

brought to all of us as Americans today. My wife often teases me about all these electronic devices I carry to communicate with my district on Quick.com and Twiter.com—and let me see, I've got one in this pocket right here.

We all benefit from the technological research that NASA does, but the future holds greater promise for us, with the carbon nanotube work and combining that with solar cell technology, truly holds the promise of making America energy independent in the years to come.

But in the meantime, my friend from Georgia is exactly right, we need to drill here, drill now, and we will certainly pay less. And the Congress is all that's standing in the way of drilling here and drilling now. And I hope they will give us a vote on that.

But in the meantime, today we can honor the great technological achievements of NASA and the carbon nanotube research that holds the promise for making America energy independent in the long term.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. I thank my friend for his comments.

And I appreciate just a glimpse into the wonderful genius of the American people and what we're able to do when we harness the energy of the American mind and have it move in a focused direction, like increasing the supply of energy.

Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to support this bill and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire as to how much time is remaining on each side.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Texas has 5½ minutes remaining. The gentleman from Georgia has 5½ minutes remaining.

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2½ minutes to the gentlelady from Texas.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. I thank the distinguished gentleman from Texas as well.

I'm very pleased to add to the debate on the floor of the House and how far-reaching NASA has come as it relates to all academic institutions. I'm very proud of the partnership that NASA has had with Texas Southern University, one historically black college located in the 18th Congressional District, as well as Oakwood College located in Huntsville, Alabama. But there are many, many colleges that NASA has collaborated with. It's been a particularly important partnership with historically black colleges and Hispanic-serving colleges. As it relates to Texas Southern University, they've worked on aeronautics. They have, in fact, engaged in fellowships with young people to be able to expose them to the importance of the work that NASA has done.

I think even more so, it is important for the American people to know that the payload that the astronauts have taken to the Space Station and actu-

ally worked on includes the work of elementary, middle school and high school students. What better way for there to be an excitement about space and what we enjoy but doing it in that way.

I'm delighted that my colleagues have joined in discussing the broadness of our energy policy. I think in the passing of Dr. DeBakey we should make note of the great medical research that goes on with NASA. And as I've indicated with HIV/AIDS, with heart attacks or heart disease or stroke, it is not known to most Americans how much medical research is done on the Space Station and how many different countries are there and the medical doctors that go into space as well.

I know that we will work for a unified energy policy that involves, if you will, all of the elements, including conservation and wind and solar—Texas being the largest State with wind power. And I look forward to us having a fossil fuel, wind, solar, conservation, and we will do that as we move together.

NASA is so much a part of this extended research on climate change. And these commemorative coins will celebrate the diversity of NASA, how valuable it is for us. I hope my colleagues will enthusiastically support this particular legislation that will cause us to make sure that we are reminded of the great work of this great organization, serving all of the people of the United States of America.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I just want to thank my good friends from Texas once again for bringing this bill to the floor and thank the chairman of the committee for bringing this bill to the floor.

In closing, I will just say that my constituents and many constituents and many Americans that I hear from all across this Nation say they remember fondly the wonderful enthusiasm with which this Nation gathered around, challenged by a President in the early 1960s to go to the Moon. And NASA was absolutely pivotal and instrumental in that. And it's that kind of enthusiasm that my constituents and so many Americans believe we ought to be putting into the same kind of program to discovering that alternative fuel that will lead us and allow us to lead throughout the 21st century.

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So this bill will get a vote. And for that we are very, very grateful.

We would ask, Mr. Speaker, and appeal to the leadership to allow a vote on increasing the supply of American energy for Americans and providing a program that allows for the expansive development of alternative fuel.

With that, I am pleased to support this bill.

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

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, in commemorating NASA's 50 years, the 50th anniversary, if you will, we are talking about great accomplishments. We are talking about the past. We are talking about the destinations that NASA has taken us to. We have gone to the Moon; that's a destination. We have a space station; that's a destination. We plan to go to Mars; that's a destination. But our destiny is beyond the Milky Way. Our destiny is beyond Alpha Centauri. Our destiny is beyond the stars. NASA is in its infancy, and it will take us to our destiny.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. AL GREEN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6455.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### TIMOTHY J. RUSSERT HIGHWAY

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 3145) to designate a portion of United States Route 20A, located in Orchard Park, New York, as the "Timothy J. Russert Highway".

The Clerk read the title of the Senate bill.

The text of the Senate bill is as follows:

S. 3145

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

#### SECTION 1. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) Timothy "Tim" John Russert was born on May 7, 1950 in Buffalo, New York, to Elizabeth and Timothy Joseph Russert.

(2) Tim Russert graduated from Canisius High School in Buffalo, New York, earned his bachelor's degree in political science from John Carroll University in 1972, and his Juris Doctor from Cleveland State University—Marshall School of Law in 1976.

(3) Tim Russert embarked on a career in public service with United States Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan and the Governor of New York, Mario Cuomo, from 1977 to 1984.

(4) After his career in public service and New York politics, Tim Russert began his career in journalism when he joined NBC in 1984.

(5) In 1991, Tim Russert became the host of the Sunday morning news program Meet the Press, the longest-running program in the history of television. He would go on to become the longest serving host of the show.

(6) Throughout his career, Tim Russert received 48 honorary doctorates and several awards for excellence in journalism, including—

(A) the Edward R. Murrow Award from the Radio-Television News Directors Association;

(B) the John Peter Zenger Freedom of the Press Award;

(C) the American Legion Journalism Award;

(D) the Veterans of Foreign Wars News Media Award;

(E) the Congressional Medal of Honor Society Journalism Award;

(F) the Allen H. Neuharth Award for Excellence in Journalism;

(G) the David Brinkley Award for Excellence in Communication;

(H) the Catholic Academy for Communication's Gabriel Award; and

(I) an Emmy Award from the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences.

(7) In 2004, Tim Russert authored the best-selling autobiography, *Big Russ and Me*, which chronicled his life growing up in South Buffalo and his education at Canisius High School. He is also the author of *Wisdom of our Fathers*.

(8) Tim Russert advocated on behalf of abused children and voiced the need to protect our Nation's young people, serving on the board of directors of the Greater Washington Boys and Girls Club and America's Promise—Alliance for Youth.

(9) Tim Russert sat in the front seat of history, chronicling the political and societal events that have defined our time, and serving as a trusted source of information and analysis for millions of Americans.

(10) Tim Russert was a tireless booster of Buffalo, a famous fan of his beloved Buffalo Bills, and was always proud of his South Buffalo roots, a source of civic pride in the Western New York community.

(11) Tim Russert passed away on June 13, 2008. He is survived by his wife, Maureen Orth and their son, Luke Russert.

#### SEC. 2. DESIGNATION.

The portion of United States Route 20A located in Orchard Park, New York, between Abbot Road and California Road shall be known and designated as the "Timothy J. Russert Highway".

#### SEC. 3. REFERENCES.

Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the portion of United States Route 20A referred to in section 2 shall be deemed to be a reference to the Timothy J. Russert Highway.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. HIGGINS) and the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on S. 3145.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, on June 13 the Nation lost one of its premier political journalists, and my home neighborhood of South Buffalo lost a favorite son.

Tim Russert was born in Buffalo on May 7, 1950. Hailing from a proud, working class family, Tim worked his way through Canisius High School and John Carroll University. After graduating from the Cleveland-Marshall College of Law, Tim Russert entered public service, working for Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan and New York Governor Mario Cuomo.

In 1984 Tim began his celebrated career in journalism at NBC, where he stood out by, among other accomplishments, arranging the first live appearance on American television by Pope John Paul II. In 1991 NBC named Tim Russert the moderator of "Meet the Press," a landmark decision that would leave a lasting impact not only on the Sunday morning talk shows but on all journalism.

Tim served masterfully as anchor and political analyst. He earned a reputation as a tenacious yet fair interviewer of his guests. His preparation and performance on "Meet the Press" set a new standard for political journalists: that they should ask, and demand answers to, the pressing questions of the day. No one did that better than Tim Russert.

Russert was also an accomplished author. His moving books, "Big Russ and Me" and "Wisdom of Our Fathers," became New York Times best sellers. They also provided insight into the top priority Tim Russert placed on his family, his community, and the tradition of that community.

It was well noted in public remembrances of Tim Russert's life that he was proud of his Buffalo roots. What most people do not know is how proud Buffalo was of Tim Russert. We remember Tim as one of our greatest ambassadors, a kid from the neighborhood who never forgot his roots and continually made us proud. In many ways he defined how we in Buffalo see ourselves: tough, loyal, and hard working, not easily fooled. Tim Russert embodied these characteristics, and he never forget where he came from because that helped ultimately make who he was.

Tim's pride in his hometown was never more evident than when he would go on "Meet the Press" and use that pulpit to issue his "Go Bills!" before a big game. With Tim's love of the Buffalo Bills in mind, the legislation before the House today will author a fitting and lasting tribute to one of Buffalo's favorite sons.

S. 3145 would designate a portion of Route 20A in the town of Orchard Park, New York, the road leading to the Buffalo Bills' Ralph Wilson Stadium, as the "Timothy J. Russert Highway." It will serve as a lasting celebration of Tim's life and provide Western New Yorkers and visitors alike the opportunity to take pride in Tim's contributions while on their way to see his beloved Bills win another game.

S. 3145 was agreed to in the Senate by unanimous consent on June 25. Passage today would send the bill to the White House and enable our community to honor Tim in what for all we hope will be another winning season for the Buffalo Bills.

Lastly, I would like to thank Chairman JIM OBERSTAR, Ward McCarragher, and Jim Kolb of the committee staff for their assistance with this legislation, and I urge its adoption today.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 3145, a bill to designate a portion of the United States Route 20A to be named the "Timothy J. Russert Highway."

On June 13, 2008, the Nation was shocked to learn of the sudden loss of Tim Russert, NBC News' Washington bureau chief and moderator of "Meet the Press" and one of our most popular television analysts.

Tim Russert was known across the country as moderator for "Meet the Press" where he interviewed high-profile guests, bringing Washington politics into American living rooms. He was recognized for his on-the-air tenacity as a moderator and his intense passion for politics. It is no wonder that Time Magazine named Mr. Russert one of the 100 most influential people in the world. Despite his success, Tim Russert never lost sight or forgot his roots in Buffalo, New York.

S. 3145 designates a portion of U.S. Route 20A located near Ralph Wilson Stadium, home of the Buffalo Bills, "Timothy J. Russert Highway."

Mr. Speaker, one story. Every year the Tennessee Valley A&I Fair has a couple hundred thousand people attend, and for 20 years I have continued a tradition begun by my father and have had a very large booth giving away ice water, compliments of your congressman. Several years ago Tim Russert came in to speak to a Chamber of Commerce luncheon, and I shared the head table with him with approximately 600 people in the audience. At the very first of his speech, he started out and he said, "Congressman, I had a chance to spend a little time in Knoxville yesterday after I got into town," and he said, "I went around town and I saw this big booth that said "Free ice water compliments of your congressman." He said, "I've got to hand it to you. Anybody who could gain political capital by giving away water, that's about the best political gimmick I've ever heard of." And he had a big laugh about that and mentioned that every time he saw me after he had been to Knoxville.

S. 3145 is a deserving tribute to Tim Russert's great achievements in the field of political journalism and a reminder that he never forgot his hometown or his beloved Buffalo Bills.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of passage of S. 3145, which designates a portion of U.S. Route 20A in Orchard Park, New York, as the "Timothy J. Russert Highway".

This highway, which leads to Ralph Wilson Stadium—home of the Buffalo Bills, is a fitting tribute after Tim Russert.

A native of Buffalo, Mr. Russert will be best remembered for his integrity and his tenacious yet fair approach to his interviews as moderator on NBC's "Meet the Press".

Tim Russert began his career in 1977 as a key advisor for two of the leading elected officials and policymakers of their time, United

States Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan and New York Governor Mario Cuomo.

In 1984, Russert joined NBC and quickly became one of the Nation's leading journalists and political analysts, serving as NBC's Washington Bureau Chief and host of "Meet the Press".

Throughout his career in journalism, Russert received 48 honorary doctorates and several awards for excellence in journalism, including an Emmy Award, the Radio and Television Correspondents' Joan S. Barone Award, the Annenberg Center's Walter Cronkite Award, and the Edward R. Murrow Award for Overall Excellence in Television Journalism.

Tim Russert also became a bestselling author, with the publication of his autobiography, *Big Russ and Me*, which chronicled his life growing up in South Buffalo and the lessons that he learned from his father. He also authored *The Wisdom of Our Fathers*.

What many may not know about Tim Russert is the work he did on behalf of numerous charities, which included serving on the board of directors for the Greater Washington Boys and Girls Club and America's Promise-Alliance for Youth.

Tim Russert will also be remembered as a proud native son of Buffalo, New York, and his passion for his hometown football team the Buffalo Bills is legendary.

It is a fitting tribute to Tim Russert that Buffalo Bills' fans will drive down the "Timothy J. Russert Highway" as they approach Ralph Wilson Stadium.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New York (Mr. HIGGINS) for bringing this legislation before the House and urge my colleagues to join me in supporting S. 3145.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. HIGGINS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 3145.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the Senate bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### APPALACHIAN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT ACT AMENDMENTS OF 2008

Mr. SPACE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 496) to reauthorize and improve the program authorized by the Appalachian Regional Development Act of 1965, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the Senate bill.

The text of the Senate bill is as follows:

S. 496

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

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Appalachian Regional Development Act Amendments of 2008".

#### SEC. 2. LIMITATION ON AVAILABLE AMOUNTS; MAXIMUM COMMISSION CONTRIBUTION.

(a) GRANTS AND OTHER ASSISTANCE.—Section 14321(a) of title 40, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)(A) by striking clause (i) and inserting the following:

“(i) the amount of the grant shall not exceed—

“(I) 50 percent of administrative expenses;

“(II) at the discretion of the Commission, if the grant is to a local development district that has a charter or authority that includes the economic development of a county or a part of a county for which a distressed county designation is in effect under section 14526, 75 percent of administrative expenses; or

“(III) at the discretion of the Commission, if the grant is to a local development district that has a charter or authority that includes the economic development of a county or a part of a county for which an at-risk county designation is in effect under section 14526, 70 percent of administrative expenses;”;

(2) in paragraph (2) by striking subparagraph (A) and inserting the following:

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), of the cost of any activity eligible for financial assistance under this section, not more than—

“(i) 50 percent may be provided from amounts appropriated to carry out this subtitle;

“(ii) in the case of a project to be carried out in a county for which a distressed county designation is in effect under section 14526, 80 percent may be provided from amounts appropriated to carry out this subtitle; or

“(iii) in the case of a project to be carried out in a county for which an at-risk county designation is in effect under section 14526, 70 percent may be provided from amounts appropriated to carry out this subtitle.”.

(b) DEMONSTRATION HEALTH PROJECTS.—Section 14502 of title 40, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (d) by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

“(2) LIMITATION ON AVAILABLE AMOUNTS.—Grants under this section for the operation (including initial operating amounts and operating deficits, which include the cost of attracting, training, and retaining qualified personnel) of a demonstration health project, whether or not constructed with amounts authorized to be appropriated by this section, may be made for up to—

“(A) 50 percent of the cost of that operation;

“(B) in the case of a project to be carried out in a county for which a distressed county designation is in effect under section 14526, 80 percent of the cost of that operation; or

“(C) in the case of a project to be carried out for a county for which an at-risk county designation is in effect under section 14526, 70 percent of the cost of that operation.”;

and

(2) in subsection (f)—

(A) in paragraph (1) by striking “paragraph (2)” and inserting “paragraphs (2) and (3)”;

and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

“(3) AT-RISK COUNTIES.—The maximum Commission contribution for a project to be carried out in a county for which an at-risk county designation is in effect under section 14526 may be increased to the lesser of—

“(A) 70 percent; or

“(B) the maximum Federal contribution percentage authorized by this section.”.

(c) ASSISTANCE FOR PROPOSED LOW- AND MIDDLE-INCOME HOUSING PROJECTS.—Section 14503 of title 40, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (d) by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

“(1) LIMITATION ON AVAILABLE AMOUNTS.—A loan under subsection (b) for the cost of planning and obtaining financing (including the cost of preliminary surveys and analyses of market needs, preliminary site engineering and architectural fees, site options, application and mortgage commitment fees, legal fees, and construction loan fees and discounts) of a project described in that subsection may be made for up to—

“(A) 50 percent of that cost;

“(B) in the case of a project to be carried out in a county for which a distressed county designation is in effect under section 14526, 80 percent of that cost; or

“(C) in the case of a project to be carried out for a county for which an at-risk county designation is in effect under section 14526, 70 percent of that cost.”; and

(2) in subsection (e) by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—A grant under this section for expenses incidental to planning and obtaining financing for a project under this section that the Secretary considers to be unrecoverable from the proceeds of a permanent loan made to finance the project shall—

“(A) not be made to an organization established for profit; and

“(B) except as provided in paragraph (2), not exceed—

“(i) 50 percent of those expenses;

“(ii) in the case of a project to be carried out in a county for which a distressed county designation is in effect under section 14526, 80 percent of those expenses; or

“(iii) in the case of a project to be carried out in a county for which an at-risk county designation is in effect under section 14526, 70 percent of those expenses.”.

(d) TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY INITIATIVE.—Section 14504 of title 40, United States Code, is amended by striking subsection (b) and inserting the following:

“(b) LIMITATION ON AVAILABLE AMOUNTS.—Of the cost of any activity eligible for a grant under this section, not more than—

“(1) 50 percent may be provided from amounts appropriated to carry out this section;

“(2) in the case of a project to be carried out in a county for which a distressed county designation is in effect under section 14526, 80 percent may be provided from amounts appropriated to carry out this section; or

“(3) in the case of a project to be carried out in a county for which an at-risk county designation is in effect under section 14526, 70 percent may be provided from amounts appropriated to carry out this section.”.

(e) ENTREPRENEURSHIP INITIATIVE.—Section 14505 of title 40, United States Code, is amended by striking subsection (c) and inserting the following:

“(c) LIMITATION ON AVAILABLE AMOUNTS.—Of the cost of any activity eligible for a grant under this section, not more than—

“(1) 50 percent may be provided from amounts appropriated to carry out this section;

“(2) in the case of a project to be carried out in a county for which a distressed county designation is in effect under section 14526, 80 percent may be provided from amounts appropriated to carry out this section; or

“(3) in the case of a project to be carried out in a county for which an at-risk county designation is in effect under section 14526, 70 percent may be provided from amounts appropriated to carry out this section.”.

(f) REGIONAL SKILLS PARTNERSHIPS.—Section 14506 of title 40, United States Code, is amended by striking subsection (d) and inserting the following:

“(d) LIMITATION ON AVAILABLE AMOUNTS.—Of the cost of any activity eligible for a grant under this section, not more than—