

players, and many personal records were set for the number of runs scored, bases stolen, and game shutouts. The UF Women's softball team played with class and won with grace, and their teamwork, tenacity, and gamesmanship deserve to be recognized. This certainly is a team to be remembered, and this is just another reason why it is great to be a Florida Gator.

HONORING SCLC AND REVEREND
DR. S. L. HARVEY

HON. WILLIAM J. JEFFERSON

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 2008

Mr. JEFFERSON. Madam Speaker, on February 14, 1957, a little more than 51 years ago, the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, SCLC, was founded in New Orleans, LA. It is returning to New Orleans today for its 50th Annual Convention, to celebrate its founding and to mark the progress it has made over the years.

On the date of its founding, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Reverend A.L. Davis, Reverend Avery Alexander, Reverend Simmie Harvey, and others meet at New Zion Baptist Church located on 3rd Street in New Orleans to organize the SCLC. Of those present on that date, Dr. Simmie Harvey is the only living organizer. Additionally for the past 33 years, he has led the Louisiana Chapter of the SCLC as its President.

Reverend Dr. S.L. Harvey was educated at the Tensas Parish High School in St. Joseph, Louisiana, Utica Institute in Utica, Mississippi and Union Baptist College and Theological Seminary where he received both his Master's Degree in Theology and his Doctor of Divinity.

Reverend Dr. Harvey was present at the planning of the march in Washington, DC., where Dr. King delivered his "I Have a Dream" speech. Reverend Harvey is a living legend and Drum Major for Justice for all people. He continues to carry the torch for freedom that Dr. King and other founders of the SCLC lit in 1957.

As we celebrate the life and work of the SCLC, it is impossible to do so without celebrating Dr. Harvey's life and work at the same time. The two are inextricably intertwined. We thank God for him. I am proud to join the U.S. Congress and our nation in honoring him.

INTRODUCTION OF THE GREEN 301
ACT

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 2008

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing the Trade and Environment Enforcement Act, also known as the Green 301 Act. This bill expands the Section 301 provisions of the Trade Act of 1974 to encompass environmental effects.

Under the Trade and Environment Enforcement Act, the Trade Representative must identify those foreign country trade practices causing negative environmental impacts to human, animal, or plant life or health, or the

conservation of exhaustible natural resources in the United States, the foreign country, a third country, or internationally. Once those practices have been identified, the Trade Representative must issue a report to Ways and Means and to Senate Finance with its findings.

After the Trade Representative issues its report, it must engage in consultations with foreign governments to resolve the negative practices it identifies with in the report and seek to negotiate an agreement between the United States and the foreign country providing for the mitigation, reduction, or elimination of the identified negative environmental impacts. If no agreement is reached, then the trade representative is authorized to take all appropriate and feasible action authorized under Section 301.

Additionally, the Trade and Environment Enforcement Act permits petitions and consultations under this process from interested parties, including environmental organizations and the business community, to expand the types and scope of the Trade Representative's environmental review.

A PRAYER FOR AMERICA

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 2008

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Reverend Bill Goodnight of First Presbyterian church of Lillington, NC. On the 230th birthday of this great Nation, Reverend Goodnight expressed his patriotism with a most fitting prayer. His prayer embodies the values on which the United States of America was founded. These are the same values that we as Americans still hold near and dear to our hearts today, I would like to share this prayer with my colleagues and my fellow Americans.

"Eternal God we come before you on this birthday of our nation 230th birthday of our Nation. We come with praises upon our lips for your love and mercy, which makes itself know throughout the earth. We come with praises for your mighty creative energy that hung the stars and spun the planets and for your still small voice that speaks in the silence of the canyons and booms out across the oceans waves. For those with eyes to see and ears to hear your spirit is seen dancing upon our golden meadows, your song is heard in the cry of the bald eagle, your presence is felt in the deepest canyon and the highest mountain . . .

Yet we confess eternal creator that we have too often sought your blessing without begging for your transforming power that calls us into a nation of servanthood in this and every hour. We confess that we are quick to proclaim that you are on our side without checking to make sure that we are on your side.

Therefore, we celebrate with thanksgiving this Fourth of July, not only the great provisions of this land but your patience toward us when we forget that to whom much is given much is expected. We thank you for your protection from pestilence and the horrors of famine known to much of this world. We thank you for a stable government which works to guarantee our freedoms and provides us with protection against those who would do us harm. We are particularly grateful this night for our leaders that are here

with us as a reminder that by your will we truly are a government of the people and by the people.

Our strongest petitions this night we reserve those brave men and women who have obeyed the orders of their commander in chief and have stepped into harms way in distant land, particularly Afghanistan and Iraq. We cry for the widows, widowers, and orphans left in the wake of the current conflict on both sides of this war. Let not our tears be empty but grant to us the fortitude and resolve as a community that we might nurture those who have sacrificed so much on our account. May those who have risked so much in fulfilling their military obligations find us a united community in support of them and their dependents. May we walk with them and their loves ones on the road of life offering the well-deserved hand of friendship and fellowship. We know that nothing can make up for what we have sent them to endure, but may our overwhelming gratitude and respect offer them comfort.

Help us to live our lives with grateful hearts, teach us how to be there for each other when tragedy strikes, and give us plenty of opportunities to rejoice with one another when good comes our neighbor's way.

In closing, we ask not only your blessing upon us but for your guidance and inspiration that we might reflect and be a source for the world of the blessings we seek for ourselves. Alleluia Amen."

Madam Speaker, Reverend Goodnight is an exemplary figure of patriotism, leadership, dedication, and commitment to this great Nation.

COMMEMORATING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SPACE FOUNDATION

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 9, 2008

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 1312, "Commemorating the 25th anniversary of the Space Foundation". I would like to thank my colleague DOUG LAMBORN of Colorado for putting forth H. Res. 1312. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation, and to commemorate the 25 years that the Space Foundation has spent endeavoring to advance our knowledge and understanding of space.

This deserving piece of legislation will (1) recognize the contributions made by the Space Foundation; and (2) commemorate the Space Foundation's 25 years of excellence and support to the Nation.

This resolution not only draws attention to the Space Foundation's many years of excellence and service, but it also recognizes the profound effect that a group of nonpartisan, pioneering individuals has had in helping to inspire, enable, and propel humanity to greater heights. For as a great pioneer, Neil Armstrong, once said, "That's one small step for man; one giant leap for mankind."

The Space Foundation has played a significant positive role in exploring, advancing and developing our understanding of space. The nonprofit foundation has done this by embracing all aspects of space including commercial, civil, and national security. In the current national and commercial environment in which

space is often at the forefront of security or innovation, the work that the foundation does in promoting space education programs in all 50 States is critical. Furthermore, the Space Foundation's advocacy of peaceful and positive uses of outer space is crucial. Indeed, as John F. Kennedy, speaking in Houston, noted, "We set sail on this new sea because there is new knowledge to be gained, and new rights to be won, and they must be won and used for the progress of all people."

Houston has long been at the center of the American exploration of space. The Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center in Houston has been NASA's center for human spaceflight activities. Houston has served as the Mission Control Center for every space mission since *Gemini IV* and directs all space shuttle and International Space Station Missions. The Johnson Center is also home to astronaut training, and Houston is a hub of scientific and space-related research. Houston's connection to space exploration has made evident to me the potential for growth and discovery that space holds. This connection has also inspired in me a great amount of respect and support for those organizations and individuals who pursue an awareness of space for the fostering of a peaceful and prosperous world.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation with me. I believe that what the Space Foundation has accomplished through more than 25 years of diligent service is more than deserving of such a commemoration. Through their efforts in improving our commercial, national, and theoretical uses and understanding of space they have undoubtedly helped better our Nation.

HOMES FOR HEROES ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 9, 2008

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the Homes for Heroes Act, H.R. 3329.

The Homes for Heroes Act establishes a \$200 million a year assistance program for supportive housing and services for low income homeless veterans and their families at the Department of Housing and Urban Development, HUD, and requires at least 20,000 rental housing vouchers a year be made available to homeless veterans and their families. This important bill also creates a Special Assistant for Veterans Affairs within HUD and requires HUD to submit an annual report to Congress on housing needs for veterans.

Veterans are overrepresented in the homeless population and the VA is the largest single provider of direct services to homeless veterans. According to the VA, the number of homeless veterans has declined 21 percent in the past year, however there are still 154,000 homeless veterans including 1,500 from Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The men and women of the armed forces who have served this country with honor deserve the support and resources they need to overcome mental, physical, and emotional wounds caused by war. Congress must continue fighting to ensure they receive the high-

est level of care and compensation they have so bravely earned serving this country.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

THE DAILY 45: ROBERT WASHINGTON AND TWO OTHER VICTIMS

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 2008

Mr. RUSH. Madam Speaker, every day, 45 people, on average, are fatally shot in the United States. Early this morning, Robert Washington of Chicago was found dead in his home with a gunshot wound to the neck.

In Wisconsin, Travis Mills was shot last Saturday morning with a small-caliber handgun and in Rockaway, Queens, a young man was fatally shot. The 18-year-old was pronounced dead at the scene.

Three more lives lost. We must become our brother's keeper. 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!"

IN RECOGNITION OF THE WEST CREEK CONFLUENCE

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 2008

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of a "Concrete Breaking" celebration at the confluence of West Creek and the Cuyahoga River in the city of Independence in Ohio's 10th Congressional District.

The West Creek—Cuyahoga River Confluence Restoration Project implements the vision expressed in both the city of Independence Master Plan and West Creek Watershed Plan by restoring a 10-acre vacant industrial site where West Creek meets the Cuyahoga River in Independence, Ohio. The property currently contains approximately 85% impervious surface, contributing significant non-point source pollution which flows directly into West Creek and the Cuyahoga. The property and this entire area have flooded repeatedly during recent storm events and is at the center of a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Section 205 study to find the best way to mitigate flood damage. The restoration includes plans for its future use as a public riverfront park with the added benefits of ecological habitat restoration and storm water management best practices.

On Friday July 11, 2008, Independence Mayor Gregory Kurtz, in collaboration with the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District, the Trust for Public Land, the George Gund Foundation, the Natural Resources Assistance Council of Cuyahoga County, the Clean Ohio Fund, the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, the Ohio Department of Transportation and other partners, will begin the demolition of the industrial buildings to begin the restoration.

When completed, West Creek will return to its original meandering flow into the Cuyahoga

River with natural wetlands to reduce upstream flooding, clean local drinking water, and restored wildlife habitats. The new park will connect the West Creek Greenway to the Ohio and Erie Canal Towpath Trail, provide new access to the creek and river for all, and lead to economic revitalization of this part of the city of Independence. This project will contribute greatly to the continuing restoration of the Cuyahoga River, one of the 14 federally designated American Heritage Rivers.

The benefits of the West Creek Confluence Project are numerous. Locally, it will reclaim underutilized industrial property, create a new and dynamic recreation area along the National Scenic Byway, restore a more natural hydrology to Lower West Creek, create an area for urban ecology to flourish, retain and filter storm water which will mitigate the effects of flooding, and reduce non-point source pollution entering into West Creek and the Cuyahoga River. From a regional perspective, the West Creek Confluence Project will work to herald in a new era of sustainable redevelopment within the Lower Cuyahoga River Valley, capitalizing on recreational and commercial uses that still allow for a functioning floodplain with a high degree of ecological diversity, flood storage and habitat connectivity.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in recognizing the beauty and regional ecologic importance of the West Creek Confluence and the pivotal project now underway to ensure it returns to its former natural prominence.

IN SUPPORT OF H.R. 6304

HON. PATRICK J. MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 2008

Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to discuss my support of H.R. 6304—The FISA Amendments Act of 2008.

From the Revolutionary War to the tragedy of 9/11, America's quest for freedom is what defines us. It is imperative that we never forget those who died for our liberty, nor can we ignore the failures of our own intelligence leading up to that day in September 7 years ago. Balancing civil liberties and protecting our national security has been a 232 year struggle that represents the core of this great Nation.

As such, the year-long debate this body engaged in updating FISA has hinged on a question that rests at the heart of American democracy since its founding: how do we keep our Nation safe, while at the same time ensuring the preservation of those Constitutional freedoms that we hold dear? It was Benjamin Franklin who warned that those who sacrifice liberty for a little security deserve neither.

When the first effort to amend FISA—The Protect America Act—came before this House in August of 2007, I voted against that deeply flawed bill because it did not ensure proper protection of our civil liberties, nor did it provide the appropriate check over the executive branch. In fact, neither the Protect America Act, nor the subsequent "Senate compromise," included essential oversight provisions. Those bills, rather, sought to minimize the role of the FISA court, removing any form