

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