						100.00
	1/21	1/22	Germany		316.00						316.00
John Chapla	1/18	1/18	Belgium		175.00						175.00
	1/19	1/21	Afghanistan		100.00						100.00
	1/21	1/22	Germany		316.00						316.00
Visit to Afghanistan, Iraq and Kuwait, January 29–February 4, 2008											
Paul Oostburg Sanz	1/30	1/30	Kuwait		55.00						55.00
	1/31	2/1	Afghanistan								
	1/1	2/3	Iraq								
	1/3	2/3	Kuwait		55.00						55.00
Commercial Transportation							8,026.76				8,026.76
Michael McErlean	1/30	1/30	Kuwait		114.00						114.00
	1/31	2/1	Afghanistan		75.00						75.00
	1/1	2/3	Iraq								
	1/2	2/3	Kuwait		114.00						114.00
Commercial Transportation							8,026.76				8,026.76
Roger Zakheim	1/30	1/30	Kuwait		114.00						114.00
	1/31	2/1	Afghanistan		75.00						75.00
	1/1	2/3	Iraq								
	1/2	2/3	Kuwait		114.00						114.00
Commercial Transportation							8,026.76				8,026.76
Alexandra Rogers	1/30	1/30	Kuwait		69.50						69.50
	1/31	2/1	Afghanistan								
	2/1	2/3	Iraq								
	2/3	2/3	Kuwait		69.50						69.50
Commercial Transportation							8,026.76				8,026.76
Delegation Expenses	1/30	2/3	Kuwait		279.04		457.03				736.07
Visit to Germany, with CODEL Lieberman/McCain, February 8–10, 2008:											
Jim Marshall	2/8	2/7	Germany		204.00						204.00
Commercial Transportation							5,416.40				5,416.40
Visit to Colombia, February 8–11, 2008:											
Hon. Solomon Ortiz	2/8	2/10	Colombia		178.00						178.00
Hon. Madeleine Z. Bordallo	2/8	2/10	Colombia		178.00						178.00
Paul Arcangeli	2/8	2/10	Colombia		178.00						178.00
Joshua Holly	2/8	2/10	Colombia		178.00						178.00
Visit to Kuwait, Afghanistan, February 15–19, 2008:											
Hon. Rob Andrews	2/16	2/17	Kuwait		164.00						164.00
	2/17	2/18	Afghanistan		25.00						25.00
Commercial Transportation							11,723.80				11,723.80
Hon. Madeleine Bordallo	2/16	2/17	Kuwait		164.00						164.00
	2/17	2/18	Afghanistan		25.00						25.00
Commercial Transportation							11,723.80				11,723.80
Hon. John Kline	2/16	2/17	Kuwait		164.00						164.00
	2/17	2/18	Afghanistan		25.00						25.00
Commercial Transportation							11,723.80				11,723.80
John Kruse	2/16	2/17	Kuwait		164.00						164.00
	2/17	2/18	Afghanistan		25.00						25.00
Commercial Transportation							11,723.80				11,723.80
Aileen Alexander	2/16	2/17	Kuwait		164.00						164.00
	2/17	2/18	Afghanistan		25.00						25.00
Commercial Transportation							11,723.80				11,723.80
Visit to France, February 15–20, 2008:											
Hon. Ellen Tauscher	2/17	2/20	France		564.00						564.00
Commercial Transportation							3,954.96				3,954.96
Robert W. DeGrasse	2/17	2/20	France		564.00						564.00
Commercial Transportation							7,823.22				7,823.22
Visit to Georgia, Germany, France, Ukraine, February 17–23, 2008:											
Erin Conaton	2/17	2/18	Ukraine								
	2/18	2/20	Georgia		644.00						644.00
	2/20	2/21	Germany		708.00						708.00
	2/21	2/22	France		188.00						188.00
Commercial Transportation							12,437.46				12,437.46
Mark Lewis	2/17	2/18	Ukraine								
	2/18	2/20	Georgia		644.00						644.00
	2/20	2/21	Germany		708.00						708.00
	2/21	2/22	France		188.00						188.00
Commercial Transportation							10,247.25				10,247.25
Stephanie Sanok	2/17	2/18	Ukraine								
	2/18	2/20	Georgia		644.00						644.00
	2/20	2/21	Germany		708.00						708.00
	2/21	2/22	France		188.00						188.00
Commercial Transportation							11,360.48				11,360.48
Visit to Kuwait, Iraq, With CODEL Etheridge, February 19–23, 2008:											
Roger Zakheim	2/19	2/22	Kuwait		328.00						328.00

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
EXPENDED BETWEEN ARMED SERVICES AND JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2008—Continued

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Commercial Transportation	2/20	2/21	Iraq				8,036.76				8,036.76
Visit to France, February 20, 2008:											
Hon. Jeff Miller	2/20	2/20	France				714.55				714.55
Commercial Transportation											
Visit to Kuwait, Iraq, March 17–20, 2008:											
Hon. Brad Ellsworth	3/18	3/19	Kuwait		114.00						114.00
	3/19	3/20	Iraq								
Commercial Transportation							16,809.77				16,809.77
Hon. Carol Shea-Porter	3/18	3/19	Kuwait		114.00						114.00
	3/19	3/20	Iraq								
Commercial Transportation							13,374.77				13,374.77
Michael Casey	3/18	3/19	Kuwait		114.00						114.00
	3/19	3/20	Iraq								
Commercial Transportation							16,809.77				16,809.77
Stephanie Sanok	3/18	3/19	Kuwait		114.00						114.00
	3/19	3/20	Iraq								
Commercial Transportation							16,809.77				16,809.77
Joseph Hicken	3/18	3/19	Kuwait		114.00						114.00
	3/19	3/20	Iraq								
Commercial Transportation							16,809.77				16,809.77
Visit to Jordan, Iraq, March 20–24, 2008:											
Hon. Jim Marshall	3/21	3/22	Jordan		291.00						291.00
	3/22	3/23	Iraq								
	3/23	3/24	Jordan		91.00						91.00
Commercial Transportation							6,537.64				6,537.64
Visit to Panama, March 24–29, 2008:											
Hon. Gene Taylor	3/24	3/29	Panama		490.00						490.00
Visit to Cape Verde, Cote D'Ivoire, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Jordan, Iraq, Zambia, Germany, With CODEL Inhofe; March 25–31, 2008:											
Hon. Mike McIntyre	3/25	3/25	Cape Verde								
	3/25	3/26	Cote d'Ivoire		170.00						170.00
	3/26	3/27	Zambia		143.00						143.00
	3/27	3/27	Tanzania								
	3/27	3/29	Ethiopia		276.00						276.00
	3/29	3/30	Jordan		145.00						145.00
	3/30	3/30	Iraq								
	3/30	3/31	Germany		275.00						275.00
Committee total					35,661.04		290,816.92		25,943.25		343,642.00

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.

² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. IKE SKELTON, Chairman, Apr. 30, 2008.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2008

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. Scott Garrett	2/16	2/17	Kuwait		164.00		11,723.80				11,887.80
	2/17	2/18	Afghanistan		25.00						25.00
Committee total					189.00		11,723.80				11,912.80

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.

² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. JOHN M. SPRATT, Jr., Apr. 21, 2008.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND LABOR, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2008

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
CODEL Miller:											
HON. George Miller	1/11	1/14	Bogota, Colombia		1,125.00		2,455.00				3,580.00
Hon. William Delahunt	1/11	1/15	Bogota, Colombia		1,500.00		2,143.00				3,643.00
HON. James McGovern	1/11	1/15	Bogota, Colombia		1,500.00		2,192.00				3,692.00
Tico Alaneida	1/11	1/14	Bogota, Colombia		1,125.00		2,222.00				3,347.00
Clifford Stammerman	1/11	1/15	Bogota, Colombia		1,500.00		2,043.00				3,543.00
John Kivlan	1/11	1/15	Bogota, Colombia		1,500.00		2,208.00				3,708.00
Phaedra Dugan	1/11	1/15	Bogota, Colombia		1,500.00		1,530.00				3,030.00
Cindy Buhl	1/11	1/15	Bogota, Colombia		1,500.00		1,477.00				2,977.00
CODEL Christensen:											
Guerino Calemine	2/20	2/26	Hawaii		972.00		2,520.46		³ 270.75		3,763.21
Bill Miller	2/20	2/26	Hawaii		972.00		2,520.46		³ 69.76		3,562.22
Committee total					13,194.00		21,310.92		340.51		34,845.43

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.

² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

³ Rental car, taxi, miscellaneous.

HON. GEORGE MILLER, Chairman, Apr. 29, 2008.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN OCT. 1 AND DEC. 31, 2007

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. Cliff Stearns	11/26	11/29	Brazil		474.00		2747.60				3221.60
Hon. Marsha Blackburn	11/26	11/28	Brazil		694.00		4097.60				4791.60
Kurt Bilas	12/6	12/18	Indonesia		1,652.00		9,236.70				10,888.70
Richard Frandsen	12/7	12/18	Indonesia		2,212.00		7,354.70				9,566.70
Hon. Charles Melancon	11/2	11/5	Italy		2,425.00						2,425.00
Hon. Tim Murphy	11/3	11/4	Iraq/Kuwait		348.00						348.00
	11/5	11/5	Germany								
Hon. Rick Boucher	11/25	12/1	England		1,086.00		6,244.04				7,330.04
Committee total							29,680.64				38,571.64

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.

² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

³ Military air transportation.

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL, Chairman, Apr. 29, 2008.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JULY 1 AND SEPT. 31, 2007

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Michael Burgess	7/19	7/23	Iraq/Kuwait				(³)				
Joshua Martin	7/19	7/23	Iraq/Kuwait				(³)				
Michael Ross	7/20	7/22	Serbia		780.00						
	7/22	7/23	Croatia		134.00		(³)				
Rick Boucher	8/16	8/18	Amsterdam		893.18						
	8/22	8/25	France		1,569.00						
In country rail fares							476.00				
Committee total					3,376.18		476.00				3,852.18

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.

² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

³ Military air transportation.

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL, Chairman, Apr. 29, 2008

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2008

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. Melissa Bartlett	3/15	3/21	South Africa		1,284.00		9,242.41				10,526.41
Hon. Marsha Blackburn	1/9	1/10	Greece		155.00						155.00
	1/10	1/12	Turkey		308.00						308.00
	1/12	1/13	Kuwait		105.00						105.00
	1/13	1/14	Afghanistan		15.00						15.00
	1/15	1/15	Iraq		11.00						11.00
Commercial Transportation							10,084.72				10,084.72
Hon. Lois Capps	2/15	2/21	Brazil		1,616.00		(³)				1,616.00
Hon. Mike Ferguson	2/15	2/21	Brazil		1,993.00		(³)				1,993.00
Hon. Jane Harman	2/9	2/11	Germany		408.00		(³)				408.00
	2/17	2/19	Israel		360.00						360.00
	2/19	2/20	Dubai/Pakistan		194.00						194.00
	2/20	2/21	Prague				166.00				166.00
Commercial Transportation							3,033.90				3,033.90
Hon. Joe Pitts	1/2	1/4	Kuwait		164.00						164.00
	1/5	1/6	Jordan		291.00						291.00
	1/6	1/9	Israel		2,095.00						2,095.00
Commercial Transportation							9,544.00				9,544.00
Hon. Cliff Stearns	1/7	1/9	Ghana		578.00						578.00
	1/9	1/12	South Africa		972.00						972.00
	1/12	1/15	Morocco		940.00						940.00
Commercial Transportation							4,833.40				4,833.40
Hon. Cliff Stearns	2/28	2/29	El Salvador		398.00						398.00
	3/1	3/4	Costa Rica		939.00		(³)				939.00
Hon. G.K. Butterfield	1/24	1/27	Kuwait		1,260.00		11,260.00				12,520.00
Commercial Transportation							11,706.77				11,706.77
Hon. Rick Boucher	3/15	3/18	France		637.00						637.00
	3/18	3/20	Czech Republic		330.00						330.00
	3/20	3/22	Poland		318.00		(³)				318.00
Hon. Tammy Baldwin	3/15	3/18	France		637.00						637.00
	3/18	3/20	Czech Republic		330.00						330.00
	3/20	3/22	Poland		318.00		³				318.00
Hon. Albert R. Wynn	3/15	3/18	France		637.00						637.00
	3/18	3/20	Czech Republic		330.00						330.00
	3/20	3/22	Poland		318.00		³				318.00
Hon. Fred Upton	3/15	3/18	France		637.00						637.00
	3/18	3/20	Czech Republic		330.00						330.00
	3/20	3/22	Poland		318.00		³				318.00
Bruce Harris	3/15	3/18	France		637.00						637.00
	3/18	3/20	Czech Republic		330.00						330.00
	3/20	3/22	Poland		318.00		³				318.00
Lorie Schmidt	3/15	3/18	France		637.00						637.00
	3/18	3/20	Czech Republic		330.00						330.00
	3/20	3/22	Poland		318.00		³				318.00
Laura Vaught	3/15	3/18	France		637.00						637.00
	3/18	3/20	Czech Republic		330.00						330.00
	3/20	3/22	Poland		318.00		³				318.00
Michael Beckerman	3/15	3/18	France		637.00						637.00
	3/18	3/20	Czech Republic		330.00						330.00
	3/20	3/22	Poland		318.00		³				318.00
David Cavicce	3/15	3/18	France		637.00						637.00

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2008—Continued

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
	3/19	3/20	Czech Republic		330.00						330.00
	3/20	3/22	Poland		318.00						318.00
Committee total					25,817.00		59,705.20				85,522.20

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.
³ Military air transportation.

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL, Chairman, Apr. 30, 2008.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2008

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
David Abramowitz	3/25	3/29	Israel		650.00		7,532.30				8,182.30
Hon. Gary L. Ackerman	2/21	2/24	United Kingdom		1,380.00		14,313.30				15,693.30
Manpreet Anand	1/4	1/6	Thailand		212.00						212.00
	1/6	1/9	China		575.00						575.00
	1/9	1/12	India		915.00				\$ 70.00		985.00
	1/4	1/12					³ 11,172.38				11,172.38
	2/18	2/22	Sri Lanka		833.00		11,755.84				12,588.84
Douglas Anderson	1/3	1/8	Thailand		866.00		7,906.80				8,772.80
	3/16	3/21	Switzerland		2,274.80		7,827.56				10,102.36
Hon. J. Gresham Barrett	2/29	3/1	Kuwait		164.00		(⁴)				164.00
	3/1	3/2	Iraq		0.00		(⁴)				0.00
	3/2	3/3	Afghanistan		25.00		(⁴)				25.00
David Beraka	3/3	3/4	Germany		366.00						366.00
	2/16	2/18	U.A.E.		923.00						923.00
	2/18	2/20	Egypt		912.00						912.00
	2/20	2/23	Jordan		723.00						723.00
	2/23	2/24	United Kingdom		485.00						485.00
	2/16	2/24	Round Trip Airfare				12,507.78				12,507.78
	3/23	3/25	Turkey		349.00						349.00
	3/25	3/29	Israel		600.00						600.00
	3/23	3/29					³ 8,280.05				8,280.05
Paul Berkowitz	3/20	3/22	Taiwan		346.00						346.00
	3/22	3/25	South Korea		1,200.00						1,200.00
	3/25	3/28	Japan		1,248.00						1,248.00
	3/20	3/28					³ 8,560.12				8,560.12
Hon. John Boozman	3/25	3/26	Ivory Coast		170.00		(⁴)				170.00
	3/26	3/27	Zambia		143.00		(⁴)				143.00
	3/27	3/29	Ethiopia		276.00		(⁴)				276.00
	3/29	3/30	Jordan		141.00		(⁴)				141.00
	3/30	3/31	Germany		175.00		(⁴)				175.00
Genell Brown	3/17	3/21	South Africa		347.50						347.50
	3/21	3/23	Zimbabwe		479.00						479.00
	3/17	3/23					³ 15,178.00				15,178.00
Hon. Russ Carnahan	3/24	3/27	China		1,077.00		1,234.01				2,311.01
Natalie Coburn	3/16	3/21	Switzerland		2,345.00		7,800.06				10,145.06
Hon. Jim Costa	2/29	3/1	Kuwait		164.00		(⁴)				164.00
	3/1	3/2	Iraq		0.00		(⁴)				0.00
	3/2	3/3	Afghanistan		25.00		(⁴)				25.00
	3/3	3/4	Germany		366.00		(⁴)				366.00
Hon. Joseph Crowley	2/29	3/1	Kuwait		164.00		(⁴)				164.00
	3/1	3/2	Iraq		0.00		(⁴)				0.00
	3/2	3/3	Afghanistan		25.00		(⁴)				25.00
	3/3	3/4	Germany		366.00		(⁴)				366.00
Ted Dagne	1/2	1/6	Eritrea		934.00						934.00
	1/6	1/8	Sudan		0.00						0.00
	1/8	1/2	Kenya		1,590.00						1,590.00
							³ 10,304.93				10,304.93
Hon. William D. Delahunt	1/11	1/15	Colombia		1,500.00		2,142.80				3,642.80
	1/17	1/19	Venezuela		742.00		3,874.22				4,616.22
Erin Diamond	2/16	2/18	Ecuador		590.00		(⁴)				590.00
	2/18	2/20	Bolivia		318.00		(⁴)				318.00
	2/20	2/23	Argentina		939.00		(⁴)				939.00
Howard Diamond	1/6	1/7	Jordan		241.00						241.00
	1/7	1/9	Lebanon		154.00						154.00
	1/9	1/11	France		1,018.00						1,018.00
	1/11	1/12	Belgium		397.00			120.00			517.00
	1/6	1/12					³ 9,114.04				9,114.04
	3/23	3/25	Jordan		482.00						482.00
	3/25	3/31	Israel		780.00						780.00
	3/23	3/31					³ 7,506.84				7,506.84
Phaedra Dugan	1/11	1/15	Colombia		1,500.00		2,094.30				3,594.30
Eliot L. Engel	1/6	1/8	Morocco		165.00		(⁴)				165.00
	1/8	1/9	Ivory Coast		170.00		(⁴)				170.00
	1/9	1/11	Ghana		231.00		(⁴)				231.00
	2/16	2/18	Ecuador		590.00		(⁴)				590.00
	2/18	2/20	Bolivia		318.00		(⁴)				318.00
	2/20	2/23	Argentina		939.00		(⁴)				939.00
Hon. Eni F.H. Faleomavaega	1/5	1/12	Israel		1,408.00		6,728.300				8,136.30
	1/31	2/6	New Zealand		1,225.14		12,953.56				14,178.70
	2/8	2/10	Colombia		178.00		(⁴)				178.00
	3/20	3/23	Taiwan		1,111.00						1,111.00
	3/24	3/30	Marshall Islands		1,326.00						1,326.00
	3/20	3/30					³ 13,825.45				13,825.45
Hannah Fischer	2/16	2/17	Kuwait		446.00		(⁴)				446.00
	2/17	2/21	Indonesia		971.13		(⁴)				971.13
	2/21	2/23	Thailand		490.00		(⁴)				490.00
	2/23	2/24	Georgia		372.00		(⁴)				372.00
David Fite	2/19	2/23	China		1,176.00		9,715.81				10,891.81
Heather Flynn	3/17	3/21	South Africa		381.00						381.00
	3/21	3/25	Zimbabwe		928.00						928.00
	3/25	3/29	Namibia		589.00						589.00
	3/17	3/29					³ 10,951.80				10,951.80
Hon. Elton Gallegly	2/16	2/19	Israel		540.00		(⁴)				540.00
	2/19	2/20	Pakistan		339.00		(⁴)				339.00
	2/19	2/20	Czech Republic		166.00		(⁴)				166.00

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2008—Continued

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. Gene Green	2/16	2/18	Ecuador		590.00		(4)				590.00
	2/18	2/20	Bolivia		318.00		(4)				318.00
	2/20	2/23	Argentina		939.00		(4)				939.00
Hon. Dennis Halpin	1/4	1/6	Thailand		212.00						212.00
	1/6	1/11	China		1,000.00						1,000.00
Hans Hogrefe	2/18	2/22	Sri Lanka		833.00			3	10,886.89		10,886.89
Hon. Sheila Jackson-Lee	2/16	2/17	United Kingdom		231.00				11,785.84		12,618.84
	2/17	2/20	Pakistan		369.00						369.00
	2/16	2/20						3	12,462.16		12,462.16
	3/18	3/19	Kuwait		420.00						420.00
	3/19	3/20	Iraq					(4)			
	3/20	3/21	Kuwait		420.00						420.00
	2/18	2/21						3	11,562.27		11,562.27
Eric Jacobstein	1/6	1/8	Morocco		165.00				(9)		165.00
	1/8	1/9	Ivory Coast		170.40				(9)		170.00
	1/9	1/11	Ghana		231.40				(9)		231.00
	2/16	2/18	Ecuador		590.00				(9)		590.00
	2/18	2/20	Bolivia		318.00				(9)		318.00
	2/20	2/23	Argentina		939.00				(9)		939.00
	3/24	3/26	Mexico		600.00						600.00
	3/26	3/28	El Salvador		415.59						415.59
	3/24	3/28						3	2,399.85		2,399.85
Eric Johnson	3/16	3/18	Hungary		568.00				7,817.42		8,385.42
Jonathan Katz	2/3	2/6	Ukraine		971.00				8,393.33		9,364.33
	3/15	3/16	Belgium		427.49						427.49
	3/16	3/18	Hungary		568.00						568.00
	3/15	3/18						3	9,002.72		9,002.72
Kenneth Katzman	2/29	3/1	Kuwait		164.00				(9)		164.00
	3/1	3/2	Iraq						(4)		
	3/2	3/3	Afghanistan		25.00				(4)		25.00
	3/3	3/4	Germany		366.00				(4)		366.00
Sarah Kiko	3/17	3/21	South Africa		386.00						386.00
	3/21	3/25	Zimbabwe		884.00						884.00
	3/25	3/29	Namibia		593.00						593.00
	3/17	3/29						3	11,091.80		11,091.80
David Killion	3/16	3/19	Switzerland		1,307.00						1,307.00
	3/19	3/22	Malta		396.00						396.00
	3/16	3/22						3	10,567.90		10,567.90
Julie Kim	3/15	3/18	Macedonia		758.64						758.64
	3/18	3/21	Kosovo		557.00						557.00
	3/15	3/21						3	8,891.57		8,891.57
John Kivlan	1/11	1/15	Colombia		1,500.00				2,252.30		3,752.30
Vili Lei	1/31	2/6	New Zealand		1,225.14				12,953.56		14,178.70
	2/16	2/21	Vietnam		388.00				96.62		484.62
	2/21	2/24	Hong Kong		432.00						432.00
	2/16	2/24						3	9,778.70		9,778.70
	3/20	3/23	Taiwan		1,111.00						1,111.00
	3/24	3/30	Marshall Islands		1,326.00						1,326.00
	3/20	3/30						3	10,663.45		10,663.45
John Mackey	2/20	2/23	Argentina		939.00				4,729.40		5,668.40
Alan Makovsky	2/29	3/1	Kuwait		164.00				(9)		164.00
	3/1	3/2	Iraq		0.00				(9)		
	3/2	3/3	Afghanistan		25.00				(9)		25.00
	3/3	3/4	Germany		366.00				(9)		366.00
	3/23	3/25	Turkey		224.00						224.00
	3/25	3/29	Israel		600.00						600.00
	3/23	3/29						3	8,706.68		8,706.68
Pearl-Alice Marsh	3/17	3/21	South Africa		386.00						386.00
	3/21	3/25	Zimbabwe		934.00						934.00
	3/25	3/29	Namibia		593.00						593.00
	3/17	3/29						3	10,951.80		10,951.80
Peter Martin	2/19	2/21	Brazil		566.00				9,821.30		10,387.30
Greg McCarthy	1/6	1/7	Jordan		241.00						241.00
	1/7	1/9	Lebanon		154.00						154.00
	1/9	1/11	France		1,018.00						1,018.00
	1/11	1/12	Belgium		397.00				120.00		517.00
	1/6	1/12						3	8,730.04		8,730.04
	2/29	3/1	Kuwait		164.00				(9)		164.00
	3/1	3/2	Iraq		0.00				(9)		
	3/2	3/3	Afghanistan		25.00				(9)		25.00
	3/3	3/4	Germany		366.00				(9)		366.00
Mark Milosch	1/2	1/5	DR Congo		924.00						924.00
	1/6	1/8	Israel		910.00						910.00
	1/2	1/8						3	13,491.32		13,491.32
Jonathan Cobb Mixter	1/3	1/6	Thailand		430.00						430.00
	1/6	1/9	China		575.00						575.00
	1/9	1/12	India		915.00						915.00
	1/3	1/12						3	9,757.28		9,757.28
Dick Nanto	2/19	2/23	China		1,176.00				9,715.81		11,919.27
	2/16	2/17	Kuwait		446.00				(9)		446.00
	2/17	2/21	Indonesia		971.13				(9)		971.13
	2/21	2/23	Thailand		490.00				(9)		490.00
	2/23	2/24	Georgia		372.00				(9)		372.00
Hon. Donald M. Payne	1/2	1/6	Eritrea		934.00						934.00
	1/6	1/8	Sudan								
	1/8	1/11	Kenya		954.00						954.00
	1/2	1/11						3	12,112.53		12,112.53
Hon. Mike Pence	2/29	3/1	Kuwait		164.00				(9)		164.00
	3/1	3/2	Iraq						(9)		
	3/2	3/3	Afghanistan		25.00		(4)				25.00
	3/3	3/4	Germany		366.00				(9)		366.00
Elisa Perry	2/16	2/18	Ecuador		590.00				(9)		590.00
	2/18	2/20	Bolivia		318.00				(9)		318.00
	2/20	2/23	Argentina		939.00				(9)		939.00
Don Phan	2/19	2/23	China		1,176.00				9,715.81		10,891.81
Hon. Ted Poe	3/21	3/22	Jordan		291.00						291.00
	3/22	3/23	Iraq						(9)		
	3/23	3/24	Jordan		241.00						241.00
	3/21	3/24						3	10,795.80		10,795.80
Peter Quilter	2/16	2/18	Ecuador		590.00				(9)		590.00
	2/18	2/20	Bolivia		318.00				(9)		318.00
	2/20	2/23	Argentina		939.00				(9)		939.00
Eric Richardson	1/4	1/6	Thailand		212.00						212.00
	1/6	1/11	China		1,163.00						1,163.00

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2008—Continued

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
David Richmond	1/4	1/11									10,906.89
	1/5	1/12	Israel		1,408.00						8,106.30
	1/31	2/6	New Zealand		1,225.14						14,178.70
	2/16	2/21	Vietnam		388.00						484.62
	2/21	2/24	Hong Kong		432.00						432.00
	2/16	2/24									9,778.70
	3/20	3/23	Taiwan		1,111.00						1,111.00
	3/24	3/30	Marshall Islands		1,326.00						1,326.00
	3/20	3/30									10,663.45
	3/16	3/21	Switzerland		2,272.80						10,100.36
Seth Robinson	1/8	1/10	Azerbaijan		734.00						10,336.22
Robin Roizman	1/6	1/9	Honduras		480.00						480.00
	1/9	1/11	Nicaragua		233.00						233.00
	1/6	1/11									2,033.70
Hon. Dana Rohrabacher	3/21	3/22	Taiwan		173.00						173.00
	3/22	3/25	South Korea		1,200.00						1,200.00
	3/25	3/28	Japan		1,248.00						1,248.00
	3/21	3/28									5,813.12
Caleb Rossiter	2/16	2/17	United Kingdom		231.00						231.00
	2/17	2/20	Pakistan		369.00						369.00
	2/16	2/20									10,559.25
Daniel Silverberg	1/9	1/11	Sri Lanka		767.00						767.00
	1/11	1/14	Indonesia		566.00						566.00
	1/9	1/14									10,217.49
Amanda Sloat	1/2	1/9	Georgia		2,154.00						2,154.00
Hon. Christopher H. Smith	1/2	1/5	DR Congo		924.00						924.00
	1/6	1/8	Israel		910.00						910.00
	1/2	1/8									16,553.32
Cliff Stammerman	2/19	2/21	Brazil		565.00						10,387.30
Jason Steinbaum	1/11	1/15	Colombia		1,500.00						3,542.30
	2/16	2/18	Ecuador		590.00						590.00
	2/18	2/20	Bolivia		318.00						318.00
	2/20	2/23	Argentina		939.00						939.00
Robyn Wapner	1/6	1/9	Honduras		563.00						563.00
	1/6	1/9	Nicaragua		306.00						306.00
	1/6	1/11									2,033.70
	3/24	3/26	Mexico		600.00						600.00
	3/26	3/28	El Salvador		415.59						415.59
	3/24	3/28									2,399.85
Hon. Diane E. Watson	3/16	3/19	Egypt		834.00						834.00
	3/19	3/21	Zambia		628.00						628.00
	3/21	3/24	South Africa		1,041.00						1,041.00
	3/16	3/24									12,477.89
Lynne Weil	2/16	2/18	U.A.E.		861.00						861.00
	2/18	2/20	Egypt		853.00						853.00
	2/20	2/23	Jordan		700.00						700.00
	2/23	2/24	United Kingdom		478.00						478.00
	2/16	2/24									12,507.78
Kristin Wells	2/18	2/22	Sri Lanka		638.00						11,785.84
	3/15	3/21	Switzerland		2,098.00						12,423.84
Hon. Robert Wexler	1/8	1/10	Azerbaijan		734.00						8,341.56
	2/4	2/6	Ukraine		665.00						10,336.22
Lisa Williams	3/16	3/18	Hungary		568.00						6,455.15
	1/31	2/6	New Zealand		1,225.14						14,288.70
	2/16	2/21	Vietnam		388.00						484.62
	2/21	2/24	Hong Kong		432.00						432.00
	2/16	2/24									9,778.70
Hon. Joe Wilson	2/29	3/1	Kuwait		164.00						164.00
	3/1	3/2	Iraq		0.00						0.00
	3/2	3/3	Afghanistan		25.00						25.00
	3/3	3/4	Germany		366.00						366.00
Hon. Robert J. Wittman	1/7	1/8	Jordan		313.00						313.00
	1/8	1/9	Iraq		0.00						0.00
	1/9	1/10	Cyprus		273.00						273.00
	1/10	1/11	France		238.00						238.00
	1/7	1/11									7,111.03
Peter Yeo	1/4	1/6	Thailand		212.00						1,639.33
	1/6	1/9	China		575.00						575.00
	1/4	1/9									10,906.89
Matthew Zweig	1/6	1/7	Jordan		241.00						241.00
	1/7	1/9	Lebanon		154.00						154.00
	1/9	1/11	France		1,018.00						1,018.00
	1/11	1/12	Belgium		397.00						517.00
	1/6	1/12									8,703.04
	2/16	2/18	U.A.E.		923.00						13,205.92
	3/23	3/25	Jordan		482.00						482.00
	3/25	3/28	Israel		500.00						500.00
	3/23	3/28									6,663.00
Committee total					134,834.03						729,297.42
											2,524.79
											866,656.24

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.
³ Round trip airfare.
⁴ Military air transportation.
⁵ Indicates Delegation costs.

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN, Chairman, Apr. 29, 2008.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2008

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	\$ U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	\$ U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	\$ U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	\$ U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. Daniel Lungren	3/14	3/16	France		1,344.00						1,344.00
	3/17	3/19	Czech Republic		848.00						848.00
	3/20	3/22	Poland		710.00						710.00
Hon. Keith Ellison	3/24	3/25	Egypt		278.00						278.00
	3/25	3/26	Afghanistan		75.00						75.00
	3/26	3/29	Pakistan		998.31						998.31
	3/29	3/30	Czech Republic		431.12						431.12

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2008—Continued

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	\$ U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	\$ U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	\$ U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	\$ U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Committee total					4,684.43						4,684.43

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.

² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. JOHN CONYERS, Jr., Chairman, Apr. 30, 2008.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2008

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Brian Modeste	1/6	1/8	Marshall Islands		500.00		6,676.12				7,176.12
Richard Stanton	1/8	1/11	Philippines		1,040.00				112.40		1,152.40
	1/6	1/8	Marshall Islands		500.00		6,254.88				6,754.88
	1/8	1/11	Philippines		1,040.00						1,040.00
Anthony Babauta	1/8	1/11	Philippines		1,040.00		7,200.20				8,240.20
Dave Whaley	2/5	2/10	Italy		2,340.00		5,859.66				8,199.66
Hon. Jeff Flake	2/15	2/21	Brazil		1,616.00		(³)				1,616.00
Hon. Donna Christensen	2/23	2/24	Ind. State of Samoa		300.00		7,438.52				7,738.52
Hon. Eni Faleomavaega	2/23	2/24	Ind. State of Samoa		300.00		6,699.26				6,999.26
Tony Babauta	2/23	2/24	Ind. State of Samoa		300.00		7,911.25				8,211.25
Brian Modeste	2/23	2/24	Ind. State of Samoa		300.00		4,948.86				5,248.86
Richard Stanton	2/23	2/24	Ind. State of Samoa		300.00		5,411.18				5,711.18
Allison Cowan	2/23	2/24	Ind. State of Samoa		300.00		5,667.79				5,967.79
Hon. Nick J. Rahall II	3/15	3/18	France		637.00		(³)				637.00
	3/18	3/20	Czech Republic		330.00		(³)				330.00
	3/20	3/22	Poland		318.00		(³)				318.00
Brian Modeste	3/25	3/28	Micronesia		700.00		5,450.08				6,150.08
Richard Stanton	3/25	3/28	Micronesia		700.00		5,850.36				6,550.36
Hon. Cathy McMorris Rodgers	3/27	3/28	Canada		186.05		653.05				839.10
Committee total					12,747.05		76,021.21		112.40		88,880.66

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.

² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

³ Military air transportation.

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II, Chairman, Apr. 28, 2008.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2008

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. Bill Sali	1/18	1/18	Belgium		175.00						175.00
	1/19	1/21	Afghanistan		100.00						100.00
	1/21	1/22	Germany		316.00						316.00
Hon. Peter Welch	1/7	1/8	Jordan		313.00		7,792.03				8,105.03
	1/8	1/9	Iraq								
	1/9	1/10	Cyprus		273.00						273.00
	1/10	1/10	Lebanon								
	1/10	1/11	France		683.71						683.71
Andrew Su	1/7	1/8	Jordan		313.00		7,113.03				7,426.03
	1/8	1/9	Iraq								
	1/9	1/10	Cyprus		273.00						273.00
	1/10	1/10	Lebanon								
	1/10	1/11	France		683.71						683.71
Bruce Fernandez	1/7	1/8	Jordan		313.00		7,113.03				7,426.03
	1/8	1/9	Iraq								
	1/9	1/10	Cyprus		273.00						273.00
	1/10	1/10	Lebanon								
	1/10	1/11	France		683.71						683.71
Dave Turk	1/7	1/8	Jordan		313.00		7,113.03				7,426.03
	1/8	1/9	Iraq								
	1/9	1/10	Cyprus		273.00						273.00
	1/10	1/10	Lebanon								
	1/10	1/11	France		683.71						683.71
Hon. Stephen Lynch	1/7	1/8	Jordan		313.00		7,871.03				8,184.03
	1/8	1/9	Iraq								
	1/9	1/10	Cyprus		273.00						273.00
	1/10	1/10	Lebanon								
	1/10	1/11	France		683.71						683.71
Lawrence Halloran	1/7	1/8	Jordan		313.00		7,113.03				7,426.03
	1/8	1/9	Iraq								
	1/9	1/10	Cyprus		273.00						273.00
	1/10	1/10	Lebanon								
	1/10	1/11	France		683.71						683.71
Other CODEL Expenses—France	1/10	1/11	France						10,900.00		10,900.00
Hon. Tom Davis	1/25	1/28	Switzerland		1,458.00		(³)				1,458.00
	1/28	1/29	France		559.00						559.00
Lawrence Brady	1/25	1/28	Switzerland		1,284.00		(³)				1,284.00
	1/28	1/29	France		559.00		146.24				705.24
Margaret Daum	1/27	1/29	Kuwait		476.13		11,737.00				12,213.13
	1/29	1/31	Iraq								
Christopher Davis	1/31	2/3	Kuwait		652.13						652.13
	1/27	1/29	Kuwait		392.13		11,737.00				12,129.13
	1/29	1/31	Iraq								
	1/31	2/3	Kuwait		652.13						652.13
R. Nicholas Palarino	1/17	1/29	Kuwait		816.13		11,706.76				12,522.89
	1/29	1/31	Iraq								
	1/31	2/3	Kuwait		652.13						652.13
Hon. Virginia Foxx	2/17	2/19	Ecuador		590.00		(³)				590.00
	2/19	2/21	Bolivia		318.00						318.00
	2/21	2/23	Argentina		939.00						939.00
Jessica Boyer	3/15	3/21	Botswana		834.97		7,666.41				8,501.38

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2008—Continued

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Naomi Seiler	3/15	3/21	Botswana		889.22		9,232.33				10,121.55
Hon. Christopher Shays	3/20	3/21	Turkey		362.50		7,996.64				8,359.14
	3/21	3/21	Israel								91.00
	3/21	3/22	Jordan		91.00						91.00
	3/22	3/23	Iraq								91.00
	3/23	3/23	Jordan		91.00						91.00
Hon. Patrick McHenry	3/23	3/24	Israel								91.00
	3/21	3/22	Jordan		291.00		7,462.14				7,753.14
	3/22	3/23	Iraq								91.00
	3/23	3/23	Jordan		91.00						91.00
R.N. Palarino	3/23	3/24	Israel								91.00
	3/20	3/21	Turkey		362.50		7,368.64				7,731.14
	3/21	3/21	Israel								91.00
	3/21	3/22	Jordan		91.00						91.00
	3/22	3/23	Iraq								91.00
	3/23	3/23	Jordan		91.00						91.00
Dave Turk	3/23	3/24	Israel								91.00
	3/24	3/25	Egypt		278.00						278.00
	3/25	3/26	Afghanistan		75.00						75.00
	3/26	3/29	Pakistan		998.31						998.31
Hon. Betty McCollum	3/29	3/30	Czech Rep		431.12						431.12
	3/24	3/25	Egypt		278.00		(³)				278.00
	3/25	3/26	Afghanistan		75.00						75.00
	3/26	3/29	Pakistan		998.31						998.31
Hon. John Tierney	3/29	3/30	Czech Republic		431.12						431.12
	3/24	3/25	Egypt		278.00		(³)				278.00
	3/25	3/26	Afghanistan		75.00						75.00
	3/26	3/29	Pakistan		998.31						998.31
Andrew Wright	3/29	3/30	Czech Republic		431.12						431.12
	3/24	3/25	Egypt		278.00		(³)				278.00
	3/25	3/26	Afghanistan		75.00						75.00
	3/26	3/29	Pakistan		998.31						998.31
Aimie Brooke Bennett	3/29	3/30	Czech Republic		431.12						431.12
	3/24	3/25	Egypt		278.00		(³)				278.00
	3/25	3/26	Afghanistan		75.00						75.00
	3/26	3/29	Pakistan		998.31						998.31
Hon. Paul Hodes	3/29	3/30	Czech Republic		431.12						431.12
	2/19	2/22	Kuwait		328.00		11,737.76				12,065.76
	2/20	2/21	Iraq								91.00
Hon. Tom Davis	2/15	2/16	Brazil-Manaus		259.00		(³)				259.00
	2/17	2/18	Brazil-Rio		478.00						478.00
	2/19	2/21	Brazil-Brasilia		369.00						369.00
Committee total					31,098.38		130,906.10		10,900.00		172,904.48

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.

² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

³ Military air transportation.

HON HENRY A. WAXMAN, Chairman, Apr. 30, 2008.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON RULES, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2008

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Michael Arcuri	3/3	3/3	Germany		316.00				50.00		366.00
James McGovern	1/11	1/15	Colombia		1,999.50		1,856.30				3,855.80
Cindy Buhl	1/11	1/15	Colombia		1,999.50		1,476.30				3,475.80
Keith Stern	1/3	1/7	Republic of Georgia		1,702.47		10,744.08				12,446.55
Committee total					6,017.47		14,076.68				20,144.15

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.

² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER, Chairman, Apr. 7, 2008.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2008

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. Brian Baird	12/31	1/2	New Zealand		300.00		6,958.00		35,722.00		42,980.00
	1/2	1/4	Antarctica				(³)				156.00
	1/4	1/5	New Zealand		156.00		(³)		4,311.79		31,953.00
Hon. Russ Carnahan	1/5	1/7	Australia		350.00		6,963.00		19,340.00		26,653.00
	12/31	1/2	New Zealand		300.00		(³)				300.00
	1/2	1/4	Antarctica				(³)				156.00
	1/4	1/5	New Zealand		156.00		(³)				350.00
Hon. Bob Inglis	1/5	1/7	Australia		350.00		(³)				300.00
	12/31	1/2	New Zealand		300.00		(³)				300.00
	1/2	1/4	Antarctica				(³)				156.00
	1/4	1/5	New Zealand		156.00		(³)				350.00
Hon. Charlie Melancon	1/5	1/7	Australia		350.00		(³)				300.00
	12/31	1/2	New Zealand		300.00		(³)				300.00
	1/2	1/4	Antarctica				(³)				156.00
	1/4	1/5	New Zealand		156.00		(³)				350.00
Hon. Randy Neugebauer	1/5	1/7	Australia		350.00		(³)				300.00
	12/31	1/2	New Zealand		300.00		(³)				300.00
	1/2	1/4	Antarctica				(³)				156.00
	1/4	1/5	New Zealand		156.00		(³)				350.00
Hon. Frank Lucas	1/5	1/7	Australia		350.00		(³)				300.00
	12/31	1/2	New Zealand		300.00		(³)				300.00
	1/2	1/4	Antarctica				(³)				156.00
	1/4	1/5	New Zealand		156.00		(³)				350.00

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2008—Continued

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. Mike Ross	1/5	1/7	Australia		350.00		(³)				350.00
	12/31	1/2	New Zealand		300.00		(³)				300.00
	1/2	1/4	Antarctica				(³)				
	1/4	1/5	New Zealand		156.00		(³)				156.00
Hon. Adrian Smith	1/5	1/7	Australia		350.00		(³)				350.00
	12/31	1/2	New Zealand		300.00		(³)				300.00
	1/2	1/4	Antarctica				(³)				
	1/4	1/5	New Zealand		156.00		(³)				156.00
Leigh Ann Brown	1/5	1/7	Australia		350.00		(³)				350.00
	12/31	1/5	New Zealand		750.00		(³)				750.00
Leslee Gilbert	1/5	1/7	Australia		350.00		(³)				350.00
	12/31	1/2	New Zealand		300.00		(³)				300.00
	1/2	1/4	Antarctica				(³)				
	1/4	1/5	New Zealand		156.00		(³)				156.00
Dick Obermann	1/5	1/7	Australia		350.00		(³)				350.00
	12/31	1/2	New Zealand		300.00		(³)				300.00
	1/2	1/4	Antarctica				(³)				
	1/4	1/5	New Zealand		156.00		(³)				156.00
	1/5	1/7	Australia		350.00		(³)				350.00
Hon. Brian Baird	1/22	1/27	Switzerland		1,035.00		672.35				1,707.35
Hon. Bart Gordon	2/17	2/21	France		952.00		7,793.22				8,745.22
Chuck Atkins	2/17	2/19	France		476.00		7,926.22				8,505.22
Hon. Laura Richardson	2/19	2/20	Kuwait		164.00						164.00
	2/20	2/21	Iraq				(³)				
	2/21	2/22	Kuwait		164.00		11,731.76				11,895.76
Committee total					11,951.00		42,044.55		86,962.00		40,957.55

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.

² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

³ Military air transportation.

⁴ Lodging—ten members and four staff.

HON. BART GORDON, Chairman, Apr. 18, 2008.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2008

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. Eddie Bernice Johnson	1/5	1/7	Egypt		556.00		(³)				556.00
Hon. John Duncan	1/5	1/7	Egypt		556.00		(³)				556.00
Hon. Jerry Costello	1/5	1/7	Egypt		556.00		(³)				556.00
Hon. Corrine Brown	1/5	1/7	Egypt		556.00		(³)				556.00
Hon. Tim Holden	1/5	1/7	Egypt		556.00		(³)				556.00
Hon. John Boozman	1/5	1/7	Egypt		556.00		(³)				556.00
Hon. Mary Fallin	1/5	1/7	Egypt		556.00		(³)				556.00
Hon. Laura Richardson	1/5	1/7	Egypt		556.00		(³)				556.00
Jimmy Miller	1/5	1/7	Egypt		556.00		(³)				556.00
Ryan Seiger	1/5	1/7	Egypt		556.00		(³)				556.00
Jon Pawlow	1/5	1/7	Egypt		556.00		(³)				556.00
Geoff Bowman	1/5	1/7	Egypt		556.00		(³)				556.00
Ted Illston	1/5	1/7	Egypt		556.00		(³)				556.00
Rod Hall	1/5	1/7	Egypt		556.00		(³)				556.00
Beth Goldstein	1/5	1/7	Egypt		556.00		(³)				556.00
Hon. Eddie Bernice Johnson	1/7	1/9	Ghana		578.00		(³)				578.00
Hon. John Duncan	1/7	1/9	Ghana		578.00		(³)				578.00
Hon. Jerry Costello	1/7	1/9	Ghana		578.00		(³)				578.00
Hon. Corrine Brown	1/7	1/9	Ghana		578.00		(³)				578.00
Hon. Tim Holden	1/7	1/9	Ghana		578.00		(³)				578.00
Hon. John Boozman	1/7	1/9	Ghana		578.00		(³)				578.00
Hon. Mary Fallin	1/7	1/9	Ghana		578.00		(³)				578.00
Hon. Laura Richardson	1/7	1/9	Ghana		578.00		(³)				578.00
Jimmy Miller	1/7	1/9	Ghana		578.00		(³)				578.00
Ryan Seiger	1/7	1/9	Ghana		578.00		(³)				578.00
Jon Pawlow	1/7	1/9	Ghana		578.00		(³)				578.00
Geoff Bowman	1/7	1/9	Ghana		578.00		(³)				578.00
Ted Illston	1/7	1/9	Ghana		578.00		(³)				578.00
Rod Hall	1/7	1/9	Ghana		578.00		(³)				578.00
Beth Goldstein	1/7	1/9	Ghana		578.00		(³)				578.00
Hon. Eddie Bernice Johnson	1/9	1/12	South Africa		972.00		(³)				972.00
Hon. John Duncan	1/9	1/12	South Africa		972.00		(³)				972.00
Hon. Jerry Costello	1/9	1/12	South Africa		972.00		(³)				972.00
Hon. Tim Holden	1/9	1/12	South Africa		972.00		(³)				972.00
Hon. John Boozman	1/9	1/12	South Africa		972.00		(³)				972.00
Hon. Mary Fallin	1/9	1/12	South Africa		972.00		(³)				972.00
Hon. Laura Richardson	1/9	1/12	South Africa		972.00		(³)				972.00
Jimmy Miller	1/9	1/12	South Africa		972.00		(³)				972.00
Ryan Seiger	1/9	1/12	South Africa		972.00		(³)				972.00
Jon Pawlow	1/9	1/12	South Africa		972.00		(³)				972.00
Geoff Bowman	1/9	1/12	South Africa		972.00		(³)				972.00
Ted Illston	1/9	1/12	South Africa		972.00		(³)				972.00
Rod Hall	1/9	1/12	South Africa		972.00		(³)				972.00
Beth Goldstein	1/9	1/12	South Africa		972.00		(³)				972.00
Hon. Eddie Bernice Johnson	1/12	1/15	Morocco		940.00		(³)				940.00
Hon. John Duncan	1/12	1/15	Morocco		940.00		(³)				940.00
Hon. Jerry Costello	1/12	1/15	Morocco		940.00		(³)				940.00
Hon. Tim Holden	1/12	1/15	Morocco		940.00		(³)				940.00
Hon. John Boozman	1/12	1/15	Morocco		940.00		(³)				940.00
Hon. Mary Fallin	1/12	1/15	Morocco		940.00		(³)				940.00
Hon. Laura Richardson	1/12	1/15	Morocco		940.00		(³)				940.00
Jimmy Miller	1/12	1/15	Morocco		940.00		(³)				940.00
Ryan Seiger	1/12	1/15	Morocco		940.00		(³)				940.00
Jon Pawlow	1/12	1/15	Morocco		940.00		(³)				940.00
Geoff Bowman	1/12	1/15	Morocco		940.00		(³)				940.00
Ted Illston	1/12	1/15	Morocco		940.00		(³)				940.00
Rod Hall	1/12	1/15	Morocco		940.00		(³)				940.00
Beth Goldstein	1/12	1/15	Morocco		940.00		(³)				940.00
Hon. Eleanor Holmes Norton	1/5	1/6	Egypt		508.00		(³)				508.00
	1/6	1/7	Egypt		279.87		(³)				279.87

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2008—Continued

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
	1/7	1/9	Oman		738.00		(3)				738.00
	1/9	1/11	Jordan		577.84		(3)				577.84
	1/11	1/13	Israel		1,090.00		(3)				1,090.00
Hon. Jerry Costello	2/28	2/29	El Salvador		398.00		(3)				398.00
Hon. Henry Brown	2/28	2/29	El Salvador		398.00		(3)				398.00
Hon. Peter Defazio	2/28	2/29	El Salvador		398.00		(3)				398.00
Hon. Michael Capuano	2/28	2/29	El Salvador		398.00		(3)				398.00
Hon. Mazie Hirono	2/28	2/29	El Salvador		398.00		(3)				398.00
Jimmy Miller	2/28	2/29	El Salvador		398.00		(3)				398.00
Stacie Soumbeniotis	2/28	2/29	El Salvador		398.00		(3)				398.00
Holly Woodruff Lyons	2/28	2/29	El Salvador		398.00		(3)				398.00
Christa Fornarotto	2/28	2/29	El Salvador		398.00		(3)				398.00
Jana Denning	2/28	2/29	El Salvador		398.00		(3)				398.00
Hon. Jerry Costello	3/1	3/3	Costa Rica		939.00		(3)				939.00
Hon. Henry Brown	3/1	3/3	Costa Rica		939.00		(3)				939.00
Hon. Peter Defazio	3/1	3/3	Costa Rica		939.00		(3)				939.00
Hon. Michael Capuano	3/1	3/3	Costa Rica		939.00		(3)				939.00
Hon. Mazie Hirono	3/1	3/3	Costa Rica		939.00		(3)				939.00
Jimmy Miller	3/1	3/3	Costa Rica		939.00		(3)				939.00
Stacie Soumbeniotis	3/1	3/3	Costa Rica		939.00		(3)				939.00
Holly Woodruff Lyons	3/1	3/3	Costa Rica		939.00		(3)				939.00
Christa Fornarotto	3/1	3/3	Costa Rica		939.00		(3)				939.00
Jana Denning	3/1	3/3	Costa Rica		939.00		(3)				939.00
Hon. Peter Defazio	2/18	2/19	England		1,136.00		(3)				1,136.00
Hon. John Mica	2/18	2/19	England		1,136.00		(3)				1,136.00
Hon. Corrine Brown	2/18	2/19	England		1,136.00		(3)				1,136.00
Hon. Candice Miller	2/18	2/19	England		1,136.00		(3)				1,136.00
Hon. John Salazar	2/18	2/19	England		1,136.00		(3)				1,136.00
Jim Kolb	2/18	2/19	England		1,136.00		(3)				1,136.00
Jim Coon	2/18	2/19	England		1,136.00		(3)				1,136.00
Jim Tymon	2/18	2/19	England		1,136.00		(3)				1,136.00
Amy Scarton	2/18	2/19	England		1,136.00		(3)				1,136.00
Allison Dane	2/18	2/19	England		1,136.00		(3)				1,136.00
Hon. Peter Defazio	2/20	2/24	Spain		2,655.00		(3)				2,655.00
Hon. John Mica	2/20	2/24	Spain		2,655.00		(3)				2,655.00
Hon. Corrine Brown	2/20	2/24	Spain		2,655.00		(3)				2,655.00
Hon. Candice Miller	2/20	2/24	Spain		2,655.00		(3)				2,655.00
Hon. John Salazar	2/20	2/24	Spain		2,655.00		(3)				2,655.00
Jim Kolb	2/20	2/24	Spain		2,655.00		(3)				2,655.00
Jim Coon	2/20	2/24	Spain		2,655.00		(3)				2,655.00
Jim Tymon	2/20	2/24	Spain		2,655.00		(3)				2,655.00
Amy Scarton	2/20	2/24	Spain		2,655.00		(3)				2,655.00
Allison Dane	2/20	2/24	Spain		2,655.00		(3)				2,655.00
Committee total					98,251.71						98,251.71

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.

² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

(3) Military air transportation.

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR, Chairman, Apr. 28, 2008.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2008

Name of Member or Employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. Harry Mitchell	1/6	1/15	Kuwait		328.00						328.00
Hon. Timothy Walz	1/6	1/15	Kuwait		328.00						328.00
Geoffrey Bestor	1/6	1/15	Kuwait		328.00						328.00
Arthur Wu	1/6	1/15	Kuwait		328.00						328.00
Hon. Harry Mitchell	1/7	1/11	Pakistan		883.09						883.09
Hon. Timothy Walz	1/7	1/11	Pakistan		883.09						883.09
Geoffrey Bestor	1/7	1/11	Pakistan		883.09						883.09
Arthur Wu	1/7	1/11	Pakistan		883.09						883.09
Committee total											4,844.36

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.

² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. BOB FILNER, Chairman, Apr. 30, 2008.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, SELECT COMMITTEE ON ENERGY INDEPENDENCE AND GLOBAL WARMING, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2006

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. Edward J. Markey	2/15	2/21	Brazil		1,616.00						1,616.00
Gerard Waldron	2/15	2/21	Brazil		1,616.00						1,616.00
Jeff Duncan	2/15	2/21	Brazil		1,616.00						1,616.00
Ana Unruh Cohen	2/15	2/21	Brazil		1,616.00						1,616.00
Aliya Brodsky	2/15	2/21	Brazil		1,616.00						1,616.00
Debra Marshall	2/15	2/21	Brazil		1,616.00						1,616.00
Thomas Weimer	2/15	2/21	Brazil		1,616.00						1,616.00
Committee total					11,312.00						11,312.00

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.

² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY, Chairman, Apr. 30, 2008.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, JOINT COMMITTEE ON TAXATION, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2008

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Lauralee Coady	1/6	1/9	England	409.23	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	409.23
.....	1/9	1/12	Ireland	957.06	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	957.06
Patrick Driessen	1/6	1/9	England	322.98	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	322.98
.....	1/9	1/12	England	1,006.88	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,006.88
David Lenter	1/6	1/9	Ireland	493.94	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	493.94
.....	1/9	1/12	Ireland	987.98	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	987.98
Committee total				4,178.07	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4,178.07

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

SENATOR MAX BAUCUS, Chairman, Apr. 18, 2008.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

6665. A letter from the Executive Director, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Conflicts of Interest in Self-Regulation and Self-Regulatory Organizations (RIN: 3038-AC28) received April 30, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

6666. A letter from the Administrator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Milk in the Appalachian, Florida and Southeast Marketing Areas; Interim Order Amending the Orders [AMS-DA-07-0059; AO-388-A22; AO-356-A43 and AO-366-A51; Docket No. DA-07-03-A] received April 30, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

6667. A letter from the Administrator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Raisins Produced from Grapes Grown in California; Final Free and Reserve Percentages for 2007-08 Crop Natural (sun-dried) Seedless Raisins [Docket No. AMS-FV-07-0130; FV08-989-1 IFR] received April 30, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

6668. A letter from the Administrator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Olives Grown in California; Decreased Assessment Rate [Docket No. AMS-FV-07-0155; FV08-932-1 IFR] received April 30, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

6669. A letter from the Administrator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Tart Cherries Grown in the States of Michigan, et al.; Final Free and Restricted Percentages for the 2007-2008 Crop Year for Tart Cherries [Docket No. AMS-FV-07-0119; FV07-930-3 FR] received April 30, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

6670. A letter from the Administrator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Avocados Grown in South Florida; Order Amending Marketing Order No. 915 [Docket No. AO-254-A10; AMS-FV-06-0220; FV06-915-2] received April 30, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

6671. A letter from the Administrator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Dairy Product Mandatory Reporting [Docket No. AMS-07-0047; DA-06-07] (RIN: 0581-AC66) received February 5, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

6672. A letter from the Director, Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, De-

partment of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement; Contractor Personnel Authorized to Accompany U.S. Armed Forces [DFARS Case 2005-D013] (RIN: 0750-AF25) received March 26, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Armed Services.

6673. A letter from the Chairman, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting the Ninety-Fourth Annual Report of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System covering operations during calendar year 2007; to the Committee on Financial Services.

6674. A letter from the Chief Counsel, FEMA, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Changes in Flood Elevation Determinations [Docket No. FEMA-B-7772] received April 30, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

6675. A letter from the Chief Counsel, FEMA, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Final Flood Elevation Determinations — received April 30, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

6676. A letter from the Chairman, Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council, transmitting the Council's 2007 Annual Report, pursuant to 12 U.S.C. 3305; to the Committee on Financial Services.

6677. A letter from the Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — DISCLOSURE OF DIVESTMENT BY REGISTERED INVESTMENT COMPANIES IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUDAN ACCOUNTABILITY AND DIVESTMENT ACT OF 2007 [Release Nos. 34-57711; IC-28254; File No. S7-02-08] (RIN: 3235-AK05) received April 25, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

6678. A letter from the Deputy Director, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's final rule — Benefits Payable in Terminated Single-Employer Plans; Allocation of Assets in Single-Employer Plans; Interest Assumptions for Valuing and Paying Benefits — received May 6, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and Labor.

6679. A letter from the Deputy Chief, CGB, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — In the Matter of Implementation of the Subscriber Carrier Selection Changes Provisions of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 Policies and Rules Concerning Unauthorized Changes of Consumers' Long Distance Carriers [CC Docket No. 94-129] received April 30, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6680. A letter from the Director, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Listing the Potential Sonoran Desert

Bald Eagle Distinct Population Segment as Threatened Under the Endangered Species Act [FWS-R2-ES-2008-0044; 40120-1113-0000-B3] (RIN: 1018-AW12) received May 2, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

6681. A letter from the Director, Office of Surface Mining, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Virginia Regulatory Program [VA-124-FOR; Docket ID OSM-2007-0013] received April 22, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

6682. A letter from the Director, U.S. Geological Survey, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's report entitled, "Mineral Commodity Summaries 2008"; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

6683. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Tier II Issue — Interchange and Merchant Discount Fees Directive #1 [LMSB Control No.: LMSB-04-0208-002] received April 28, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

6684. A letter from the Executive Director, Marine Mammal Commission, transmitting the Commission's report entitled, "The Biological Viability of the Most Endangered Marine Mammals and the Cost-Effectiveness of Protection Programs"; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

6685. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Atlantic Mackerel, Squid, and Butterfish Fisheries; Specifications and Management Measures [Docket No. 070717340-8451-02] (RIN: 0648-AV40) received April 22, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

6686. A letter from the Acting Director Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod by Non-American Fisheries Act Crab Vessels Catching Pacific Cod for Processing by the Offshore Component in the Central Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No. 070213032-7032-01] (RIN: 0648-XF93) received April 30, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

6687. A letter from the Acting Director Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Summer Flounder Fishery; Commercial Quota Harvested for New Jersey [Docket

No. 061020273-7001-03] (RIN: 0648-XE00) received April 30, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

6688. A letter from the Deputy Director Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Reef Fish Fishery of the Gulf of Mexico; and Reproduction of Gulf Red Snapper Interim Management Measures [Docket No. 061121304-7053-02; I.D. 112006B] (RIN: 0648-AT87) received April 30, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

6689. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — List of Fisheries for 2008 [Docket No. 070417093-7582-02] (RIN: 0648-AV54) received May 6, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

6690. A letter from the Director, Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, transmitting the annual report on applications for court orders made to federal and state courts to permit the interception of wire, oral, or electronic communications during calendar year 2007, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. 2519(3); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

6691. A letter from the Staff Director, United States Sentencing Commission, transmitting a copy of the 2007 Annual Report and Sourcebook of Federal Sentencing Statistics, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. 994(w)(3); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

6692. A letter from the Chief Counsel, FEMA, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Disaster Assistance; Change in Federal Share for Alternate Projects for Public Facilities [Docket ID FEMA-2008-0003] (RIN: 1660-AA59) received April 30, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6693. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's 2008 Annual Report on the regulatory status of the National Transportation Safety Board's (NTSB) "Most Wanted" Recommendations to the Department and its Operating Administrations; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6694. A letter from the Executive Director, National Surface Transportation Policy and Revenue Study Commission, transmitting the Commission's final report entitled, "Transportation for Tomorrow"; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6695. A letter from the Director of Regulations Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Department's final rule — Notice and Assistance Requirements and Technical Correction (RIN: 2900-AM17) received April 30, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

6696. A letter from the Program Manager, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Medicare Program; Changes for Long-Term Care Hospitals Required by Certain Provisions of the Medicare, Medicaid, SCHIP Extension Act of 2007: 3-Year Delay in the Application of Payment Adjustments for Short Stay Outliers and Changes to the Standard Federal Rate [CMS-1493-IFC] (RIN: 0938-AP33) received May 2, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6697. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule

— Reissuance Standards for State and Local Bonds [Notice 2008-27] received April 30, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6698. A letter from the Acting Chief, Publications and Regulations, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Suspension of Statutes of Limitations in Third-Party and John Doe Summons Disputes and Expansion of Taxpayers' Rights to Receive Notice and Seek Judicial Review of Third-Party Summonses [TD 9395] (RIN: 1545-BA31) received May 2, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6699. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Application of Normalization Accounting Rules to Balances of Excess Deferred Income Taxes and Accumulated Deferred Investment Tax Credits of Public Utilities Whose Assets Cease to be Public Utility Property [TD 9387] (RIN: 1545-AY75) received April 30, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6700. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Source Rules Involving U.S. Possessions and Other Conforming Changes [TD 9391] (RIN: 1545-BF85) received April 30, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6701. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Section 1274.—Determination of Issue Price in the Case of Certain Debt Instruments Issued for Property (Also Sections 42, 280G, 382, 412, 467, 468, 482, 483, 642, 807, 846, 1288, 7520, 7872.) (Rev. Rul. 2008-24) received April 21, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6702. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — COORDINATED ISSUE PAPER ALL INDUSTRIES VARIABLE PREPAID FORWARD CONTRACTS INCORPORATING SHARE LENDING ARRANGEMENTS UIL: 1001.00-00 [LMSB-04-1207-077] received April 30, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6703. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Update for Weighted Average Interest Rates, Yield Curves, and Segment Rates [Notice 2008-24] received February 7, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6704. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Section 1274.—Determination of Issued Price in the Case of Certain Debt Instruments Issue for Property (Also Sections 42, 280G, 382, 412, 467, 468, 482, 483, 642, 807, 846, 1288, 7520, 7872.) (Rev. Rul. 2008-9) received April 30, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6705. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Coordinated Issue Paper Agriculture Industry Section 118 — Characterization of Bioenergy Program Payments UIL: 118.01-04 [LMSB-04-0308-019] received April 15, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6706. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Section 1091.—Loss from Wash Sales of Stock or Securities 26 CFR 1.1091-1: Losses from wash sales of stock or securities. (Rev. Rul. 2008-5) received April 30, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C.

801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6707. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Treatment of Overall Foreign and Domestic Losses [TD 9371] (RIN: 1545-BH14) received April 30, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6708. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's report on the Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. 530D; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. OBERSTAR: Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. House Concurrent Resolution 305. A resolution recognizing the importance of bicycling in transportation and recreation (Rept. 110-653). Referred to the House Calendar.

Mr. OBERSTAR: Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. House Resolution 1137. A Resolution supporting the goals and ideals of National Public Works Week, and for other purposes (Rept. 110-654). Referred to the House Calendar.

Mr. OBERSTAR: Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. House Resolution 339. Resolution supporting the goals of Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month; with an amendment (Rept. 110-655). Referred to the House Calendar. Ordered to be printed.

Mr. OBERSTAR: Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. House Concurrent Resolution 309. Resolution authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the District of Columbia Special Olympics Law Enforcement Torch Run (Rept. 110-656). Referred to the House Calendar. Ordered to be printed.

Mr. RAHALL: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 1464. A bill to assist in the conservation of rare felids and rare canids by supporting and providing financial resources for the conservation programs of nations within the range of rare felid and rare canid populations and projects of persons with demonstrated expertise in the conservation of rare felid and rare canid populations; with an amendment (Rept. 110-657). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. SPRATT (for himself, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. ROTHMAN, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, and Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland):

H.R. 6083. A bill to authorize funding for the National Advocacy Center; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. WEINER:

H.R. 6084. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to require the Secretary of the Treasury to establish an Auto File Program which provides certain individuals with income tax forms containing pre-filled information; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas (for herself, Mr. HOYER, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr.

LAMPSON, Mr. ORTIZ, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. HALL of Texas, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. GONZALEZ, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. EDWARDS, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. REYES, Mr. BACA, Mr. McNULTY, Mr. WYNN, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. FILNER, Ms. KILPATRICK, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. BRALEY of Iowa, Mr. ROTHMAN, Mrs. JONES of Ohio, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. ETHERIDGE, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. BRADY of Texas, Ms. CLARKE, Mr. CAZAYOUX, Mr. WATT, Mr. WEXLER, Mr. ALTMIRE, Mr. BOSWELL, Mr. MELANCON, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. COOPER, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. DINGELL, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. COSTA, Mr. CLAY, Mr. BACHUS, Mr. PASTOR, Mr. CHANDLER, Mr. MEEK of Florida, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. KIND, Mr. BOYD of Florida, Mr. MCCAUL of Texas, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, and Mr. DAVIS of Alabama):

H. Con. Res. 354. Concurrent resolution recognizing the 100th birthday of Lyndon Baines Johnson, 36th President, designer of the Great Society, politician, educator, and civil rights enforcer; to the Committee on the Judiciary, considered and agreed to.

By Mr. LEWIS of Georgia:

H. Res. 1208. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that youth who age out of foster care should be given special care and attention; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. CASTLE:

H. Res. 1209. A resolution commemorating the 100th anniversary of the founding of the National Governors Association; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 76: Mr. MANZULLO.
 H.R. 219: Mr. JONES of North Carolina.
 H.R. 423: Mr. CHABOT.
 H.R. 522: Mr. CARSON.
 H.R. 618: Mr. EHLERS.
 H.R. 1014: Mr. GUTIERREZ.
 H.R. 1059: Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas.
 H.R. 1063: Mr. SCALISE.
 H.R. 1304: Mr. CARSON.
 H.R. 1399: Mr. SCALISE.
 H.R. 1540: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
 H.R. 1650: Mr. BUTTERFIELD.
 H.R. 1687: Mr. GONZALEZ.
 H.R. 1726: Mr. HINCHEY.
 H.R. 1738: Mr. FORTUÑO.
 H.R. 1797: Mr. PAUL.
 H.R. 2020: Mr. CONAWAY.
 H.R. 2054: Mr. HARE.
 H.R. 2131: Mr. GONZALEZ.
 H.R. 2138: Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Ms. BEAN, and Ms. SPEIER.
 H.R. 2188: Mr. SAXTON and Mr. COURTNEY.
 H.R. 2371: Ms. WATERS and Mr. GONZALEZ.
 H.R. 2380: Mr. SCALISE.
 H.R. 2472: Ms. BALDWIN.
 H.R. 2593: Mr. BACA.
 H.R. 2597: Mr. WITTMAN of Virginia.
 H.R. 2892: Mr. ENGEL.
 H.R. 2923: Mr. McCOTTER.
 H.R. 2942: Mr. ROGERS of Michigan.
 H.R. 3094: Mr. BLUMENAUER.
 H.R. 3234: Mr. SHADEGG, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. LATTA and Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS.
 H.R. 3257: Mr. PORTER.
 H.R. 3418: Mr. SHAYS.
 H.R. 3426: Mr. BOUCHER.

H.R. 3457: Mr. WELLER, Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota and Mr. KLINE of Minnesota.
 H.R. 3563: Mr. ORTIZ and Mr. GONZALEZ.
 H.R. 3642: Mr. TIERNEY.
 H.R. 3697: Mr. CARSON.
 H.R. 3800: Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS.
 H.R. 3892: Mr. WU.
 H.R. 3955: Mr. FOSTER.
 H.R. 3957: Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas.
 H.R. 3995: Mr. GOODLATTE and Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia.
 H.R. 4030: Mr. HINCHEY.
 H.R. 4093: Mr. ROTHMAN.
 H.R. 4105: Mr. ALLEN and Mr. WALSH of New York.
 H.R. 4133: Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS.
 H.R. 4188: Mr. FILNER.
 H.R. 4201: Mr. McCOTTER.
 H.R. 4206: Mr. ABERCROMBIE.
 H.R. 4236: Mr. MITCHELL, Mr. COHEN, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. ACKERMAN, and Mr. MARKEY.
 H.R. 4335: Mr. BOSWELL.
 H.R. 4775: Mr. WU, Ms. LEE, Mr. FILNER, Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota, Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, and Mr. BAIRD.
 H.R. 4838: Mrs. NAPOLITANO.
 H.R. 5038: Mr. CUMMINGS.
 H.R. 5085: Mr. PAUL.
 H.R. 5161: Mr. CARSON.
 H.R. 5267: Mr. BOREN.
 H.R. 5315: Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota.
 H.R. 5464: Mr. SHERMAN.
 H.R. 5544: Ms. NORTON.
 H.R. 5545: Mr. SMITH of Texas.
 H.R. 5546: Mr. BAIRD and Mr. MELANCON.
 H.R. 5605: Mr. FILNER.
 H.R. 5606: Mr. ROTHMAN and Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California.
 H.R. 5611: Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York.
 H.R. 5615: Mr. GRIJALVA and Mr. FILNER.
 H.R. 5696: Ms. GIFFORDS and Mr. BAIRD.
 H.R. 5699: Mr. HERGER.
 H.R. 5709: Mr. CARSON.
 H.R. 5740: Mr. BECERRA and Ms. WATSON.
 H.R. 5741: Mrs. CAPPS.
 H.R. 5748: Mr. PASTOR.
 H.R. 5776: Mr. TERRY and Mr. LATTA.
 H.R. 5784: Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS.
 H.R. 5793: Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota, Mr. RADANOVICH, Mr. DEAL of Georgia, Mr. BOHNER, and Mr. WALBERG.
 H.R. 5823: Mr. ACKERMAN and Mr. WALSH of New York.
 H.R. 5825: Mr. WEXLER.
 H.R. 5838: Mr. TOWNS.
 H.R. 5842: Mr. FILNER.
 H.R. 5845: Mr. PASTOR.
 H.R. 5847: Mrs. MUSGRAVE.
 H.R. 5852: Mr. BERMAN, Mr. ACKERMAN, and Mr. WYNN.
 H.R. 5854: Mr. PATRICK MURPHY of Pennsylvania and Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota.
 H.R. 5867: Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. BERMAN, and Mr. BLUMENAUER.
 H.R. 5873: Mr. GONZALEZ and Mr. CARSON.
 H.R. 5874: Mr. DONNELLY, Mr. BOUCHER, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. WOLF, Mr. ROSS, Mr. ALTMIRE, Mr. POMEROY, Mr. KUHLMAN of New York, Mr. LAHOOD, Mr. SHAYS, and Ms. LEE.
 H.R. 5898: Mr. HALL of New York, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, and Mr. CARSON.
 H.R. 5906: Mr. SOUDER and Mr. PAUL.
 H.R. 5908: Mr. BROUN of Georgia and Mrs. MUSGRAVE.
 H.R. 5910: Mr. SALI, Mr. WESTMORELAND, and Mr. JORDAN.
 H.R. 5913: Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. PASTOR, and Mr. SHULER.
 H.R. 5951: Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. LEE, and Mr. COHEN.
 H.R. 5954: Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mrs. BOYDA of Kansas, Mr. McDERMOTT, Mr. POMEROY, Ms. WATSON, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. DICKS, Mr. WALZ of Minnesota, Mr. REYES, Mrs. DAVIS of California, and Mr. CARSON.

H.R. 5976: Mr. CARSON.
 H.R. 5984: Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. RADANOVICH, and Mr. PORTER.
 H.R. 5996: Mr. PAUL.
 H.R. 6001: Mr. DEAL of Georgia.
 H.R. 6023: Ms. GRANGER and Mr. SOUDER.
 H.R. 6024: Mr. KILDEE.
 H.R. 6029: Mr. TOWNS.
 H.R. 6048: Mr. SHADEGG and Mr. SOUDER.
 H.R. 6052: Ms. HIRONO and Mr. MCGOVERN.
 H.R. 6073: Mr. CARTER, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. COBLE, and Mr. COHEN.
 H.R. 6074: Mr. HINCHEY, Ms. TSONGAS, Mr. McNERNEY, and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
 H.R. 6075: Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. COURTNEY, and Mr. CARSON.
 H.R. 6081: Mr. WALZ of Minnesota, Mr. ARCURI, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Mr. BECERRA, Mrs. DAVIS of California, and Mr. DOGGETT.
 H. Con. Res. 223: Mr. CHANDLER and Mr. SHIMKUS.
 H. Con. Res. 276: Mr. SCHIFF.
 H. Con. Res. 296: Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. REICHERT, and Mr. McCOTTER.
 H. Con. Res. 300: Mrs. CAPPS, Ms. LEE, Mr. FALCOMA, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. KLEIN of Florida, Mr. HONDA, Mr. FARR, Mr. BAIRD, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. FORTUÑO, and Mr. INSLEE.
 H. Con. Res. 305: Mr. MARKEY.
 H. Con. Res. 341: Mr. PASTOR, Mr. CAMPBELL of California, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. MICHAUD, Mrs. MYRICK, Mr. WHITFIELD of Kentucky, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. WALDEN of Oregon, Mr. RAHALL, and Mr. LAMPSON.
 H. Con. Res. 349: Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania and Ms. BORDALLO.
 H. Res. 353: Ms. MATSUI, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. ORTIZ, Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania, and Mr. HASTINGS of Florida.
 H. Res. 389: Mr. CLAY.
 H. Res. 757: Ms. TSONGAS.
 H. Res. 858: Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas.
 H. Res. 959: Mr. ALTMIRE.
 H. Res. 977: Mr. PASTOR, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, and Mr. WYNN.
 H. Res. 988: Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. KIRK, Mr. HILL, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, and Mr. CAMP of Michigan.
 H. Res. 1008: Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas.
 H. Res. 1019: Ms. KAPTUR.
 H. Res. 1022: Mr. BOSWELL.
 H. Res. 1026: Mr. REICHERT.
 H. Res. 1093: Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania.
 H. Res. 1122: Mr. DOOLITTLE, Mrs. BACHMANN, Mr. SHADEGG, Mr. DAVID DAVIS of Tennessee, Mr. KUHLMAN of New York, Mr. GINGREY, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. AKIN, Mr. KING of Iowa, and Mr. BROWN of South Carolina.
 H. Res. 1124: Mr. BOREN, Mr. McNERNEY, and Mr. CUMMINGS.
 H. Res. 1143: Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. FARR, Mr. REICHERT, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Mrs. MILLER of Michigan, Ms. CLARKE, and Mr. McCOTTER.
 H. Res. 1192: Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. WU, Mr. RUSH, and Mr. GRIJALVA.
 H. Res. 1194: Mr. BOUSTANY.
 H. Res. 1195: Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. HONDA, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. ACKERMAN, and Ms. SOLIS.
 H. Res. 1204: Mr. TOWNS, Ms. LEE, and Mr. HASTINGS of Florida.

CONGRESSIONAL EARMARKS, LIMITED TAX BENEFITS, OR LIMITED TARIFF BENEFITS

Under clause 9 of rule XXI, lists or statements on congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits were submitted as follows:

OFFERED BY MR. BILBRAY

Bill Number: H.R. 2649.

Account: Bureau of Reclamation, Water Related Resources, Title XVI.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: The Olivenhain Municipal Water District.

Address of Requesting Entity: 1966 Olivenhain Road, Encinitas, CA 92024.

Description of Request: The Lake Hodges Water Reclamation Project will treat and deliver for consumption impaired surface water from nearby Lake Hodges. Lake Hodges was added to the list of impaired water bodies by the California State Water Resources Control Board in 2003 and again in 2006 according to EPA Clean Water Act §303 (d). This impaired body of water will be hooked up to the regional water supply system via the Olivenhain Reservoir in 2009. In order to treat this impaired water supply in Lake Hodges, the Olivenhain Municipal Water District (District) will be required to upgrade and expand its current treatment plant. Once complete, this project will be able to treat a total of 13,000 acre feet per year of Lake Hodges water, and act as a new local water supply to the region.

The total cost of the Lake Hodges Water Reclamation Project is estimated to be \$80 million which will consist of a pre-treatment process, plant improvements and retrofitting, hookups to the Olivenhain Water Treatment Plant, and building additional treatment capacity to the current plant to accommodate the 13,000 acre feet per year of new water that will be available. The 75 percent local matching funds will be generated through water rates, connection funds and municipal bonds. Additional funds will be collected from other local agencies who will benefit from this project.

OFFERED BY MR. ROHRBACHER

Mr. Speaker, pursuant to the requirements of the Republican Conference of the House, I am submitting for the RECORD the following information regarding an earmark I requested, which was included in the reported version of H.R. 5658, the "Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act."

Bill Number: H.R. 5658, the "Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act."

Name of Project: C-17A.

Account: Aircraft Procurement, Air Force.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: The Boeing Company.

Address of Requesting Entity: 2401 E. Wardlow Rd., Long Beach, CA 90807-5309.

Description of Request: I requested \$3,900,000,000, in addition to the President's Budget, for the procurement of 15 C-17A aircraft. The C-17A is the core airlifter of the United States Air Force. The C-17 is the world's most effective and flexible strategic airlifter, and has revolutionized the movement of troops and equipment into battle by allowing their delivery to parts of the world that were previously not accessible by conventional airlifters. No matching funds are required for this request, as the funding will be used for the Department of Defense.

OFFERED BY MR. SKELTON

The amendment to be offered by Representative IKE SKELTON or a designee to H.R. 5658 the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009 does not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9(d), 9(e), or 9(f) of rule XXI.

OFFERED BY MR. BISHOP OF UTAH

Consistent with House Republican Earmark Standards, I am submitting the following earmark disclosure and certification information for seven individual project authorization requests that I made and which

were included within the text of H.R. 5658, the "Duncan Hunter Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009."

Bill Number: H.R. 5658—"The Duncan Hunter Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009."

1. Project: Three-Bay Fire Station, Military Construction.

Project Amount: \$5.67 million.

Account: Air Force, Military Construction (MILCON).

Requesting Entity: Congressman Rob Bishop.

Receiving Entity: Hill Air Force Base; Air Force Materiel Command.

Address: 75th Air Base Wing, Hill AFB, Utah 84056.

Project Description and Justification: Construction of new, 3-bay fire station next to the main runway is necessary to correct for violation of Air Force fire protection regulations regarding response times. New facility is necessary to provide adequate fire protection for aircraft, as well as industrial operations on East side of runway in support of vital national defense missions. This project was already approved in the Air Force's Five-Year Defense Plan as being necessary to meet military safety requirements. MILCON projects are inherently necessary as having been requested and reviewed by the applicable military service in the first instance. Congress merely readjusts prioritization of project funds in any given fiscal year based on showing of emerging or critical needs.

Matching Funds: Not applicable (Federal entity).

Detailed Spending Plan: Not applicable. Federal defense procurement and contracting statutes apply to the use of these funds.

2. Project: Small Low-Cost Reconnaissance Spacecraft Components.

Project Amount: \$5 million.

Account: Air Force; RDT&E.

Requesting Entity: Utah State University (USU) Space Dynamics Laboratory.

Receiving Entity: U.S. Air Force Research Lab and USU Space Dynamics Laboratory and USU Space Dynamics Laboratory.

Addresses: Air Force Research Lab (AFRL), Responsive Systems, Kirtland AFB, New Mexico 87117; USU Space Dynamics Lab, Utah State University, 1695 N. Research Park Way, Logan, Utah 84341.

Project Description and Justification: Project funding would continue R&D efforts begun in FY'07 and FY'08 to develop and demonstrate technologies for new, lower-cost modular space systems which would provide quick, flexible, customizable, secure, and highly-capable satellite platforms for theatre and battleground communications and reconnaissance. Effort will lead to dedicated tactical satellite capabilities at a fraction of today's traditional satellite programs.

Matching Funds: Not applicable.

Detailed Spending Plan: Not applicable. Federal defense procurement and contracting statutes apply to the use of these funds.

Comment: USU Space Dynamics Lab is a non-profit research institution of higher learning.

3. Project: Science, Engineering and Laboratory Data Integration (SELDI).

Project Amount: \$2 million.

Account: Air Force, Other Procurement.

Requesting Entity: ES3, Inc.

Receiving Entity: Air Force Materiel Command, Ogden Air Logistics Center, ES3, Inc.

Addresses: Ogden Air Logistics Center/ITMS, 6090 Gum Lane, Hill AFB, Utah 84056-5829; ES3, Inc., 1669 East 1400 South, Suite 100, Clearfield, Utah 84015.

Project Description and Justification: Funding would be used, as in several past

years, to provide the Air Force with a rapid lab data access management tool allowing for the elimination of ordering duplicate spare parts in depot overhaul maintenance operations, and enable component trend failure analysis, and to implement a new acoustic signature sensor to ensure proper chemical composition of materials and equipment. SELDI has enjoyed strong Congressional support for many years, and was recognized by Congress in a previous House Report 109-89, at page 108, as a program that saved taxpayers money, and that would "improve operational aircraft readiness, increase flight safety, and reduce support costs."

Matching Funds: Not applicable.

Detailed Spending Plan: Not applicable. Federal defense procurement and contracting statutes apply to use of these funds.

4. Project: Unserviceable Ammunition Demilitarization.

Project Amount: \$2 million.

Account: Army, RDT&E.

Requesting Entity: The Battelle Memorial Institute.

Receiving Entity: Tooele Army Depot, Utah; Battelle Memorial Institute.

Addresses: Tooele Army Depot, Tooele, Utah 84074; Battelle Memorial Institute, 4225 Lake Park Boulevard, Suite 200, Salt Lake City, Utah 84120.

Project Description and Justification: Funding would be used to design, construct, and demonstrate a prototype acid hydrolysis demilitarization system for the disposal of high-risk, high-cost unserviceable or obsolete conventional ammunition or rounds in an environmentally-responsible manner. Tooele Army Depot is one of the largest ammunition storage depots in the entire Department of Defense, and is one of several locations nationwide for the growing storage of obsolete, conventional munitions which must eventually be destroyed. This project is needed to update the Army's outdated technology of "open-pit, open-burn," which is increasingly unacceptable under clean air and clean water standards.

Matching Funds: Not applicable.

Detailed Spending Plan: Not applicable. Federal defense procurement and contracting statutes apply to use of these funds.

Comment: The Battelle Memorial Institute is a non-profit research institution which provides valuable technical expertise to complex R&D projects throughout the Department of Defense.

5. Project: Versatile Affordable Advanced Turbine Engines (VAATE) High Speed Turbine Engine Demonstrator (HiSTED) for Supersonic Cruise Missiles.

Project Amount: \$5.5 million.

Account: Air Force, RDT&E.

Requesting Entity: Williams International, Inc.

Receiving Entity: Air Force Research Lab/Turbine Engine Division; Williams International, Inc.

Addresses: Air Force Research Lab/Turbine Engine Division, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio 45433; Williams International, Inc., 3450 Sam Williams Drive, Ogden, Utah 84401.

Project Description and Justification: Funding would be used to continue multi-year effort at demonstrating and qualifying our nation's first Supersonic Cruise Missile Engine which would provide for a high speed (MACH-4 plus) quick conventional strike capability. Other nations such as Russia and India claim to have already fielded a stealthy, supersonic cruise missile. The U.S. is the originator of cruise missile technology, and risks falling behind the technological curve if this funding is not provided and the effort continued.

Matching Funds: Not applicable.

Detailed Spending Plan: Not applicable. Federal defense procurement and contracting statutes apply to use of these funds.
6. Project: C-17 Globemaster III Aircraft.
Project Amount: \$3.9 billion.
Account: Aircraft Procurement, Air Force.
Requesting Entity: U.S. Air Force* and Boeing, Inc.
Receiving Entity: Air Force, and Boeing, Inc.

Address: 100 North Riverside, Chicago, Illinois 60606-1596.

Project Description and Justification: Funding would procure an additional 15 C-17 Globemaster III aircraft, allowing for more efficient use of taxpayer funds in obtaining additional assets towards meeting DoD's "Air Mobility Study" requirements, as opposed to using the funds to program termination activities. Termination has profound negative consequences for the U.S. defense industrial base. This funding will help address those concerns about termination of our only remaining, large-scale military aircraft production line. This is an example of something that a responsible Congress must ask for as a validated military requirement, and risk having it labeled as an "earmark." *Requested funding is a high priority on the Air Force's FY'09 "Unfunded Priorities List."

Matching Funds: Not applicable.

Detailed Spending Plan: Not applicable. Federal defense procurement and contracting statutes apply to the use of these funds.

7. Project: ICBM Crypto Upgrade (ICU).
Project Amount: \$5 million.
Account: Air Force, RDT&E.
Requesting Entity: U.S. Air Force*, and Northrup-Grumman.
Address: Northrup-Grumman, 1840 Century Park East, Los Angeles, California 90067-2199.

Project Description and Justification: Funding would upgrade existing decades-old cryptography systems on the Minuteman III Strategic Deterrent system to allow for greater digital security of our nation's nuclear arsenal, and allow for cost reductions in maintaining the new system over the old one. This is something that should have been included as part of the Minuteman III Modification and Upgrade program, but for budgetary reasons alone, wasn't. This is another example of something that Congress must then ask for to support validated military requirements, and risk having it labeled as an "earmark." *Requested funding is a high priority on the Air Force's FY'09 "Unfunded Priorities List."

Matching Funds: Not applicable.

Detailed Spending Plan: Not applicable. Federal defense procurement and contracting statutes apply to the use of these funds.

OFFERED BY MR. BILIRAKIS

Bill Number: H.R. 5658.

Account: Aircraft Procurement Army.

Names and addresses of Requesting Entities: Sikorsky Aircraft Corporation, 6900 Main Street, Stratford, CT 06615; Pall Aeropower Corporation, 10540 Ridge Road, New Port Richey, FL 34654.

Description of Request: This earmark provides an additional \$5,000,000 to modernize the National Guard H-60 Black Hawk helicopter fleet. The UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter is an essential capability of the National Guard. It provides units in every state with a multi-mission aircraft for search & rescue, utility lift, disaster relief and medical evacuation. The Army National Guard, ARNG, is authorized 782 Black Hawk aircraft, but is short of this authorization by almost 100 aircraft. This shortage requires ARNG units to loan or transfer Black Hawks in support deployments, training or state missions, resulting in a higher usage rate of available airframes. Additionally, more than 500 of the 782 National Guard aircraft are older UH-60A models, with an average age of approximately 25 years.

The Army is procuring over 1200 UH-60M Black Hawks for utility, special operations and MEDEVAC missions to replace the aging UH-60A from operational units by 2016. The Army acquired 33 UH-60M Black Hawks by the end of FY07, and from FY09 to FY13, the Army plans to procure an additional 300 UH-60M Black Hawks (70 of those aircraft are programmed for ARNG units). However, without an accelerated procurement of the UH-60M, the Army National Guard will be operating more than 400 UH-60A helicopters beyond 2020.

The ARNG and the Active Army developed a program to support the continued modernization of the ARNG Black Hawk fleet. Unfortunately, this program is not fully funded. The ARNG plan is to accelerate the fielding of UH-60M Black Hawks by 10 aircraft per year. Although the Active Army has programmed UH-60A recapitalization for the ARNG with Operations and Maintenance (O&M) funds, which includes an airframe life extension, fleet-wide product improvements and the replacement of components, the UH-60A to L upgrade is not funded.

The UH-60L Black Hawk is more economical to operate and has 1000 lbs of additional lift than the UH-60A. The desired rate of UH-60 A to L upgrades is 38 per year. Funding the UH-60A to L upgrade will significantly improve the Black Hawk fleet, and assure that ARNG units are ready, deployable, and available to protect our national interests both abroad and at home.

This ARNG aviation initiative has been identified by the Chief of the National Guard

Bureau (CNGB) as a FY09 Essential 10—Top 25 unfunded priorities.

PETITIONS, ETC.

Under clause 3 of rule XII, petitions and papers were laid on the clerk's desk and referred as follows:

242. The SPEAKER presented a petition of the Common Council of the City of Hobart, Indiana, relative to Resolution No. 2008-07 urging a moratorium on home foreclosures and congressional enactment of a homeowners and bank protection act; to the Committee on Financial Services.

243. Also, a petition of the Commission of the City of Miami, Florida, relative to Resolution No. 08-0099 urging the Congress of the United States to support the re-enactment of the Federal Assault Weapons Ban as proposed in H.R. 1022; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

244. Also, a petition of the City Council of the City of Taft, California, relative to Resolution No. 3036-08 supporting the Second Amendment to the Constitution of the United States and the decision of the United States Supreme Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia in Parker et al. v. District of Columbia; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

245. Also, a petition of the Legislature of Rockland County, New York, relative to Resolution No. 124 requesting that the Congress of the United States review the religious land use provisions of the Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act of 2000; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

246. Also, a petition of the City Council of Bakersfield, California, relative to Resolution No. 054-08 supporting the Second Amendment to the United States Constitution and the decision of the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia in Parker et al. v. District of Columbia; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

247. Also, a petition of the Town Commission of Lauderdale-By-The-Sea, Florida, relative to Resolution No. 2008-06 requesting that the President of the United States and the Congress of the United States provide funding for expedited repairs to the Herbert Hoover Dike; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

248. Also, a petition of the Council of St. Charles Parish, Louisiana, relative to Resolution No. 5531 urging the Congress of the United States to appropriate 100% federal funding for one hundred year flood protection for Southeast Louisiana; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.