

Bill's professional organizations include the American Institute of Certified Planners, the American Planning Association, and the Association of Environmental Professionals.

His intergovernmental agency assignments included service on the Alameda County Housing Authority, the Association of Bay Area Governments, the East Bay Dischargers Authority, and the Regional Airport Planning Committee.

Bill Ward has left an indelible mark on the city of Hayward and beyond. On July 10, 2008, there will be a farewell celebration to thank Council Member Bill Ward for his dedicated public service. I join in applauding him for a job well done and wish him well in his retirement.

CONGRATULATIONS TO DR. PETER  
H. KEHOE

**HON. PHIL HARE**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 24, 2008*

Mr. HARE. Madam Speaker, today I rise to congratulate Dr. Peter H. Kehoe, who this Saturday will become the 87th president of the American Optometric Association (AOA).

For many years, Dr. Kehoe has been a leader in his profession at the State, regional and national levels. He is a past president of the Illinois Optometric Association and the West Central Illinois Optometric Society. In 2001, the State association named him Illinois' "Optometrist of the Year."

Dr. Kehoe is a graduate of the Illinois College of Optometry and served on its Alumni Council Board of Directors. A Fellow of the American Academy of Optometry, he is in private practice in my hometown of Galesburg, IL, and is a past president of the Galesburg Lions Club.

Doctors of optometry are the Nation's largest eye care providers, serving patients in nearly 6,500 communities across the country. The American Optometric Association is the professional society for optometrists nationwide and has more than 34,000 members. Dr. Kehoe will lead the association along its mission to improve eye and vision care in the United States.

Dr. Peter H. Kehoe has built a renowned record of service and leadership in his profession and in his community. I am confident that he will have a very successful term as president of the AOA. The 17th District of Illinois is proud to have Dr. Kehoe as a constituent and I join his family, friends and colleagues in congratulating him on this achievement and wishing him good luck.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. STEVAN PEARCE**

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 24, 2008*

Mr. PEARCE. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 440, H. Res. 1051—Congratulating James Madison University in Harrisonburg, Virginia, for 100 years of service and leadership to the United States, had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

CONGRATULATING THE LEADERSHIP  
TRAINING INSTITUTE OF  
AMERICA

**HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 24, 2008*

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Leadership Training Institute of America, the leading training program for students seeking instruction in the personal development of leadership and character. Their training program gives students the necessary tools to lead the next generation of young Americans in the traditions, principles, and wisdom imparted to us by our Founding Fathers. The quality of this training assures me of America's bright future as the leader of the world.

The Leadership Training Institute of America is a cultural think tank providing training and opportunity in leadership development and cultural dynamics. This organization encourages youth to apply and excel in leadership and critical thinking skills, study world view conflicts and strategies, network with outstanding leaders, and pursue careers in influential sectors of society.

The Leadership Training Institute of America trains and equips young men and women to be leaders with high standards of personal morality and integrity. The participants are exposed to the major philosophies, views, and issues of our world today and are encouraged to become leaders with convictions built on scientific knowledge, historical record, and Biblical wisdom.

Our Nation is in great need of young men and women of character to lead in every arena of our society.

So, it is with great appreciation that I rise today to commend the vision and accomplishments of the Leadership Training Institute of America. I salute the dedicated staff of this outstanding organization and encourage its increased influence among our Nation's youth.

CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS  
MESSAGE HOUR

SPEECH OF

**HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 23, 2008*

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to stand here tonight on behalf of the Congressional Black Caucus and we discuss the current energy crisis we are facing and the rising gas prices that continue to take a devastating toll on Americans. As we head into the summer months, the Congressional Black Caucus felt it's important to shine a light on this growing problem. More importantly, we wanted the American public to know that the CBC is taking important steps to combat these issues through our CBC Energy Task Force.

I along with the CBC have been working hard to reduce our dependence on foreign oil and bring down record gas prices, and launch a cleaner, smarter energy future for America that lowers costs and creates hundreds of thousands of green jobs.

In an effort to combat soaring gas prices, which are currently hovering around \$4.00 a

gallon, I joined with a number of my colleagues in supporting legislation to temporarily suspend the filling of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, SPR, until the end of the year. Filling of the SPR takes 70,000 barrels of oil off the market each day and a temporary suspension could reduce gas prices from 5 to 24 cents a gallon, which would be a critical first step for America's families, businesses, and the economy.

The Strategic Petroleum Reserve is roughly 97 percent full—the highest level ever—with enough oil to meet our national security needs. Currently, we have more in SPR, than we did in 2006 (702 million barrels vs. 688 million in 2006) and the inventory exceeds our International Energy Program commitment to maintain at least 90 days of oil stocks in reserve including private and public stocks.

The SPR has been tapped or suspended before by President Bush, President Clinton, and the first President Bush. In 2000, after such action, the price of oil dropped down by one-third—from \$30 to \$20 per barrel.

In addition to this initiative, I have and continue to support legislative action on gas prices including: holding OPEC, controlled entities and oil companies accountable for oil price fixing, cracking down on oil price gouging and repealing subsidies for profit-rich "Big Oil" companies so we can invest in a renewable energy for the future.

Additionally, the CBC has been working diligently on the issue of climate control. We recognize the importance of protecting our environment by transitioning from traditional energy sources, such as coal and petroleum, to clean sources, such as bio-fuel, wind, and solar energy. I am a strong supporter of putting more resources into creating alternative energy sources. When we invest in these alternative energy sources it also benefits our increasingly fragile environment.

Additionally, the new energy sources will create much needed green jobs. According to the Union of Concerned Scientists, Ohio stands to gain approximately 7,360 new jobs from renewable energy development. These jobs will be beneficial to both our economy and our environment.

I thank Representative TOWNS and the entire CBC Energy Task Force for their leadership on this issue.

HONORING MONSIGNOR JOSEPH  
MURPHY

**HON. VITO FOSSELLA**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 24, 2008*

Mr. FOSSELLA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a great man who has faithfully served the people of Staten Island for many years, Monsignor Joseph Murphy.

Ordained a priest in 1954, Monsignor Murphy then completed three years of graduate work at the Catholic University of America in Washington, DC. After his completion of studies, he served as a Parochial Vicar at Saint Joseph's Parish in Croton Falls, New York from 1957–1959. Following that, he was assigned to the Chancery Office of the Archdiocese of New York from 1959 to 1985, and was the Chancellor of the Archdiocese of New York from 1968 to 1985. Finally, in 1985 he

was assigned to be the pastor of the Church of Saint Clare on Staten Island, a position he has held to the present day.

Monsignor Murphy has always been inspired to help and to serve. From a young age, he was struck by the compassion and caring of the clergy that he met, and he felt drawn to serve his community in the same way. Even after his upcoming retirement, he still plans on working, continuing to help and to serve his community. He has always felt it important to meet people where they are at, going into the community and serving, not waiting for others to come to him. Monsignor Murphy is of the opinion that true service to others demands an active role, not passively waiting around. It is in respect to his life-long desire to aid his fellow person that he be honored today.

HONORING OLD HICKORY POST 77  
AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

**HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 24, 2008*

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Old Hickory Post 77 American Legion Auxiliary in Lexington, Tennessee on its outstanding work and accomplishments. Across the country, the women of the American Legion Auxiliary strive to promote American patriotism and responsible citizenship. This particular auxiliary in Lexington has fully lived up to the American Legion Auxiliary's mission to serve veterans, their families and their communities.

Chartered in 1933, the Lexington auxiliary was recently reactivated on January 26, 2008. Led by their current president, Julia McBee, the members of this auxiliary have accomplished a great deal in a short period of time. Only days after reactivation, the members of the Lexington Auxiliary organized a Valentine Project for the local National Guard Unit deployed to Iraq. A resounding success, the event raised enough money to send care packages to every member of the unit. These ladies have instituted various projects not only to promote the well-being of veterans and troops, but also to support the community as a whole, with special attention to local Lexington schools.

Please join me in honoring the members of the Lexington American Legion for their hard work, dedication, and unwavering patriotism. I wish to thank all the members of Old Hickory Post 77, including their officers and chairmen: Julia Annice McBee, Jo Ann Cody, Kathy Brown, Oneida Dangler, Mary Appell, Marcia Gilbert, Ruth Hurtt, Marene Snow, Jane Gale, Lutie Houston, Patricia Holmes, Venita Russell, Linda Lindsey, Denise Joyner, Hester Stitch, Diane Jowers, Lynn Lewis, Marcia Gilbert, and Janice Barker.

HONORING MUTUAL BENEFIT  
INSURANCE COMPANY

**HON. BILL SHUSTER**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 24, 2008*

Mr. SHUSTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th Anniversary of

Mutual Benefit Insurance Company, a successful business located in Huntingdon, Pennsylvania. Incorporated in 1908, Mutual Benefit is an irreplaceable attribute to the business community in both Pennsylvania and Maryland.

At its founding, Mutual Benefit served the residents of Corry, Pennsylvania and was originally known as the Corry Mutual Fire Insurance Company. The company's strong foundation foreshadowed its future successes. In 1934, Corry Mutual's charter was offered to W. Emmert Swigart, founder of Swigart Associates, one of the largest insurance agencies in the state of Pennsylvania. This financially beneficial relationship lasted almost 50 years, until 1983 when the two companies split into separate entities once more. At this time Mutual Benefit found themselves competing once again against one of the largest insurance companies within the state of Pennsylvania. Led by a driven team of leaders, Mutual Benefit rose to this challenge and exemplified many attributes which have worked to set them apart from their competition. Through active leadership, unparalleled trustworthiness, and service to the community Mutual Benefit has become one of the most respected regional carriers in Pennsylvania.

One hundred years after its humble beginning, Mutual Benefit Group now guarantees nearly \$100 million through 250 independent agents located in both Pennsylvania and Maryland. Not only do they serve 78,000 policyholders, but they also serve as an important part of the community by employing 204 people. Known for its customer service, stability and experience, Mutual Benefit Group was recognized as the number one insurance carrier in Pennsylvania and Maryland in 2006.

Mutual Benefit Insurance Company has endeavored throughout its history to improve its policies and atmosphere to fit the needs of the surrounding community. I look forward to celebrating the 100th anniversary of such a wonderful organization, as it has brought a greater appreciation to our area and has surely been an asset to the community. I congratulate Mutual Benefit on reaching this significant milestone and wish the company all the best in its future endeavors.

NATIONAL GUARD AND RESERVISTS DEBT RELIEF ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

**HON. JERROLD NADLER**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 23, 2008*

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of this legislation which is a simple measure the House can take to help protect our troops from undue financial hardship. We constantly receive stern lectures about the importance of supporting the troops. But supporting the troops is more than just wearing a flag pin, or sticking a yellow ribbon on your car, or impugning the patriotism of your political opponents.

Supporting the troops should entail some real benefit for those troops when they need our help. As President Lincoln put it so well, to "care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow and his orphan." Perhaps taking proper care of the wounded at

Walter Reed Army Medical Center, or providing them with suitable armor, or providing them with assistance after they return home would be a good place to start.

Here we have the opportunity to help a small number of veterans, estimated at 2,000 to 2,500, by lifting what amounts to a costly and burdensome paperwork burden. According to the Republican witness in the Judiciary Committee, this bill is "targeted, specific, and quite modest."

Will it allow these veterans to commit fraud? No. Creditors, the courts, the trustees, and the Department of Justice have ample tools at their disposal to deal with anyone trying to game the system. The case can still be dismissed for abuse based on the totality of the circumstances, the court can still deny or revoke the debtor's discharge of debts, the military could revoke the debtor's security clearance, and the criminal code provides for fines and imprisonment of up to five years.

The means test is not stopping fraud. The Bush Justice Department, which administers it, has reported that less than half a percent of all cases are dismissed based on the means test.

The form used to implement the means test has 57 separate sections. It takes a pro se debtor approximately 10 to 12 hours, and it rivals IRS form 1040 in complexity. I challenge my colleagues to fill it out.

So today members have real choice. You can vote to support the troops or you can vote to support the big banks. It is a pretty clear choice. I urge my colleagues to support the troops.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. STEVE COHEN**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 24, 2008*

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, I rise to note that I was unable to arrive on the House floor in time to vote because my flight from Memphis was significantly delayed due to bad weather. Had I been able to vote, I would have voted in favor of the three measures voted on by the House this evening: (1) H. Res. 1242, honoring the life, musical accomplishments, and contributions of Louis Jordan on the 100th Anniversary of his birth; (2) H. Con. Res. 372, supporting the goals and ideals of Black Music Month and to honor the outstanding contributions that African American singers and musicians have made to the United States; and (3) H. Res. 1051, congratulating James Madison University in Harrisonburg, Virginia, for 100 years of service and leadership to the United States.

IN HONOR OF ROBERT STOLDAL'S  
CAREER

**HON. SHELLEY BERKLEY**

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 24, 2008*

Ms. BERKLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise to speak in honor of one of America's finest broadcast journalists and most effective community leaders, on the occasion of his retirement this month.