

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING WILLIAM LOBBINS III

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize William Lobbins III of Parkville, Missouri. Brett is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1395, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

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

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

CLEARWATER FIREFIGHTER PAT CONREY HONORS FALLEN COMRADES

HON. C.W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2008

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Clearwater firefighter Pat Conrey, who I am proud to represent, for the remarkable tribute he has paid to a fellow firefighter who fell in the line of duty.

In his effort to raise money for the family of Oscar Armstrong III, a Cincinnati firefighter who died fighting a fire in March 2003, leaving behind a pregnant fiancée and two young children, Mr. Conrey did an extraordinary thing. He donned 45 pounds of firefighting gear and ran the entire 26.2 miles of the Flying Pig Marathon held in Cincinnati last May 4th.

Pat's caring and compassion for others were on full display that day. After stopping along the route to pay respect to the Armstrong family, Pat and a fellow firefighter resumed running and soon came upon another runner who collapsed on the pavement from an apparent heart attack. Pat and his partner in the race, Joe Arnold, performed emergency CPR on the fallen runner until an ambulance could arrive.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to say that Pat once again resumed running and completed the marathon in 5 hours and 26 minutes. During that time, he demonstrated to the people of Cincinnati the compassion, courage and heroism that our Nation's firefighters exhibit every day in our communities. Following my remarks, I will include for my colleagues the full story of Pat Conrey's run as reported by Terry Tomalin in The St. Petersburg Times.

In closing, please join me in saying thank you to Pat for his moving tribute to a fallen firefighter and for his inspiring story of selfless service to the people of Clearwater, Florida.

[From the St. Petersburg Times, May 29, 2008]

FIREFIGHTER GEARS UP TO HONOR THE FALLEN

(By Terry Tomalin)

Clearwater firefighter Pat Conrey started out wanting to honor a fallen comrade. By the time it was over, his quest encompassed 26.2 miles, flying pigs, and ultimately, life and death.

Conrey had heard the story of Cincinnati firefighter Oscar Armstrong III, who died battling a blaze in March 2003, leaving behind a pregnant fiancée and two children.

He decided to run Cincinnati's Flying Pig Marathon on May 4 in full firefighting gear to raise money for Armstrong's family.

"Firefighters have this special bond," Conrey said. "When one of us dies, we all feel it."

Conrey, who has completed 10 marathons, ran the Times Turkey Trot in Clearwater in 45 pounds of gear last year to raise money for families of fallen firefighters.

"When you run in firefighter equipment, you get people's attention," he said.

But running in full gear isn't that glamorous.

"It was hot—real hot," Conrey said. "You have to drink a lot of water."

The 40-year-old Conrey, Clearwater's firefighter of the year in 2007, trained for months, logging several 13-mile runs in his bunker coat, bunker pants, air pack and helmet.

"That is pretty out there," said local running coach Joe Burgasser. "You don't want to carry any extra weight. I would not recommend that for any sane person."

Conrey, who earlier this year finished a 50-mile run through Withlacoochee State Forest in 10 hours and 23 minutes, is used to people thinking he's crazy.

"I love it," he said.

A month before the marathon, Conrey learned two other Cincinnati-area firefighters also had died in the line of duty.

"That made me want to make sure that I finished even more," Conrey said. "I would run for all of them."

Word spread through the Cincinnati firefighting community that a crazy man from Clearwater was running for the families of the fallen.

"It really touched everyone," said Joe Arnold, a Cincinnati firefighter who ran part of the race, minus the gear, with Conrey. "To think this guy would come all this way and run a marathon in his turnout gear for people he had never met . . . that is what it is all about."

About eight miles into the marathon, Conrey and a dozen other firefighters stopped at a fire station to pay their respects to Armstrong's family.

"We didn't know they would be there," Conrey said. "There were lots of hugs, some tears. It was very emotional."

The unexpected stop put the firefighters behind schedule. While they were talking, a man named Bobby Edwards, a 10-year Flying Pig veteran, ran by.

Once they resumed running, the firefighters hadn't gotten a mile down the road

when they came across Edwards collapsed on the pavement, a victim of an apparent heart attack.

"When I got there I said, 'It is time to go to work boys,'" Conrey said.

Arnold performed chest compressions on the 55-year-old runner as the rest of the group assisted.

"If we hadn't stopped to talk, we would have been in front of him," Arnold said. "It is little things like that make being a firefighter so special."

Conrey, who despite the gear and stops covered the course in 5 hours, 26 minutes, said he is still amazed at the difference a few minutes can make.

"When you do what we do for a living, you realize how precious time really is," he said. "I am glad I was there to help make a difference."

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL LEAH WALLER

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2008

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Madam Speaker, I rise before you today to honor Leah Waller, recently awarded the title of 2007–2008 Baltimore City Teacher of the Year. Mrs. Waller has been a teacher with the Baltimore City Public School System for eight years, teaching Kindergarten and first grade at Maree G. Farring Elementary School.

When she's not teaching at Farring Elementary, Mrs. Waller has taught Summer School and tutored at the Jemicy School for Dyslexic Children. She has served as a mentor teacher for student teachers and new teachers. In addition, she has worked closely with the Children's Literacy Initiative and was selected to be a Model Classroom for Baltimore City.

Always well prepared for daily instruction, Mrs. Waller utilizes the curriculum and Baltimore City Public School System mandated programs in an effective and engaging way. In Mrs. Waller's classroom, lessons are thoroughly developed with the visual, auditory, and kinesthetic learner in mind. Skills and concepts are successfully mastered through a variety of strategies and techniques to ensure full comprehension from the students.

The individual needs of all students are met in Mrs. Waller's classroom. Assessment data is consistently analyzed to diagnose student strengths and areas for concern. This data is analyzed to help drive instruction in the most beneficial way. Because of the active participation in the learning process, the environment in Mrs. Waller's classroom is very conducive to learning. She holds her students to the highest expectations and creates an atmosphere of mutual respect between the teacher and students.

Mrs. Waller's professional responsibilities are fulfilled with great care. She maintains an organized recordkeeping system that monitors

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

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

individual student achievement and progress. Constantly interacting with students, parents, colleagues, and administrators, Mrs. Waller works collaboratively to ensure the academic success and social development of her students.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join with me today to honor Leah Waller in her acceptance of the 2007–2008 Baltimore City Teacher of the Year Award. Her legacy as a dedicated, enthusiastic educator will be forever remembered by the grateful students who walk through her classroom doors. It is with great pride that I congratulate Leah Waller on her exemplary career in education and her outstanding performance at Maree G. Farring Elementary School in Baltimore City.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JERRY WELLER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2008

Mr. WELLER of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today to enter into the RECORD votes I would have cast had I been present for rollcall votes 361 through 369. I was absent on part of the day Thursday, May 22, and Tuesday, June 3, due to personal reasons.

If I were present I would have voted “nay” on rollcall vote 361, “nay” on rollcall vote 362, “nay” on rollcall vote 363, “yea” on rollcall vote 364, “yea” on rollcall vote 365, “yea” on rollcall vote 366, “yea” on rollcall vote 367, “yea” on rollcall vote 368, and “yea” on rollcall vote 369.

GUYANA’S 42ND BIRTHDAY: MUCH TO CELEBRATE, QUITE A LOT TO HOPE FOR

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2008

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Guyana’s 42nd anniversary of independence.

Guyana achieved independence on May 26, 1966, and became the Co-operative Republic of Guyana on February 23, 1970, with a new constitution. Guyana is a located on the northern coast of South America between Venezuela, Brazil, and Suriname. It is the lone English-speaking nation on the South American mainland, a country of 83,000 square miles, dense tropical forests, and 800,000 people.

This former British colony is rich in human resources, bauxite, gold and arable land. The young country had promising expectations but success was not immediately attained. In fact, Guyana, at times, is described as one of the poorest countries in the Western Hemisphere and qualifies for debt concessions through the global initiative to reduce burden on the world’s highly indebted poor countries.

After years of economic decline, failure to maintain its infrastructure, political conflict between Afro and Indo Guyanese, Guyana’s largest ethnic groups, and factors that fueled an exodus of its brightest, the country needed reform. Today, it is rebuilding both its econ-

omy and infrastructure and with prospects of finding large deposits of oil, Guyana now has the potential for growth and prosperity expected of it since the 1960s.

Guyana still faces many obstacles today. Earlier this year, two massacres took the lives of more than 20 men, women and children but a period of relative calm has followed. Yes, crime and violence remain a serious problem as they do elsewhere in the Caribbean.

The latter is the dichotomous image that Guyana presents to the world as it celebrates its 42nd anniversary of independence.

As a member of the international community, Guyana has made important contributions to the resolutions of major conflicts around the world through its participation in the United Nations Security Council, in the Organization of American States, on the World Court and in other global bodies.

This anniversary offers us an occasion to thank the people of Guyana for their strength, their courage, and their contributions to our global community. So, on this anniversary of independence, I stand in camaraderie with the Guyanese people to celebrate and appreciate the growth and change of Guyana.

CONGRATULATING TEXAS’ EXEMPLARY CHILDREN’S HOSPITALS

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2008

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the outstanding accomplishments of our leading Texas hospitals. Texas Children’s Hospital in Houston, Children’s Medical Center in Dallas, Children’s Cancer Hospital at M.D. Anderson in Houston, and Cook Children’s Medical Center in Fort Worth were recently recognized as among our nation’s top hospitals by U.S. News and World Report.

Texas Children’s Hospital in Houston was ranked sixth in the country in general pediatrics, third in heart surgery, and in the top five of several other specialties. Cook Children’s Medical Center in Fort Worth was ranked 29th nationwide for its respiratory disorders specialty. Children’s Medical Center in Dallas was ranked 15th among cancer specialties, and ranked in the Top 30 on four other categories as well, including General Pediatrics and Digestive Disorders. Children’s Cancer Hospital at M.D. Anderson in Houston was ranked 21st among cancer specialties.

The U.S. News rankings were based on surveys of pediatricians, outcome of patient care including surgeries, and care-related measures including nurse staffing, availability of important technologies, and patient volume.

As a physician, it is inspiring to see that the medical profession, and specifically the hospitals and doctors serving Texas, are so adamantly dedicated to their service and are able to provide such exceptional care to our nation’s children. Health care affects every facet of our lives, and America’s devotion to innovation and advancements in medicine is vital in maintaining our position as having the best health care system in the world.

Madam Speaker, it is with honor today that I rise and extend my sincerest congratulations to these outstanding children’s hospitals in

Texas. It is my hope that they will continue to lead the way in pediatric care, maintaining the discipline, focus, and compassion that has earned them their reputations for excellence.

TRIBUTE TO MR. CORNELIUS ALLEN

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2008

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute Mr. Cornelius Allen who passed away on May 28, 2008; and an individual whom I learned was my cousin a few years ago.

Madam Speaker, Cornelius Allen was one of the friendliest and most delightful persons I have known. Cornelius was born on October 13, 1928, in Gary, Indiana to the parentage of Mr. Diston and Mrs. Addie P. Allen. Mr. Allen attended high school at Oakwood Academy in Huntsville, Alabama; graduating with the class of 1947. He was then drafted into the United States Army and served as a private first class until honorable discharged in 1952, and remained in the reserve until 1957.

In 1955, Cornelius joined the Chicago Transit Authority and quickly became an Ambassador of Goodwill as he often spoke with passengers and exhibited friendship to school children. After thirty years of loyal service to the Chicago Transit Authority, Mr. Allen retired and spent the rest of his life doing good deeds.

Cornelius Allen was a real proponent of education and encouraged young people to take advantage of every educational opportunity available to them. He was family centered and exhibited great pride in family history, tradition and unity.

To Cornelius’s closest relatives, Dell Allen and wife Debbie, his daughters Addie Allen, grandchildren, Marcus Allen, Dell ‘Rome’ Allen, Justus Cornelius Allen Pugh, great grandchildren Cameron Allen, Lyndon Allen and Lucas Allen; his brother Ray Shepherd and Rosenwald (Eunice) Allen Sr. and his sister, Mary Ann Guyton, I say you have been blessed to have such a great soul to be an intimate part of your life.

Cornelius was a good man whose footsteps were ordered by the Lord and just as he brought joy to your lives, he brought joy to countless others.

May he rest in peace.

IN HONOR OF DR. DAVID HALE, A 2008 HEALTH CARE HERO OF MINNESOTA

HON. MICHELE BACHMANN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2008

Mrs. BACHMANN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. David Hale, Chief of Staff and ER Medical Director at Woodwinds Health Campus, for being named a 2008 Health Care Hero by the Twin Cities Business Magazine. A modern day hero not only in his community, but as far away as Iraq, Dr. Hale’s selfless service and dedication to his work

have earned him the respect and admiration of his patients and colleagues spread throughout the world.

Dr. David Hale has earned the reputation as a giant in his field. In fact, one distinguished colleague has even said, "The world is a better place because of Dr. Hale." After hearing his long record of accomplishment, you will surely agree.

As an emergency medicine physician, Dr. Hale is known for his caring and compassionate demeanor towards patients and for his leadership in hospital patient services. Some suggest he is the reason Woodwinds receives some of the highest patient satisfaction scores not only in Minnesota, but across the country.

If that was not enough, Dr. Hale is a Major in the Minnesota National Guard and has completed two tours of duty in Iraq. Among his military honors, Dr. Hale earned a Bronze Medal Star in March 2007, an Army Commendation Medal in March 2005, an Army Achievement Medal in August 2003, a National Defense Service Medal, a Global War on Terror Expeditionary Medal and many other awards for his outstanding military service.

Even more amazing are the contributions he has made on the humanitarian front during his time in Iraq. During his first tour of duty, Dr. Hale started an international humanitarian effort to teach basic medical care to Iraqis, a program that still exists today. During his second tour in Iraq, he expanded his efforts to provide 400 first aid kits and midwife kits to Iraqi women and children, a gesture well received by Iraqi villagers and soldiers alike.

Now back in Minnesota, Dr. Hale is focused on helping veterans returning home from war, many of whom suffered traumatic injuries on the battlefield.

Madam Speaker, it is my honor to rise today to celebrate Dr. David Hale's extraordinary and selfless career of service. His contributions to his community, the state of Minnesota, and the country of Iraq make him a distinguished patriot, and make us all proud to be Americans. I stand today and join his family, friends, and colleagues in wishing him a long and successful career.

IN RECOGNITION OF HIGHLAND
PARK TOWN ADMINISTRATOR
GEORGE PATTERSON

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2008

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Highland Park Town Administrator George Patterson.

After graduating from Texas Tech University, he began his public service career as an Administrative Aide with the City of Lubbock. He then moved on to become the City Manager for Pecos City and Snyder before accepting the position of Town Administrator with Highland Park in 1979. George will be retiring on June 24, 2008 with twenty-nine years of dedicated service to Highland Park.

During his tenure, he has carefully managed and led his staff by example. With his vision and leadership skills, Highland Park is a better and safer community. His commitment to public service extended beyond the workplace. He is actively involved in numerous professional

and community organizations such as the Texas City Managers Association and the Rotary Club. George leaves a legacy of civic duty that will be greatly missed.

Madam Speaker, I ask my esteemed colleagues to join me in expressing our best wishes to him and his family on this special day.

IN RECOGNITION OF RYAN
STEWART

HON. BILL SALI

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2008

Mr. SALI. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Ryan Stewart of Boise, ID.

Ryan is representing Idaho as youth governor during the annual YMCA National Youth Governors' Conference here in Washington, DC.

I am proud of Ryan's commitment and involvement in this program. Ryan was elected youth governor after campaigning in Idaho's youth and government program. This is a hands-on program dedicated to educating high school students on how state government operates. Ryan participated in a Regional Convention giving speeches and ultimately being elected to his current position.

I am honored to take the opportunity to recognize Ryan. His involvement in the YMCA program is a great way for him to learn how our government functions. Ryan is an example to his peers and I wish him all the best for a successful year as youth governor in Idaho.

PLATTE COUNTY ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize the outstanding achievements of the Platte County Economic Development Council (PCEDC) of Platte County, Missouri. Burdette "Pete" Fullerton, Executive Director, has successfully guided the EDC, and I am honored to help celebrate their 20th Anniversary on June 20, 2008. This prestigious recognition is the culmination of twenty years of dedicated work to continuously improve and enhance our community.

The Platte County EDC serves as an authoritative voice in the community on economic development and related issues through an effective program of professional development, public policy, marketing, and communications. The EDC has assisted in several local projects over the past 20 years, including ADT Security Services, Citi Cards, Harley-Davidson Motor Company, KCI Expo Center, Lifetouch Publishing, Argosy Casino Hotel and Spa, Multivac, The National Golf Club, Tiffany Greens Golf Club, and Zona Rosa.

Pete Fullerton is responsible for the growth of this non-profit organization that promotes economic development in Platte County, Missouri. Pete has worked diligently on behalf of EDC to build a partnership between public and private sectors and has assisted in the suc-

cessful completion of 127 projects. The PCEDC has helped to create over 11,000 new jobs for Platte County.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join me in applauding the Platte County Economic Development Council of Platte County, Missouri for its hard work and dedication. Since the EDC began, it has served as a resource to its investors and the community. I want to thank Pete Fullerton for all of his work and applaud him for his accomplishments with the Platte County EDC.

DUNEDIN HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL
TEAM WINS THE FLORIDA STATE
CLASS 5A CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. C.W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2008

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Madam Speaker, it is with much pride that I rise today to congratulate the Dunedin High School Baseball team for winning the Florida State Class 5A Championship. The Falcons of Dunedin, who I have the privilege to represent, won the championship in an extra innings showdown against the South Fork Bulldogs.

The Falcons won the championship in a ten inning marathon, the longest Florida State baseball championship game since 1997. The defense and pitching were excellent, keeping the score tied at two runs apiece until Max Priest scored the winning run for Dunedin on a Max Kreuter single.

It was only through a season of hard work—both on and off of the field—that the Falcons finished with a 26–6 record on their way to the school's first state baseball title in 44 years. It is a testament to the character of these young men, and they deserve to be congratulated. But let us not forget to send our congratulations to Coach Tom Hilbert who worked tirelessly as a coach and as a mentor to the team. I would also like to congratulate the parents of the players, as well as the teachers, administrators and the staff of Dunedin High School for doing a fantastic job of raising and encouraging these exceptional student-athletes. Following my remarks, I will include for my colleagues the full story of Dunedin's Baseball Championship as reported by The St. Petersburg Times.

Madam Speaker, in closing, please join me in congratulating the Dunedin High School Falcons for their outstanding achievement in winning the Florida State Baseball Championship.

[From the St. Petersburg Times, May 15, 2008]

LONG WAIT IS OVER: DUNEDIN WINS TITLE

SARASOTA—It began the moment the ball disappeared into Cammeron Fisher's glove. Seconds later, a swarm of triumphant Dunedin players rushed toward the mound to celebrate a 3–2 victory and the school's first state baseball title in 44 years.

"This is something you dream about," Fisher said. "To make the final out is unbelievable, especially going through so many ups and downs in a game like this."

There already were lingering memories—of the heart-wrenching moments in the seventh inning, of the nail-biting rally in extra innings, of a game snatched from defeat—that the players swore they never doubted.

The winning run scored in the top of the 10th inning when Max Kreuter singled in

Max Priest against Stuart South Fork. The two played the longest championship game since 1997.

"It was a little nerve-racking, but we have so many bats in this lineup that we knew we had a chance," Kreuter said.

But this game was won with defense and pitching.

The Falcons had a two-run lead then watched it disappear when the Bulldogs scored a run each in the third and fifth innings to tie it.

In the seventh, South Fork (27-6) had runners on first and third with no outs. The Falcons walked the next runner to load the bases.

At that point, Dunedin was desperate to win—and keep its state title hopes from vanishing.

"We were on the edge of our seats at that point," Dunedin coach Tom Hilbert said. "Our backs were against the wall. But we were able to maintain our composure."

Slowly, the Falcons (26-6) found a way to wiggle out of the jam.

Alex Norris, who came on in relief of Clay Kollenbaum, got the first and only batter he faced to ground out.

Jake Rogers came in next and got the next two batters to strike out and fly out.

"It was just incredible to come out of that the way we did," Rogers said. "I had so much adrenaline going."

Beneath the noise, tension and pressure, Rogers emerged more as a survivor than a closer.

With so much at stake, Rogers knew he couldn't afford to make mistakes. He escaped unharmed, throwing 3½ innings after pitching just three before Thursday's appearance.

"Jake was just phenomenal," Hilbert said. "It was a real gutsy performance."

It remained scoreless through the next three innings.

Then the Falcons, after squandering so many chances, made something happen in the 10th. Priest led off the inning by drawing a walk, then moved to second on a sacrifice bunt by Mike Kumbat and advanced to third on a wild pitch. Priest scored on Kreuter's single.

Rogers then finished things off. The moment Fisher caught the ball, Rogers sprung off the mound, shook his fist, twirled in a crazy leap and came down to earth knowing he would be able to sleep.

"I think all of us are going to pass out on the bus on the ride home," Rogers said. "It was such a draining game, so full of emotions."

"But it was so worth it to win like this."

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL CHRISTINE ROLAND

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2008

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Madam Speaker, I rise before you today to honor Christine Roland, recently awarded the title of 2007–2008 Harford County Teacher of the Year. Mrs. Roland has been a teacher with Harford County Public Schools for five years, teaching Biology and Forensic Science at Edgewood High School.

Born and raised in Switzerland, Mrs. Roland earned a degree in advertising and public relations and became fluent in three languages before she moved to the United States. She has since earned a bachelor's degree in Biol-

ogy from Towson University, a Certification in Education, and is currently working on her master's degree in Biology.

Thanks to her unique background and teaching style, her bright, inviting classroom and original lessons keep her students active and engaged in the classroom. Using her background in advertising, Mrs. Roland packages her lessons and activities in an appealing and creative way. Her enthusiastic teachings inspire and motivate her students to put effort into their work and truly absorb the class material.

Mrs. Roland goes the extra mile when it comes to helping her students succeed. Appreciating that biology can be a difficult subject, Mrs. Roland acknowledges all student achievement. She evaluates student understanding and provides immediate feedback. Her students know that she will not move on until there is a basic understanding of every concept. The projects and activities she assigns are challenging and diverse so every student can feel a sense of accomplishment. Mrs. Roland makes herself available to students and parents before and after school, as well as through e-mail in the evenings should a student need assistance with an assignment.

Mrs. Roland is eager to attend relevant conferences and meetings to enhance her professional development. She plays a major role on the Technology Steering Committee and is actively involved in the curriculum writing for many subjects. She initiated a new course in forensic science for Harford County, received approval and wrote the entire curriculum. The course is now part of the county curriculum and she is working on staff development for the teachers.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join with me today to honor Christine Roland in her acceptance of the 2007–2008 Harford County Teacher of the Year Award. Her legacy as a dedicated, enthusiastic teacher will be forever remembered by the appreciative students who walk through her classroom doors. It is with great pride that I congratulate Christine Roland on her exemplary career in education and her outstanding performance at Edgewood High School in Harford County.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JERRY WELLER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2008

Mr. WELLER of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today to enter into the RECORD votes I would have cast had I been present for rollcall votes 388 through 390. I was absent on Monday, June 9th, due to flight delays caused by severe weather.

If I were present I would have voted, "yea" on rollcall vote 388, "yea" on rollcall vote 389, and "yea" on rollcall vote 390.

CELEBRATING HOW STANLEY MICHELS GAVE NORTHERN MANHATTAN A POWERFUL VOICE IN CITY POLITICS

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2008

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate a champion of environmental health and a stellar legislator, Stanley Michels, a 24-year New York City Council member whose birthday we honor today. Three decades ago, he set for himself an ambitious task: to render visible the invisible, to—as he put it—"convince City Hall that there is life in Manhattan above 96th Street." A lifelong resident of northern Manhattan, he felt it imperative that he and his neighbors in West Harlem, in Washington Heights, in Inwood, in Morningside Heights, in Central Harlem, be given a voice. After an illustrious career on the Council, it's safe to say he has succeeded, and then some. The litany of legislative achievement attached to his name speaks to his political and personal philosophies: Prioritize the quality of life of everyday people. Hold steadfast to the guiding principles of fairness and pragmatism. And always, always stand by those who need most defending.

An environmentalist at heart whose driving motivation was consistently the health and well-being of his constituency, Michels led the charge for cleaner air and the protection of the area's water supply. He advanced a precedent-setting law aiming to protect children from lead poisoning in apartments. He spearheaded an expansion of the city's recycling and waste-reduction programs, requiring the weekly collection of recyclables and granting the Council the power to approve the city's Solid Waste Management Plan. He railed against smoking and excessive noise in public places, limiting both in his time on the Council.

Two short months after the attacks of Sept. 11, he held the first public hearings on air quality and the environmental impact of the World Trade Center collapse. For nearly a decade, he chaired the Committee on Environmental Protection, early in his tenure bringing together at-odds parties in the battle over the city's watershed and succeeded in creating the dialogue that led to the Watershed Memorandum of Agreement, still effectively safeguarding the city's water-supply system today. A master of both policy and relationships, he is as good at legislating as he is at bringing people together.

He fought then—and continues to fight—for the little guy. He required that there be public hearings before annual increases to rent-stabilized apartments. He was the motivating force behind a provision that exempted seniors from certain rent increases. He closed loopholes in the deregulation of apartments, allowed the city to foreclose on individual properties in tax arrears, and eliminated the parking garage surtax for Manhattan residents.

For a quarter of a century, he served tirelessly for the public. His home—too often forgotten, overlooked, disregarded—had finally a voice in city government. And what a powerful and distinct voice he gave them. He optimistically noted that his tenure sent the city a clear message: that "no city agency can ignore us" ever again.

A TRIBUTE TO THE CHILDREN'S
HOSPITAL OF PHILADELPHIA

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2008

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a great Philadelphia institution and a staple in our community, The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia has always held itself to the highest standard of care. This month, they have been recognized for their excellence as they were rated as the best over all children's hospital in America in a U.S. News & World Report exclusive annual ranking, receiving this honor for the sixth year in a row.

The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia was founded in 1855 and was the first hospital devoted solely to the care of children. Today it houses 430 beds and treats more than one million patients a year. Children's Hospital of Philadelphia specializes in cancer, digestive disorders, heart and heart surgery, neonatal care, neurology and neurosurgery and respiratory disorders. While coming in first for overall general practices, the hospital also ranked in the top three in the country in each of these individual categories.

Since it was established the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia has been concentrated on caring for the families of patients as well as the patients themselves. Now they have programs where parents teach the physicians what it is like to care for a child with a specific disease, because they have the best knowledge of this. The Children's Hospital also encourages families to stay with their children at all times, making the treatment more bearable for the children and their families.

Madam Speaker, The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia is a key institution in Philadelphia and I congratulate them on this honor and thank them for their dedication to excellence and their service to our community.

THE DAILY 45: MIGUEL CELIS

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2008

Mr. RUSH. Madam Speaker, every day, 45 people, on average, are fatally shot in the United States. Young lives are being cut short because of gun violence and families on both sides of the gun are dramatically affected.

Last week, authorities charged Edgar Cesar Diaz, 15, of Waukegan, Illinois with six counts of first-degree murder that, if convicted, could land him in jail for the remainder of his life. His family is in pain over what their son is charged with.

Diaz is accused of the April 25 shooting death of 18-year-old Miguel Celis also of Waukegan. Celis died of a gunshot wound to the chest fired from a .38-caliber handgun that was recovered from Diaz, according to reports. His family is in mourning.

Americans of conscience must come together to stop the senseless death of "The Daily 45." When will Americans say "enough is enough, stop the killing!"

RECOGNITION OF RICHARD M.
KNAPP, PH.D.

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2008

Mr. WAXMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the contributions of Richard M. Knapp, Ph.D., who is retiring as Executive Vice President of the Association of American Medical Colleges, AAMC, after 40 years of service to the Nation on behalf of medical schools and teaching hospitals.

As the senior policy advisor to the AAMC, Dr. Knapp has provided leadership on a wide range of health policy matters, particularly regarding the delivery of hospital and medical services where medical education simultaneously occurs and research brings advances.

Dr. Knapp joined the AAMC in 1968 after earning a bachelor of arts degree from Marietta College, in Marietta, Ohio, and a Ph.D. in hospital and health administration from the University of Iowa.

He has consistently been a fair and thoughtful advocate for the Nation's teaching hospitals and medical schools, and his knowledge and integrity are widely recognized and appreciated.

Dr. Knapp's service to the health community includes his tenure on the Board of Trustees of the Inova Health System in Fairfax County, Virginia, from 1983–2005, where he served as chair from 1999–2003. He is a past chairman of the National Association for Biomedical Research and has held the offices of secretary and treasurer in the Federation of Associations of Schools of the Health Professions. He also served on the Advisory Board for the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Health Policy Fellowships.

Before becoming executive vice president of the AAMC, Dr. Knapp served the organization as senior vice president, director of the Department of Teaching Hospitals, director of the Division of Teaching Hospitals, and director of a teaching hospital project.

His contributions to health care policy have been recognized by his election to the Institute of Medicine.

I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing Dr. Knapp and his family every success and happiness in the next phase of his life.

THE PRIVATE PROPERTY RIGHTS
PROTECTION AND GOVERNMENT
ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

HON. JOHN SULLIVAN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2008

Mr. SULLIVAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce H.R. 6219, the Private Property Rights Protection and Government Accountability Act of 2008.

Previously, the U.S. Constitution specifically limited government taking of private property through a relatively narrow exception for "public use." Public use has historically referred to roads, schools, firehouses, etc. You may remember the infamous 2005 Supreme Court decision, *Kelo v. City of New London*, where the court broadened the government's ability

to take your home, farm, business or place of worship. The negative affects of this far reaching Supreme Court decision places millions of private property owners nationwide at risk.

Some States are trying to correct this injustice and have enacted restrictions on the use of eminent domain (in this case, is when the government seizes private property), with varied effectiveness. However, Congress has not taken action to restore private property rights and the abusive use of eminent domain has continued.

That is why I am introducing the Private Property Rights Protection and Government Accountability Act of 2008, along with the House Energy and Commerce Committee Ranking Member JOE BARTON. This legislation will restrict certain federal economic development funds for 10 years to any state or locality in which eminent domain is used to take private property for a private purpose. It will also allow private property owners the legal recourse they deserve to fight baseless private property takings by State and local governments.

Examples of eminent domain abuse can be seen across Oklahoma, from Oklahoma City to Muskogee, and across this country.

No family, business operator or place of worship is safe if the government decides that their property does not measure up, and that "public purpose" would be better served if it were torn down and replaced by something bigger, glitzier and more taxable. I encourage all my colleagues to support this important legislation.

IN HONOR OF KATHERINE KELLY

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2008

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and work of Katherine Kelly. Ms. Kelly is a lifelong Democrat who has always fought for the values and ideals that our party and our country hold dear.

As a member of the Democratic Executive Committee (D.E.C.) of Palm Beach County for more than 30 years, Katherine and her late husband, Edward Kelly, helped to build the D.E.C. and bring it to the position of prominence it holds today. Recognizing her status as one of the most respected Democrats in Palm Beach County, her fellow Committee members elected her State Committeewoman, a title she still holds.

Katherine Kelly was a founding member of Palm Beach County's first chapter of the National Organization for Women and has spent her entire life fighting to advance the rights of women. She has also been a leader in countless endeavors to ensure the rights of minorities and underprivileged citizens. And she is an ardent supporter of organized labor and the rights of working men and women in South Florida and throughout our Nation.

Katherine Kelly's relentless efforts have resulted in the election of many Democratic officials at all levels of government. More importantly, however, they have resulted in better lives for the people for whom she has fought.

Katherine is loved and respected by all who have benefited from her compassion, concern,

and determination, and she has earned the gratitude of the countless individuals who have benefited from her work. I am extremely proud to call Katherine Kelly my friend and ally. She is truly an admirable individual and a great American.

TRIBUTE TO CONGRESSMAN RICHARD A. GEPHARDT OF MISSOURI

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2008

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, let me take this time to recognize my good friend and our former colleague, Congressman Richard A. Gephardt of Missouri, who recently received the Harry S. Truman Award for Public Service from the City of Independence, Missouri. This award is given annually to honor a distinguished public servant who best exemplifies the characteristics of President Harry S. Truman.

Congressman Richard Gephardt grew up in St. Louis, Missouri, and in 1958 graduated from Southwest High School. He is an Eagle Scout and is a recipient of the Distinguished Eagle Scout Award. In 1962, he earned a bachelor of science degree at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois, and earned a law degree from the University of Michigan in 1965. After law school, Congressman Gephardt practiced law and set forth on a distinguished public service career that included serving the American people in military uniform and in elected office. From 1965 to 1971, Congressman Gephardt served in the Missouri Air National Guard. From 1968 to 1971, he served as a Democratic committeeman in St. Louis, and from 1971 to 1976, he served as a St. Louis alderman.

In 1976, Gephardt ran for and was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives. From 1977 to 2005, Congressman Gephardt served the people of Missouri and our country with distinction and quickly became a leader within the Democratic Caucus. In 1984, he was elected chairman of the House Democratic Caucus and was elected House majority leader in 1989. He subsequently served as House minority leader from 1994 to 2005. Gephardt also twice ran for the Democratic Presidential nomination, in 1988 and in 2004. After retiring from Congress in 2005, Gephardt formed a consulting and public policy development firm.

Madam Speaker, Congressman Richard A. Gephardt exemplifies the best of American public service. He is so very deserving of the Harry S. Truman Award, and I know my colleagues in the House will join me in congratulating him, his wife, Jane, and their lovely family for their years of dedication to the American people.

TRIBUTE TO GENERAL WILLIAM E. ODOM

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2008

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to General William E.

Odum, a man of unquestionable character and undeniable devotion to our Nation. He served with distinction, provided experienced insight about our Nation's foreign policy decisions, and expressed a rare candor that made him an invaluable resource to everyone that worked with him, including the United States Congress.

On Friday, May 30, 2008, General Odom passed away at the age of 75. The course of his career traces the evolution of our military and intelligence communities over the past 25 years. He served as a senior military intelligence official for President Jimmy Carter, and then joined President Ronald Reagan as the director of the National Security Agency during the administration's second term. Following his retirement from the Army in 1988, after 34 years of active duty, General Odom continued his service by teaching at Yale University, working for the Hudson Institute, and writing scholarly works.

Chief among his laudable qualities, it was General Odom's candor that proved most refreshing and invaluable. A self-described military hawk, he was among the first military persons to speak out against the invasion of Iraq and he openly advocated a withdrawal. General Odom warned that military action in Iraq would be foolhardy and futile well before the U.S.-led invasion in 2003. In hindsight, his concerns were well founded and have since been validated, but before the invasion he was among the few willing to speak out loudly in opposition to the drumbeat to war. His background and depth gave intellectual credence to the growing opposition to the war, and he demonstrated that there were differences of opinion within our military and intelligence communities on the merits of the invasion.

To me and other members of the Defense Appropriations Committee, General Odom was a great source of experience and a wealth of knowledge. I came to rely upon his judgment and took counsel with him privately on issues related to our national defense. He was a thoughtful, steady guide on the most complex matters that face us today, and we are at a loss without him. More importantly, the Nation has lost a true and valued patriot.

Madam Speaker, we are saddened by General Odom's passing, and we extend our heartfelt condolences to his family. May others learn from his example and may his memory stay with us forever.

TRIBUTE TO ROBIN AUGUST

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2008

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Madam Speaker, I rise before you today to honor Robin August, recently awarded the title of 2007–2008 Baltimore County Teacher of the Year. Ms. August has been a teacher with Baltimore County Public Schools for 8 years, teaching mathematics at Deep Creek Elementary School and now Deep Creek Magnet Middle School.

Ms. August began her career in education in 1990, working for the Baltimore City Public School System. In 2000, she accepted a position at Deep Creek Elementary School in Baltimore County and is currently a mathematics teacher and team leader at Deep Creek Magnet Middle School.

As the team leader for the 6th grade at Deep Creek, Ms. August has been instrumental in developing and maintaining parental involvement that is necessary for the school to be successful. She consistently monitors the academic performance of her students in all of their classes in order to provide mentorship to the students and provide strategies to help them succeed. Throughout the year, Ms. August opens her classroom doors to teachers who are in need of professional development, modeling lessons that demonstrate excellence in teaching.

She has dedicated her career to improving achievement for her students, serving on many school improvement teams and holding positions as diverse as Student Council Advisor, curriculum writer, and mentor. As a member of the leadership team at Deep Creek Middle, Ms. August continues to bring new ideas to the school plan, helping to design better and more efficient ways of meeting the various needs of the students. Through the Teaching American History in Maryland program, she has published work with the University of Maryland, Baltimore County Center for History Education and presented at the Maryland Conference for the Social Studies.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join with me today to honor Robin August in her acceptance of the 2007–2008 Baltimore County Teacher of the Year Award. Her legacy as a dedicated, enthusiastic educator will be forever remembered by the grateful students who walk through her classroom doors. It is with great pride that I congratulate Robin August on her exemplary career in education and her outstanding performance at Deep Creek Magnet Middle School in Baltimore County.

CONGRATULATORY REMARKS FOR THE HIGH SCHOOL VALEDICTORIANS OF 2008

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2008

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend tens of thousands of youngsters who, this year, earned their high school diplomas as first in their respective graduating classes. The diploma in itself has come to symbolize promise and opportunity, the first step in a series of steps towards achieving the American dream, and I am proud of each and every student who earned one this year. But that honor is ever the more remarkable when awarded with a valedictorian title, an acknowledgement that its receiver is academically top-notch in his or her class.

These bright, young minds—freshly out of school, having ostensibly left adolescence behind and come into their own as educated, young adults—will inherit this world, as much our successes as our failures. It will be up to them to improve upon our legacy, to wield their ingenuity and knowledge to the benefit of their country and their world. It pleases me to know that there are steady, capable young hands out there prepared to mold, shape, and supply form to a better future.

These men and women are an exemplary class, many of whom will go on to earn college degrees, serve America in some form of public service, travel abroad, raise families, or

join the workforce. Regardless of the path, their unique strengths and talents will sustain America and her standing on the global stage. Although the task may sound great and daunting, these achievers have shown both grit and giftedness over the past 4 years and will surely rise to the challenge with poise and a sense of purpose.

But for today, we celebrate and congratulate, keeping an eye on the greatness that lies in store for them and this Nation.

HONORING MR. JAMES ARNOLD

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2008

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, I would like to offer my thanks and congratulations to Mr. James Arnold, environmental restoration manager for the Oregon National Guard. He was recently awarded the Secretary of the Army's FY07 Environmental Restoration Award for contributions made by an individual. This is the Army's highest honor in the field of environmental science, and Mr. Arnold is the year's only individual to be recognized.

As the Federal Government's largest property holder, the Department of Defense has a significant responsibility to ensure its lands are sustainably managed. Mr. Arnold's success proves that government can be a good partner to communities and the environment. His innovative approaches to resource management and remediation are a credit to Oregonian ingenuity and environmental stewardship.

I am particularly impressed by the large-scale range remediation at Camp Withycombe, located in my district. For years, I have advocated for increased awareness and funding for the cleanup of our ranges and legacy sites. This work is immensely challenging and I am impressed with Mr. Arnold's creative, cost-effective, and above all, successful approach to this problem.

I am proud that the Oregon Army National Guard is at the forefront of the Army's efforts to transform its environmental and business practices.

Mr. Arnold, thank you for your outstanding service to Oregon and our country. I wish you the best of luck in your future work.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2008

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, I was unable to be present for votes during the late afternoon and evening of May 22, 2008. For the information of our colleagues and my constituents, I want the RECORD to reflect how I would have voted on the following votes I missed that day.

On rollcall 355, on the Akin amendment to H.R. 5658, I would have voted "no."

On rollcall 356, on the Franks amendment to H.R. 5658, I would have voted "no."

On rollcall 357, on the Tierney amendment to H.R. 5658, I would have voted "no."

On rollcall 358, on the Pearce amendment to H.R. 5658, I would have voted "no."

On rollcall 359, on the Lee amendment to H.R. 5658, I would have voted "yes."

On rollcall 360, on the Braley amendment to H.R. 5658, I would have voted "yes."

On rollcall 361, on the Price amendment to H.R. 5658, I would have voted "yes."

On rollcall 362, on the Holt amendment to H.R. 5658, I would have voted "yes."

On rollcall 363, on the McGovern amendment to H.R. 5658, I would have voted "yes."

On rollcall 364, on the Motion to Recommit with instructions the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009 (H.R. 5658), I would have voted "no."

I would have done so because the Motion to Recommit—as written—would have effectively killed the bill by sending it back to Committee. I also objected to what the Motion attempted to do. It would have repealed Section 526 of the Energy Independence and Security Act, which ensures that federal agencies do not procure or promote alternative fuels that emit, on a lifecycle basis, more greenhouse gas emissions than equivalent conventional fuels produced from conventional petroleum sources. This provision relates primarily to efforts of the Department of Defense to obtain half of its domestically used fuel from domestic synthetic sources by 2016. Specifically, the Air Force is pursuing "coal-to-liquid" fuel (CTL). According to both the EPA and DOE, liquid coal produces double the global warming emissions compared to conventional gasoline.

An amendment adopted on the floor clarified Section 526 to ensure that federal agencies could procure conventional fuels that contain incidental amounts of unconventional fuels. With the passage of this amendment, it is my belief that there is no reason to repeal Section 526, since the Department of Defense has said that it intends to pursue CTL with carbon capture and sequestration. In addition, the Defense Science Board Task Force on Energy recommended that if DOD decides to provide financial backing to synthetic fuel production plants, it should avoid investing in processes that exceed the carbon footprint of petroleum.

On rollcall 365, on Passage of the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009 (H.R. 5658), I would have voted "yes."

On rollcall 366, on the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree, as Amended, to H. Res. 986, a resolution recognizing the courage and sacrifice of those members of the United States Armed Forces who were held as prisoners of war during the Vietnam conflict and calling for a full accounting of the 1,729 members of the Armed Forces who remain unaccounted for from the Vietnam conflict, I would have voted "yes."

The resolution recognizes the 35th anniversary of "Operation Homecoming," when the first wave of the longest-held POWs from Vietnam left that country to return to the United States. We honor those POWs, but we also honor those brave heroes who fought and died for our country but never returned home.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2008

Mrs. MYRICK. Madam Speaker, due to a flight cancellation, I was unable to participate in the following votes. If I had been present, I would have voted as follows:

June 9, 2008:

Rollcall vote 388, on motion to suspend the rules and agree—H. Res. 1225, expressing support for designation of June 2008 as "National Safety Month"—I would have voted "aye."

Rollcall vote 389, on motion to suspend the rules and agree—H. Res. 1243, recognizing the immeasurable contributions of fathers in the healthy development of children, supporting responsible fatherhood, and encouraging greater involvement of fathers in the lives of their children, especially on Father's Day—I would have voted "aye."

Rollcall vote 390, on motion to suspend the rules and agree—H. Res. 127, recognizing and celebrating the 50th anniversary of the entry of Alaska into the Union as the 49th State—I would have voted "aye."

BIPARTISAN CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO NATO PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY MEETINGS IN BERLIN, AND A SUBSEQUENT TRIP TO TURKEY AND AFGHANISTAN

HON. JOHN S. TANNER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2008

Mr. TANNER. Madam Speaker, during the recent district work period I led a bipartisan House delegation to NATO Parliamentary Assembly (NPA) meetings in Berlin, from May 23–27. The co-chair of my delegation was the Hon. JOHN SHIMKUS. Participating in the delegation were Representatives MARION BERRY, JOHN BOOZMAN, BEN CHANDLER, JO ANN EMERSON, CAROLYN MCCARTHY, RALPH REGULA, DENNIS MOORE, DAVID SCOTT, and MIKE ROSS, and staff worked to make this a successful trip in the examination of a number of key NATO issues.

The NATO Parliamentary Assembly brings together members of parliaments of the NATO allies, as well as observer participants from NATO partner states such as Russia and Ukraine, for discussions of current issues of interest to the alliance. Members attend committee meetings where reports are read and debated. The meetings afford an opportunity to sound parliamentarians from allied states on public opinion, defense and foreign policy, and trends in thinking on issues of mutual interest. The meetings also provide the opportunity to come to know members of parliaments on a long-term basis, an invaluable asset in developing insights into policy development in allied governments.

After the Assembly meetings in Berlin, the delegation traveled on to Turkey and Afghanistan, where we explored issues that I will address in a moment.

Recurrent themes on key NATO issues were evident in the Berlin committee meetings. Above all, NATO's International Security

Assistance Force (ISAF) in Afghanistan was a constant topic of discussion. It is clear that ISAF needs more combat personnel, and that caveats—restrictions that allies place on the use of their forces—are adversely affecting efforts to stabilize Afghanistan. Energy security, Russia's foreign policy objectives, defense capabilities, and Iran were also important areas of discussion.

I am chairman of the NPA's Committee on Economics and Security. I would like to take this opportunity to mention that our friend and colleague, RALPH REGULA, continued his long and distinguished service on that committee during the Berlin meetings. His contributions over many years have been invaluable.

Representative BOOZMAN and a Lithuanian colleague presented a well-received report in the Economics Committee on India's economy. India plays an important role in south Asia, and U.S.-Indian relations have strengthened over the past decade. India's proximity to Afghanistan and its often tense relations with Pakistan play a role in the stabilization of that volatile area. The Indian economy has opened up in recent years, and there is clear evidence of a growing middle class in the world's largest democracy. There was also a report on the Afghan economy, which must grow and diversify more rapidly if Afghanistan is to stabilize. The report emphasized the negative effects of Afghanistan's extensive poppy culture and poor governance on ISAF's stabilization efforts.

Our friend and former colleague, Doug Beuter, who was once president of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, gave an interesting presentation on the efforts of the Asia Foundation, which he now heads, to assist schools and women in Afghanistan and other parts of Asia. His report, a version of which he also presented in the Political Committee, was enlightening and extremely well-received.

The Political Committee is normally the most contentious of the Assembly's committees, and that was once again true. As I mentioned, Russia sends observers to the Assembly who may participate in debates, but who may not vote. Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, a former Russian general and candidate for the Russian presidency, is now a member of parliament, and he made his presence frequently felt. He repeatedly denounced NATO and its efforts to stabilize the Balkans and Afghanistan as "terrorist" incursions in Russia's supposedly legitimate sphere of influence. The Russian delegates have chosen during the past several years to play a disruptive role in Assembly proceedings.

Representative ROSS delivered a well-received report in the Political Committee on "NATO and Iran," which looked forward prospectively to ways that the alliance might work with the EU and the U.N. to induce Tehran to terminate its nuclear enrichment program that is in violation of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. His ideas ranged from political pressure to greater economic sanctions to carrots in the form of limited military confidence-building measures in return for a cessation of Iran's illegitimate nuclear activities. I should mention that Representative CHANDLER is a vice-chairman of the Political Committee, and he played an active role in a number of sessions.

The Committee on Defense and Security also engaged in some interesting debates. ISAF's prospects in Afghanistan were sharply debated. The representatives of several allies, such as Britain, Canada, and the Netherlands that have combat forces in Afghanistan, urged

other allies to contribute more troops and to lift their caveats. The debate was sharp at times. ISAF now has 52,000 troops, of which approximately 22,000 are from the United States. The Russians continued their erratic behavior in the Defense Committee, denouncing the allies' stabilization efforts in Afghanistan. Rep. SHIMKUS is the vice-chair of the Subcommittee on Transatlantic Defense and Security Cooperation, and he made several valuable interventions on such issues as the need for allies to spend more on defense, and on NATO's efforts to stabilize the Caucasus.

Two of our colleagues play key roles in the Assembly's Committee on the Civil Dimension of Security. Representative MOORE is vice-chairperson of the Committee on Civil Dimension, and Representative EMERSON is vice-chairperson of the Subcommittee on Democratic Governance. Each made important contributions to the debates in the Civil Dimension Committee. An interesting discussion took place in response to a report on NATO and energy security. Representative SCOTT made a valuable contribution in detailing ways that NATO could play a constructive role in building energy security and thereby enhancing global security.

The Committee on Science and Technology also heard a report on energy security. The German rapporteur contended that Russia is a reliable supplier of oil and natural gas for Europe, a controversial point of view that some believe is contradicted by Moscow's occasional cut-offs of energy to Ukraine, Georgia, and Lithuania. Increasingly, our European allies are dependent on Russian energy resources, a development that could open the door to Russian pressure and influence in NATO in the event of a crisis. Representative SCOTT chided the Russians for not having ratified the Energy Charter Treaty, which obligates signatories to follow market practices and disavow the use of energy as a political tool. Representative SHIMKUS raised the point that diversification of supply and types of fuels is key to enhancing energy security. This was a forceful debate on an issue that is likely to engage NATO's interest in the decades to come.

The last day of the Assembly's meetings was spent in a plenary session. There were a number of interesting speakers, including the German foreign minister and the NATO Secretary General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer. De Hoop Scheffer urged the parliamentarians to go back to their publics and make the case for the importance of developing reliable, deployable combat forces, and for making a meaningful contribution to ISAF's efforts in Afghanistan. A German general also spoke. The Russian Zhirinovskiy again made his presence felt when he claimed, to the amazement and amusement of the delegates, that Russia had generously brought down the Berlin wall and made democracy possible in East Germany. He contended that NATO would fail in Afghanistan, just as Russia had. The German general—General Ramm—calmly replied that Russia failed in Afghanistan because it had sought a military solution, and that NATO would succeed because it is seeking a political solution.

Our delegation had an interesting private meeting with Secretary General de Hoop Scheffer, during which we had a highly informative discussion of such issues as Afghanistan, energy security, and Iran's relations with its neighbors. The delegation also met with the U.S. ambassador to NATO, Victoria Nuland,

who gave us her valuable perspective on the issues that she considers to be most important on the NATO agenda. We also visited the new U.S. embassy, near the line of the old Berlin wall, and met with our ambassador, William Timken. During a dinner the final night of our meetings, German Chancellor Angela Merkel sat at my table, and we had a lively discussion about a range of issues of mutual interest.

After the meetings in Berlin, we flew to Turkey for meetings with a range of senior Turkish officials. Turkey remains a key ally, perhaps even more important than it was during the Cold War. Turkey's strategic location—on the Bosphorus and the Black Sea, facing the Mediterranean, at the crossroads of Europe and Asia, and on the route of critical energy supplies—is vital to NATO security. In addition, Turkey is a Muslim country and a democracy. An important issue confronting Turkey is its application to join the European Union, a step that some EU governments strongly oppose. Today, there is a vigorous discussion in Turkey about the role of Islam in society. An Islamic Party, the Justice and Development Party (AKP), led by prime minister Tayyip Erdogan, is in a protracted but restrained contest for power with other parties and the Turkish military. On May 28 the delegation met with specialists in Istanbul who represent a range of views in Turkey's academic and journalistic world on the country's future, and on the debate over the role of Islam and secularism in Turkish society.

Our meetings in Istanbul prepared us for our visit the next day to Ankara, where we held a succession of meetings with senior government officials. We met with prime minister Erdogan, with whom we had a direct but constructive discussion over U.S.-Turkish relations and on Turkey's future. We then met with our former NATO Parliamentary Assembly colleague, Abdullah Gul, now the president of Turkey and also a member of the AKP. We had a very cordial discussion on a range of issues. It is clear that U.S.-Turkish relations have improved since November 2007, when the United States began to assist Turkey in its effort to subdue the Kurdish terrorist movement known as the PKK, which is seeking to carve away Turkish territory and unite it with part of northern Iraq, where Kurds also live. Finally, we had a meeting with the defense minister Vecdi Gonul, a civilian who is an important link for the AKP to the Turkish military. We are hoping that our Turkish friends in the political parties and the military will resolve their differences peacefully, and that Turkish democracy will be strengthened.

While in Ankara, the delegation went to the tomb of Kemal Ataturk, the founder of modern Turkey. I laid a wreath and signed a memorial book in honor of the man who established the secular Turkish state. It was a solemn occasion on a brilliantly bright, sunny day.

After our meetings in Ankara, that night the delegation proceeded to Adana, where the Turkish military base Incirlik is located. U.S. forces, with Turkish permission, fly supply missions to Iraq and Afghanistan from Incirlik. Adana and the base are located near the Syrian border. The following morning we met with the governor of Adana, who gave us a briefing on PKK activity and on political developments in the Adana region. He was a strong advocate of Turkish membership in the EU, which he believes would strengthen Turkish democracy.

At Incirlik, we also had the opportunity to meet with some of our troops who are from our constituencies. These are the young men and women that make the United States safe and secure, whether serving here or in distant places. We should keep them in our thoughts as we appreciate the stability and security that we enjoy here in the United States.

By chance, we crossed paths at Incirlik with Gen. David Petraeus, who was at the base for a brief stay. He offered to meet with the delegation, and there was an interesting exchange of views on a range of strategic issues.

On May 31 we left Incirlik at an early hour for the flight to Kabul, where we spent the entire day. The stabilization of Afghanistan is NATO's principal mission. Many believe that NATO's credibility is on the line in Afghanistan because the allies have pledged to commit the resources to stabilize the country to prevent the reappearance of a failed state, a failed state that caused the tragedy of 9/11. There are clearly differences in the alliance over how to accomplish this objective. Some governments prefer to employ economic reconstruction assistance and avoid sending their troops into combat; these tend to be the governments that have the most restrictive caveats on their forces.

We met with the most senior U.S. officials in Kabul to discuss Afghanistan's path to stabilization. Our meetings were highly substantive, and we all gained valuable information on ISAF's effort and on U.S. perspectives and initiatives. We also met with Afghan President Hamid Karzai, and had an extensive discussion of Afghanistan's problems and prospects.

In Afghanistan, there can be no reconstruction without security. The Taliban is not a strong force, but the Afghan state lacks strong, enduring institutions. There must be security therefore for the rebuilding effort to succeed. ISAF may need more forces in the coming year in order to secure territory cleared of the Taliban. A positive development is that approximately 25% of the combat missions are now led by the Afghan National Army (ANA), with strong backing from the U.S. and some other NATO militaries. During our meetings in Kabul, U.S. officials were upbeat on the progress of the ANA, but the task of securing Afghanistan is far from finished. The poppy crop continues to thrive in the south, some warlords maintain a sway over territory that has never been under the control of an Afghan government, and there are enduring tribal rivalries and distrust of Kabul.

Closely associated with the issue of engagement of the Taliban in combat is the need to establish a viable economy and justice system. The Soviet and Taliban eras decimated the educated elite. The number of persons trained as lawyers and judges is minimal. At the base of the justice system is the police. The EU has struggled to develop a program to train the police, so the U.S. military has stepped in. Gen. Cone is developing more professional police cohorts one region at a time, and backing them with the U.S. military until they establish their authority. This will be a long-term effort, and it is going to require patience on the part of NATO publics.

Members and staff also met with U.S. participants in ISAF's Provincial Reconstruction Teams (PRTs), the leading edge of bringing reconstruction to Afghanistan through such efforts as road building, school and hospital con-

struction, and the development of local markets. A basic economy has begun to appear around some of the PRTs, but there remains much to accomplish.

There are three key needs for the PRTs. The first is the placement of agricultural specialists in each of the 26 ISAF PRTs. The United States only recently placed one agricultural specialist at each of its 13 PRTs; the need is great for agricultural specialists at other NATO PRTs, and in the local agricultural schools. Afghanistan is and will remain for the foreseeable future an agrarian economy, now dependent largely on poppies. This poppy culture must diminish over time, perhaps to be replaced by orchard crops and wheat. This effort will take time.

A second need for the PRTs is the hiring of local Afghans who can assist our own officials in understanding local practices and political authority, and who can serve as guides as we plan efforts to rebuild the country.

A third need for the PRTs is the availability of transport. Today, our civilians in the PRTs must rely heavily on the military to move them around the region where they live. But because security comes first, the civilian specialists must often wait lengthy periods of time to obtain the transport and accompanying security to accomplish their tasks.

Our trip to Afghanistan was highly informative and there remains much to digest about what we learned. This was a difficult, but valuable trip that provided insights into one of the United States' most difficult foreign policy problems.

As always we were extremely well-served by our accompanying military personnel. The 932nd Airlift Wing, Air Force Reserve now at Scott Air Force Base, Ill., provided exceptional professionalism in assisting us throughout our trip and ensuring our safety in moving throughout Europe and to Afghanistan. All worked long hours to ensure that our trip went smoothly. I thank them for their hard work and their dedication to duty.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. J. GRESHAM BARRETT

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2008

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, due to unforeseen circumstances, I unfortunately missed recorded votes on the House floor on Monday, June 9, 2008.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote No. 388 (Motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 1225), "yea" on rollcall vote No. 389 (Motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 1243), and "yea" on rollcall vote No. 390 (Motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 127).

HONORING DR. I.C. TURNLEY, JR.,
FOR 50 YEARS OF SERVICE TO
LASALLE PARISH

HON. RODNEY ALEXANDER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2008

Mr. ALEXANDER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. I.C. Turnley, Jr., who for

the last 50 years has faithfully served the people of Jena, LA, and LaSalle Parish through his medical practice, which he first opened on July 1, 1958.

While enrolled as a pre-med student at Louisiana Tech University in Ruston, LA, Dr. Turnley answered the call a great many in his generation answered. He put his education on hold and enrolled in the U.S. military to serve his country in World War II and was awarded commendation for his work at the U.S. Navy Hospital in San Diego. After his service, he returned home to Louisiana to complete his undergrad studies at Louisiana Tech and later earn his medical degree from Louisiana State University in 1956.

In addition to his private practice in Jena, Dr. Turnley served on staff at the Jena Hospital and later the LaSalle General Hospital when it was opened in the early 1970s. He also bears a unique distinction in the State of Louisiana as the longest serving elected official, having served as the parish coroner for the past 48 years.

Beyond his work as a physician, Dr. Turnley has been active in Masonic work in Jena and was elected as Grand Master of the Freemasons for the State of Louisiana in 1996.

The "Dr. Turnleys of the world" are the very ones who built up our Nation following World War II; they are the ones who are respected and admired in their communities, the ones who have dedicated not only their talents and abilities but their time and their compassion in an effort to help their fellow citizens. Yet, while many small communities may boast men and women like Dr. Turnley, to Jena, there is no other quite like him.

To honor him, Murphy McMillin, mayor of Jena, has declared Friday, June 20, 2008, as "Dr. I.C. Turnley, Jr. Day."

Madam Speaker, Americans such as Dr. I.C. Turnley, Jr., deserve recognition from the United States Congress as well. I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Dr. Turnley for all he has done for his community and his country.

CELEBRATING SYLVANIA OHIO'S 150TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2008

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a milestone anniversary for the City of Sylvania in my district. This month, Sylvania celebrates the 150th anniversary of its founding.

Founded in 1833 by General David White and Judge William Wilson at the junction of Ten Mile and Ottawa Creeks near the present day border of Ohio and Michigan, the area was originally the campgrounds of Erie, Chippewa and Wyandot tribes. First settlers' names continue through generations, including Lathrop, Pease, Printup, Rice, Green and Cosgrove. They established the first Sylvania school and church early on: both the Stone Academy and First Presbyterian Church were established in 1834.

In 1876, the town was formally incorporated. Truly a sylvan glade with more than one thousand trees, Sylvania took its name from the

Latin "sylvan" meaning "the woods." It remains a city of trees today, including 27 varieties of maple, with the maple leaf as the city's symbol.

In the decades which followed through the nineteenth, twentieth, and now the twenty-first century, Sylvania has prospered. It is a caring community with fine schools and first rate services for young and old and families. Sylvania remains a bucolic community reminiscent of its wooded early history, yet offers a bustling suburban economy of thriving businesses. Its Main Street retains charm from its past, but Sylvania at 150 years is a city moving forward. I am pleased to offer the congratulations of our entire region during this sesquicentennial celebration.

REMARKS IN RECOGNITION OF
THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF CORA

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2008

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, this week, CORA—Community Overcoming Relationship Abuse—celebrates the thirtieth anniversary of comprehensive domestic violence support in San Mateo County.

Three decades ago, a victim of domestic violence on the San Francisco peninsula had no resources outside of hospitals and the police. Then in 1978, La Casa de San Mateo opened its doors to become the county's first and only emergency shelter for domestic violence survivors and their children. La Casa later changed its name to the Center for Domestic Violence Prevention and in 2003, partnered with Sor Juana Ines, the first toll-free domestic violence hotline in the county, to become CORA.

CORA's mission is to end domestic violence and abuse through intervention and prevention. The dedicated staff and volunteers respond to thousands of calls on the CORA hotline, and answer an equal number of requests for legal assistance each year. They serve more than 6,000 clients annually, providing legal, medical and mental health services, as well as counseling and safety in the county's only shelter for abuse victims and their children. This operation is overseen by the CORA governing board and a diverse staff of 35 who represent the vibrant cross-section of the county and region. Besides English and Spanish, CORA staff-members speak Tagalog, French, Mandarin, Italian, Korean, Hindi, and Farsi.

Madam Speaker, domestic violence is a silent epidemic. Every nine seconds, a woman in our country is abused by someone she knows. Millions of children witness acts of violence involving one or more parents every year. And one in five female high school students reports being physically or sexually abused by a dating partner.

Domestic violence impacts all of us. It is a significant drain on police and emergency resources and costs the national economy eight to ten billion dollars annually in medical bills, community support and lost wages and productivity. It is also a leading cause of homelessness and often leads to depression, substance abuse and—most troubling—an increased likelihood that victims and young wit-

nesses will go on to become abusers themselves.

Madam Speaker, thanks to increased public awareness, domestic abuse is emerging from the shadows of shame and ignorance. Still, there are far too many instances of cruel and dehumanizing behavior within what should be the security of the family home. Because of this, society will always need an organization like CORA. My sincere hope is that, someday, we will need them less.

SUPPORTING OUR MEN AND
WOMEN SERVING IN THE MILITARY
AND URGING CONGRESS
TO CONTINUE FUNDING FOR THE
AMYOTROPHIC LATERAL SCLEROSIS
RESEARCH PROGRAM
(ALSRP) AT THE DEPARTMENT
OF DEFENSE

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2008

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my support for our men and women serving in the military and to urge Congress to continue funding for the Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Research Program (ALSRP) at the Department of Defense.

Studies conducted by the DOD and Veterans Administration have found that those who served in the 1991 Gulf War are approximately twice as likely to die from ALS, the deadly disease that took the life of baseball legend Lou Gehrig, as those who did not serve in the Gulf. In addition, current research suggests that ALS is occurring at greater rates in those who are serving in the current conflict in Iraq. Tragically, there is no effective treatment for ALS and it is fatal in just two to five years after diagnosis.

The ALSRP is an innovative program that has the potential not only to develop new treatments for ALS that benefit our soldiers and veterans but also to determine why they are at greater risk and enable us to take action to protect them. I therefore urge the Appropriations Committee to include \$5 million for the ALSRP in the FY 2009 DOD Appropriations bill.

A TRIBUTE TO SENATOR KENNEDY

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2008

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Madam Speaker, I would like to submit the following passage on Senator TED KENNEDY written by Albert Carey Caswell.

A LION IN WINTER

A Lion in Winter . . .
Facing The Storm, with The Heart of A
Champion . . . so very warm . . .
Where courage lives, to help you move on!

An American Tale, as a nation so stands behind you Ted . . . with all of our prayers, so now!

Take this to your heart Ted, take this to your soul . . . as you move out so to behold!

In this your battle to be won . . .

In this your war to be waged, in this but another chapter Ted . . . in your life's most heroic page . . . of all ones!

As you face this new morning, as you face this dark sun!

Standing Tall, to do what must so be done!
To Fight That Good Fight, To Wage That Great War, our Lion In Winter . . . Our Precious American Son sure!

From deep down inside, that great Irish Heart . . . win this Great Battle, This Great War begun . . .

For A Lion In Winter . . .

With the Heart of A Champ, against all odds . . . we can hear your roar, can victory so command!

For no man known's more, what a heart can so endure . . . and can so stand!

Ted it's the bottom of the 9th, with two outs!
Like the Teddy before you of The Sox's, we know you too can pull this one out!

Go with God My Son, as you have always done . . . we know you will be rounding the bases, no doubt!

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEPHANIE HERSETH SANDLIN

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2008

Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN. Madam Speaker, I regret that I was unable to participate in three votes on the floor of the House of Representatives on June 9, 2008. I was absent due to illness.

As noted, I was not present for three votes: The first vote was H. Res. 1225, Expressing support for designation of June 2008 as "National Safety Month." Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on that question.

The second vote was H. Res. 1243, Recognizing the immeasurable contributions of fathers in the healthy development of children, supporting responsible fatherhood, and encouraging greater involvement of fathers in the lives of their children, especially on Father's Day. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on that question.

The third vote was H. Res. 127, Recognizing and celebrating the 50th anniversary of the entry of Alaska in the Union as the 49th State. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on that question.

IN HONOR OF THE GRAND OPENING
OF GREENHUNTER ENERGY'S RENEWABLE FUELS
CAMPUS IN HOUSTON, TEXAS

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2008

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor the grand opening of GreenHunter Energy's Renewable Fuels Campus located in my congressional district in Houston, Texas.

GreenHunter Energy's renewable fuels campus—a converted waste oil refinery—is the largest and most versatile biodiesel refinery in the U.S. to date. The campus includes a 105 million gallon per year biodiesel refinery, a 700,000 barrel bulk liquid terminal operation, a

200 million pound-per-year glycerin distillation system, and a 45,000 barrel-per-month methanol distillation tower.

GreenHunter Energy's biodiesel refinery is "feedstock agnostic", meaning that it can use 100 percent animal fats, 100 percent vegetable oils, or any blend of the two interchangeably. By producing biodiesel from multiple feedstocks, including non-edible sources such as tallow and jatropha, GreenHunter offers practical solutions to the ongoing "food versus fuels" debate.

Located along Houston's Ship Channel, GreenHunter's campus has deepwater access and the ability to transport products via barge, rail, and truck. Biodiesel generators at the site will provide enough electricity for GreenHunter to power the campus and sell unneeded renewable power back to the area's power grid.

The addition of GreenHunter Energy's zero emission facility has created many new long-term jobs for Texans and will help move our nation closer to its goal of reducing dependence on foreign crude oil supplies.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2008

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, on June 9, 2008, I missed rollcall votes No. 388, Expressing support for designation of June 2008 as "National Safety Month," 389, Recognizing the immeasurable contributions of fathers in the healthy development of children, supporting responsible fatherhood, and encouraging greater involvement of fathers in the lives of their children, especially on Father's Day; and 390, Recognizing and celebrating the 50th anniversary of the entry of Alaska into the Union as the 49th State.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes No. 388, 389, and 390.

INTRODUCTION OF THE WORKING FAMILIES GAS TAX CREDIT ACT OF 2008

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2008

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I am honored to rise today to introduce the Working Families Gas Tax Credit Act of 2008. Similar to legislation that I introduced in the 109th Congress, this bill will provide greatly needed tax credits to individuals and families so that they can cope with soaring gas prices.

The Working Families Gas Tax Credit Act will provide a \$500 tax credit to individuals and a \$1,000 tax credit to families who make up to \$75,000 or \$150,000 or less, respectively.

This legislation will act as a secondary economic stimulus by providing credits to all individuals and families who were eligible for the economic stimulus rebate recently passed into law by the Democratic Congress. Similar to the 2008 economic stimulus package, the amount of the credit will phase out for individ-

uals making over \$75,000 and families making over \$150,000.

Madam Speaker, working families are paying twice as much as they were paying for a gallon of gas last year while oil companies are reporting record profits. It's literally highway robbery, especially when you consider that beyond housing costs, low- and middle-income households in the United States spend more of their earnings on transportation than anything else. Americans are looking to Congress to help them respond to unwarranted gas price increases. The Working Families Gas Tax Credit Act will give working families the temporary relief that they need during this difficult time.

While it is true that there have been a number of proposals offered by our colleagues to confront current fuel price challenges, this proposal is unique in that it will put necessary resources directly in the hands of consumers. This will be an important stop gap measure as we reprioritize our international fuel prices and confront the corruption and failed policies that have led to our Nation's unsustainable oil addiction.

I encourage my colleagues to support this necessary legislation and look forward to its expedient passage.

150 YEARS OF SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP IN THE COMMUNITY

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2008

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, this year marks the 150th Anniversary of an extraordinarily important religious congregation in the city of Newton, which I am proud to represent in this body, and where I have lived for 28 years. Congregation Mishkan Tefila has been an important part of the city of Newton since 1858. At that point, of course, Jewish citizens of the city were a very small number of a much smaller city. Over time, both the city and the Jewish population have grown significantly, and Temple Mishkan Tefila has been an important element in the growth of both. Temple Mishkan Tefila has of course been primarily a place of worship for large numbers of Jewish men, women and young people, and through a series of outstanding rabbis and other leaders, it has performed that essential function superbly. It has also been a forum for community leadership in a number of other ways. Its doors have always been open to the community, both its own members and the community at large, and I have personally benefited from that openness on a number of occasions by being able to participate in forums that the temple has run, which have helped me and others fulfill our duties to relate to our constituents.

Madam Speaker, I am very pleased to be able to salute the members of the Mishkan Tefila Congregation on this 150th Anniversary, and congratulate them on their opportunity both to look back on a very proud history, and to look forward to the promise of continued great service in the years ahead.

HONORING THE LEGACY OF CONSTANTINO BRUMIDI

HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2008

Mr. MICA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Constantino Brumidi, who has been referred to as the Michelangelo of the United States Capitol Building. It is appropriate that Congress honor his incredible contributions to our Nation by awarding him the Congressional Gold Medal.

On July 26, 1805, Constantino Brumidi was born in Rome, Italy of an Italian mother and a Greek father who inspired him with a love of liberty. While Constantino Brumidi's Greek ancestry stirred his passion for liberty and citizenship, his Italian heritage provided the art styles of the Renaissance and the Baroque which influenced the artwork of the U.S. Capitol.

Constantino Brumidi became a citizen of the United States as soon as he was able, embracing its history, values and ideals. Beginning in 1855, Constantino Brumidi designed and decorated one House and five Senate committee rooms in the Capitol, as well as the Senate Reception Room, the Office of the Vice President and most notably, the President's Room, which represents Brumidi's supreme effort "to make beautiful the Capitol" of the United States.

In 1865, Constantino Brumidi completed, in just 11 months, his masterpiece, "The Apotheosis of Washington," in the eye of the Capitol dome. In 1871, Constantino Brumidi created the first tribute to an African American in the Capitol when he placed the figure of Crispus Attucks at the center of his fresco of the Boston Massacre. In 1878, Constantino Brumidi, at the age of 72, and in poor health, began work on the Rotunda frieze, which chronicles the history of America. On February 19, 1880, Constantino Brumidi died at the age of 74, four and a half months after slipping and nearly falling from a scaffold while working on the Rotunda frieze.

Constantino Brumidi, proud of his artistic accomplishments and devoted to his adopted country, said: "My one ambition and my daily prayer is that I may live long enough to make beautiful the Capitol of the one country on earth in which there is liberty."

Madam Speaker, Constantino Brumidi's life and work exemplifies the lives of millions of immigrants who came to pursue the American dream.

CELEBRATING THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF NORTEX MODULAR SPACE IN LEWISVILLE, TX

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2008

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the outstanding accomplishments of Nortex Modular Space of Lewisville, Texas, an exemplary organization in North Texas that is celebrating its 10th Anniversary.

Nortex Modular Space is a small business manufacturer with 95 employees based in

Lewisville, and it is the leading manufacturer of durable and energy efficient mobile and modular office and classroom buildings. Jim and Sherry Stewart started Nortex Modular Space in Highland Village in 1998 and have a lease fleet of over 700 mobile office and mobile classroom units.

The company specializes in the sale, lease, rental, repair and renovation of modular and portable buildings, mobile office trailers, portable classroom buildings, re-locatable buildings, modular church buildings, GSA modular buildings, temporary offices, classrooms, as well as medical and special use buildings to government and private industry.

Nortex Modular Space has clients all around the country and even overseas. Customers include the U.S. Department of the Interior, the U.S. Secret Service, the City of Dallas, the U.S. Army, the Texas Department of Transportation, the University of Texas at Arlington and the University of North Texas.

In 2005, Nortex Modular Space was recognized by DiversityBusiness.com, the nation's leading multicultural internet site, as one of the Top 100 Small Businesses in Texas. Small businesses form the backbone of the American economy, which is the strongest in the world. They account for half of gross domestic product, more than half of American jobs, and three-fourths of new jobs created each year.

Madam Speaker, it is with great honor that I rise today to recognize Nortex Modular Space and celebrate its 10-year anniversary. This excellent company has served North Texans for 10 good years, and I am certain they will continue their good work for many more years to come.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF
MASTER CHIEF JOHN E. DOWNEY,
UNITED STATES COAST
GUARD

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2008

Mr. OBERSTAR. Madam Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today to honor a truly great member of the U.S. Coast Guard—Master Chief John E. “Jack” Downey—who was throughout his 41 years of service “always ready for the call.”

Master Chief Downey enlisted in the Coast Guard at age 19 from his hometown of Narragansett, Rhode Island, in 1966 and will retire at Station Point Judith in Narragansett on the 20th of this month, having served continuously in the Coast Guard in reserve and active duty status for almost 42 years. Master Chief Downey is retiring as Command Master Chief of Coast Guard District One (Boston, Massachusetts)—one of the nine Command Master Chiefs in the Coast Guard. He has served in this position since September of 2006.

Seaman Recruit Jack Downey reported to the Coast Guard Training Center, Cape May, New Jersey, on November 11, 1966, and completed basic training in February 1967. Seaman Apprentice Downey reported to Coast Guard Cutter *Casco* (WHEC 370) on March 8, 1967, and was promoted to Seaman on November 1, 1967.

On December 15, 1967, Seaman Downey reported to Coast Guard Air Station Salem,

Massachusetts where he was a rescue boat crewman for water take-offs and landings—in the days of amphibious fix-wing aircraft.

Seaman Downey transferred to Station Point Judith, Rhode Island, in March 1968, where he served on active duty until 1970, then 8½ years in reserve status, returning to active duty in 1979 and continuing his service at Pt. Judith until 1982. While stationed at Pt. Judith, Downey was promoted to Boatswain's Mate Third Class on January 16, 1969, to Boatswain's Mate Second Class on December 16, 1969, to Boatswain's Mate First Class on April 1, 1972, to Chief Boatswain's Mate on September 1, 1975 and to Senior Chief Boatswain's Mate April 1, 1980.

Senior Chief Downey returned to sea duty on the Coast Guard Cutter *Chase* (WHEC 718) on January 10, 1982.

In addition to service on the CGC *Casco* and CGC *Chase*, Boatswain's Mate Downey had many temporary assignments afloat on CGC *Seneca* (WMEC 906), CGC *Reliance* (WMEC 615), CGC *Neah Bay* (WTGB 105), CGC *Cape George* (WPB 95306) and CGC *Point Hannon* (WPB 82355). Many of these Temporary Assigned Duty assignments were necessitated by the Coast Guard's need to “fix” a leadership issue—a position Jack Downey found himself in on more than one occasion.

On February 21, 1984, Senior Chief Downey returned shore duty at Group/Station Woods Hole, Massachusetts where he was Officer-In-Charge of the Station.

Senior Chief Downey took command, as Officer-In-Charge, of Coast Guard Cutter *Towline* (WYTL 65605), a 65-foot harbor tug/ice-breaker, on June 15, 1987.

On November 1, 1988, Senior Chief Downey transferred to Coast Guard Station Chatham at the elbow of Cape Cod, Massachusetts, where he faced one of his most challenging assignments—dealing with an unforgiving and ever changing environment, and a community whose faith in the Coast Guard was at a low-ebb because of a failure of leadership. Senior Chief Downey, whose skills as a Boatswain's Mate are only exceeded by his skills in dealing with people, not only mastered the treacherous Chatham Bar, he won the loving respect of the community.

Senior Chief Downey's time in Chatham had both harrowing and amusing moments. In 1991 Station Chatham acquired a much-needed new surf capable rescue boat—the 28-foot *LeCompte* (CG 280502). In October—shortly after the boat arrived, Cape Cod and New England were slammed by the “No Name” or “Halloween” Storm—later known as the “Perfect Storm.” Downey and his crew secured the boat in the north “jog” of the Chatham Fish Pier in preparation for the onslaught of the storm. Little did they know just how ferocious the gale would be—as the storm intensified and the tide rose to record levels, boats broke loose from their moorings and debris piled up in the jog. One fishing vessel landed up against the *LeCompte*, prompting Downey to comment, “Well that's a \$120,000 fender you've got there.”

In May of 1993, at the Change-of-Command, hundreds came from all over Cape Cod to honor Jack Downey for his dedication and service to the maritime community, and to wish him well in his next assignment across Nantucket Sound at Coast Guard Station Brant Point on Nantucket Island, Massachu-

setts, where he took command, as Officer-In-Charge, on May 17, 1993.

On June 26, 1998, Senior Chief Downey returned “home” to as Officer-In-Charge of Coast Guard Station Point Judith, Rhode Island, and was promoted to Master Chief on September 1, 1998.

While Officer-In-Charge of Station Point Judith Master Chief Downey was called upon by the Group Commander to fill temporary commands concurrent with his responsibilities for his Station. On one occasion, when the Officer-In-Charge of CGC *Hammerhead* (WPB 87302) was not-fit-for-duty due to a leg fracture, Master Chief Downey assumed command of a brand new class of patrol boat with which he was completely unfamiliar, and on another he returned to Station Brant Point on Nantucket to lead the Station while the Officer-In-Charge was assigned to a joint service academy. On both the occasions answered the call—all the while ensuring that Station Point Judith ran smoothly and fulfilled all its responsibilities.

Master Chief Downey left Point Judith and in 2000, and on August 10th became the lead instructor for the Command and Operations School at the Leadership and Development Center located at the Coast Guard Academy in New London, Connecticut.

Master Chief Downey returned to sea duty on July 2, 2005 to take command, for a second time, as Officer-In-Charge, of Coast Guard Cutter *Hammerhead* (WPB 87302) an 87-foot Patrol Boat operating out of Group Woods Hole with responsibility for law enforcement, fisheries patrols, search and rescue, environmental protection and port, waterways and coastal security.

On August 28, 2006, Master Chief Downey became the Command Master Chief, First Coast Guard District, Boston, Massachusetts—the senior enlisted advisor to Rear Admiral Timothy S. Sullivan, Commander, First Coast Guard District, on issues and initiatives pertaining to all Coast Guard members and their families within District One.

On June 20, 2008—after 41-years of continuous service in the United States Coast Guard—Master Chief John E. “Jack” Downey returns to Station Point Judith, Rhode Island where he will—with regret—retire.

Master Chief Downey has received many awards during his distinguished career. Having held the position of Officer-In-Charge of boat force units for more than 17 years of the more than 20 years he served in the boat forces community, he was the first recipient of the Joshua James Keeper Award—the “Ancient Keeper” award—that recognizes longevity in the Coast Guard boat force operations. This award is named in honor of Captain Joshua James—the most celebrated life-saver in U.S. history—who served in the Massachusetts Humane Society and the U.S. Life-Saving Service. James died at the age of 75 after drilling his crew during a northeast gale in March of 1902 shortly after the tragic loss of a life-saving crew off Monomoy Point in Chatham, Massachusetts.

Master Chief Downey's other Coast Guard awards include the Meritorious Service Award with a gold star and operational distinguishing device, the Coast Guard Commendation Medal with three gold stars and an operational distinguishing device, the Coast Guard Achievement Medal with operational distinguishing device, the Coast Guard Good Conduct Medal with silver star, and the Letter of

Commendation with an operational distinguishing device. In addition to his Coast Guard awards, Master Chief Downey is the recipient of the prestigious NAVY League Douglas A. Monro Award that is “awarded for inspirational leadership . . . to the Coast Guard enlisted member who has demonstrated outstanding leadership and professional competence.”

Madam Speaker, you may have noticed that Master Chief Downey has managed to spend most of his career in Coast Guard District One, and much of that in Group Woods Hole (now Sector Southeast New England). His tremendous local knowledge of the treacherous waters in this region added value to every one of his Coast Guard assignments—and he often called on this local knowledge to keep Group Commanders “out of trouble.” Master Chief is a leadership “fixer”—the person you go to when there is a unit in trouble.

The communities where Master Chief Downey has served have recognized him with awards and proclamations too numerous to mention—they would cover several walls were he to display them—because Jack understands well the important roll the Coast Guard plays in the lives of New England towns. Local officials, townspeople and fellow mariners have recognized his great contribution and will miss his steadying hand.

In fact, a Group Commander once said that after Jack Downey retires, “the Coast Guard should hire him back, not to train Officers-In-Charge of small-boat stations, but rather to train Group Commanders.”

Throughout the Coast Guard—and particularly in Southeast New England—there are Coast Guard men and women, Officers-In-Charge, who were mentored by Master Chief Downey. Many of them—along with many retired officers, including former District and Group Commanders, fellow boat-drivers and

shipmates—will join the Vice-Commandant and the Atlantic Area Commander of the Coast Guard on June 20th to honor his long service and dedication to the Coast Guard.

John E. “Jack” Downey’s service to the country, the United States Coast Guard and New England are best expressed in the words used by Superintendent Sumner Increase Kimball when he spoke of Joshua James—

Here and there may be found men in all walks of life who neither wonder or care how much or how little the world thinks of them. They pursue life’s pathway, doing their appointed tasks without ostentation, loving their work for the work’s sake, content to live and do in the present rather than look for the uncertain rewards of the future. To them notoriety, distinction, or even fame, acts neither as a spur not a check to endeavor, yet they are really among the foremost of those who do the world’s work.

Master Chief John E. “Jack” Downey is one of those men.