

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HOUSING AND ECONOMIC RECOVERY ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2008

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 3221, the American Housing Rescue and Foreclosure Prevention Act.

This bill is a powerful response to the foreclosure crisis that has spread across the Nation. The recent troubles at Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac have shaken the economy and the bill seeks to stabilize them by extending them limited credit and other financial support from the U.S. Treasury. These institutions are the central nervous system of mortgage liquidity in the United States, and ensuring their continued operations is vital to avoiding even more calamity in our housing markets. To help avert future mortgage crises, the bill creates a new, strong regulator for Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac.

The bill also includes much-needed reforms of the Federal Housing Administration. The changes will help protect lower income borrowers from unscrupulous lending practices that have plagued the subprime market. And the bill provides more funding for housing counseling to help consumers avoid costly mistakes and learn more about the housing market.

Mr. Speaker, this calamity isn't confined to financial institutions; it has also spread through our towns and neighborhoods and affected millions of our neighbors. In California foreclosures have risen to a 20-year high and we are feeling this pain on the central and south coast. That's why I'm glad the American Housing Rescue and Foreclosure Prevention Act provides several key provisions to help homeowners.

For example, this bill permanently increases the conforming loan limits to \$625,000. Median home prices in Ventura, Santa Barbara, and San Luis Obispo Counties are well above the national average, and our families continue struggling to obtain affordable housing. This provision will allow them to obtain financing at lower interest rates, while at the same time providing much needed liquidity to our local housing market. While I believe the limit should have been raised to \$729,750, as was temporarily done earlier this year, this permanent increase to \$625,000 is absolutely crucial for my district. I am hopeful that in the future we will continue our efforts to raise this limit so that it reflects the housing needs of my constituents.

In addition, this bill will stem foreclosures by creating a voluntary mortgage refinancing program that allows families to stay in their homes. Under this program, the Federal Housing Administration will have the authority to refinance up to \$300 billion in imperiled mortgages. For borrowers facing escalating mort-

gage payments or even foreclosure, this provision allows them to refinance their homes into more affordable, fixed-rate mortgages. To protect taxpayers, borrowers will have to agree to certain conditions regarding future sale of the home in order to participate in the program. And to ensure against the risk of taxpayers being saddled with overvalued loans, lenders holding these troubled mortgages will have to write down the loans significantly.

Too many hard working families have found themselves the victim of unscrupulous lenders and watched helplessly as their piece of the American Dream has been snatched away from them. Even more tragically, many homeowners who have had no problem keeping up with their mortgages have seen their home values and quality of life harmed by the appearance of abandoned foreclosed properties in their neighborhoods. That is why the House went against the wishes of the President and included \$3.9 billion for cities and towns to purchase and rehabilitate foreclosed homes. Abandoned properties can hurt entire communities and this money will prove vital in protecting against neighborhood decline during this crisis.

The bill also creates a \$500 million affordable housing trust fund to expand the housing options available for low-income working families and creates a first-time homebuyer tax credit worth up to \$7,500. These two provisions will undoubtedly help young families in my district better afford the costs of buying a new home.

Mr. Speaker, the hardworking families in our country need help. The House passed a very similar bill in May, which the President threatened to veto. Now that the housing and finance situation has continued to deteriorate, he has agreed to work with us in helping the American people. I say it's about time, and I hope that we have his continued cooperation as the many provisions of this legislation are carried out in our hometowns.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

KEEP POLITICS OUT OF THE WHO; LET TAIWAN IN

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2008

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, one of the gravest errors that political leaders can make is to let politics get in the way of fundamental health needs. The clearest example of this that I know of in today's world is the insistence by the People's Republic of China on blocking membership for Taiwan in the World Health Organization.

During the bird flu epidemic, the exclusion of Taiwan from the WHO was an interference with our ability as a global community to provide maximum protection for people against this terrible disease. There is of course a strong moral reason against excluding the mil-

lions of people from Taiwan from the benefits that they would receive from WHO participation. But for those for whom morality and respect for other human beings is not enough reason to overcome an effort to gain political advantage, self-interest should dictate to the PRC support for Taiwanese accession to the World Health Organization.

This is especially the case now that travel between Taiwan and other places, including those under PRC rule has greatly increased. Ideology and sovereignty are no defense against germs and viruses. The World Health Organization does very important things in defense of humanity against illness, but its ability to perform that role is hampered by the exclusion of Taiwan from the World Health Organization and in all of our interests, I believe that our Government should be taking every possible step to ensure that the World Health Organization extends to Taiwan full membership.

HONORING JOANNE KOSEY WHO WAS NAMED PERSON OF THE YEAR FOR THE VILLAGE OF RIV- ERSIDE, ILLINOIS

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2008

Mr. LIPINSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor JoAnne Kosey for her ongoing dedication to the community of Riverside, Illinois. JoAnne has been named Person of the Year by a combined committee made up of members from the Riverside Chamber of Commerce and the Riverside Township Lions club.

As a lifelong resident of Riverside, volunteering has always been a large part of JoAnne's life. Since high school, she has been involved in helping the community through volunteering at her church, school and for the village during her free time. Continuing into motherhood, she was able to balance her responsibilities as a working mother with her ongoing responsibility to the community. JoAnne was elected to two terms on the Riverside-Brookfield High School District 208 School Board and she also worked as a teacher at St. Joseph Grade School and Mater Christi School. Her dedication to education did not keep her from founding the local farmers market, co-chairing the 125th Anniversary Celebration, serving as the commissioner on the Historical Commission and the Economic Development Commission, and serving as a representative to the Des Plaines River Basin Steering Committee. Currently, she serves as the president of the Riverside Educational Foundation, and as a member of the Alumni Achievement Committee.

This award is a well deserved recognition of her dedication to the betterment of the village of Riverside. She is a sterling example of how the entire community benefits from volunteering. JoAnne is a credit to the village of Riverside and to the State of Illinois. She has

• 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.

clearly shown how much of a difference to a community the help of one person can make.

It is my great privilege to recognize JoAnne Kosey for being named Person of the Year for the Village of Riverside, Illinois.

AMERICAN HOUSING RESCUE AND
FORECLOSURE PREVENTION ACT
OF 2008

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2008

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3221, American Housing Rescue and Foreclosure Prevention Act of 2008. This bill is a critical step towards stabilizing our housing market and providing assistance to thousands of Americans facing foreclosure.

The problems that persist in our housing market are serious and affect millions of Americans. Thousands of families are in danger of losing their homes. In my state of North Carolina alone, PEW Charity Trusts and the Center for Responsible Lending estimate there will be 53,254 foreclosures in 2008 and 2009. Not only does foreclosure strike at the heart of these families' financial stability, but the damage spreads across all of our communities. The same study shows that over 330,000 homes in North Carolina will be devalued by the spillover impact of the foreclosures, and North Carolina stands to lose over \$860 million in property values.

However, H.R. 3221 takes strong steps to help families facing foreclosure while also bolstering our housing market and economy. This bill also creates a voluntary FHA initiative that provides mortgage refinancing assistance to allow families to stay in their homes while also strengthening the housing market. This voluntary plan would require lenders to reduce some of the existing mortgage in order to qualify for FHA backing, and would require borrowers to return portions of any future profits on the house to the government in order to prevent foreclosure. It is important to note that under H.R. 3221, only owner-occupied homes facing foreclosure can qualify for this mortgage assistance, and speculators, investors, and second-homeowners are not eligible. This provision represents a compromise by all participating parties and can keep people in their homes and improve surrounding communities.

Provisions in this bill reform and modernize the Federal Housing Administration (FHA) as well as government sponsored entities, GSEs, Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. These changes will strengthen the FHA and make it a bigger force in the market to provide a better alternative to some of the riskier, more exotic loans that have spurred much of this crisis. The recent reports of major losses at Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac are troubling. The GSEs are crucial engines that are necessary to drive the slumping mortgage market that provides housing for millions across the country. H.R. 3221 includes a plan to give the Treasury Department increased authority to loan and buy credit in these GSEs. This backing will boost confidence in the GSEs in the marketplace, and may make further action unnecessary. Along with this expanded credit, H.R. 3221 includes a stronger and more independent regulator to oversee Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac and set their capital standards.

Finally, the American Housing Rescue and Foreclosure Prevention Act of 2008 also includes a tax benefit of up to \$7,500 for first-time homebuyers as well as an additional credit on property taxes for existing homeowners who claim the standard deduction. I am proud of the strong military presence in North Carolina's Second Congressional District, and I applaud the provisions that specifically help returning soldiers stay in their home and the housing counseling and benefit initiatives that target veterans. These measures will help revive the housing market and get our sluggish economy moving in the right direction.

I support the passage of H.R. 3221, American Housing Rescue and Foreclosure Prevention Act of 2008, and I urge my colleagues to join me.

HONORING THE 100TH BIRTHDAY
OF THE FBI

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2008

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the 100th anniversary of the Federal Bureau of Investigation agency, and the brave men and women that work at the FBI Laredo Resident Agency, LRA. The FBI LRA was established in 1943, during the height of World War II, with four Special Agents assigned to the U.S.-Mexico border.

The FBI LRA was staffed throughout the end of World War II and during the Cold War with a particular focus on counter-espionage and sabotage. The focus changed during the 1960s and 1970s to a spate of new crimes involving fugitives and vehicle theft. The mission of the FBI LRA was expanded to public corruption, interstate theft, fraud, and general property crimes during the 1980s and 1990s. Currently, the FBI LRA investigates terrorism, public corruption, white collar crime, kidnappings, gangs, drug cases, and cyber crime.

Also, the FBI LRA has established a Joint Terrorism Task Force, JTTF, and a Public Corruption Task Force in the past few years to respond to potential terrorist threats and drug-trafficking violence in the U.S.-Mexico border region. Throughout the decades, the FBI LRA has evolved to meet the crime prevention needs of each decade in its five-county area of Webb, McMullen, La Salle, Zapata, and Jim Hogg, with over 30 Special Agents and support staff. The FBI LRA also works with Laredo Police Department, Office of the Inspector General—Department of Homeland Security, Department of Public Safety, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Customs and Border Protection, and the United States Border Patrol.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to have had this time to recognize the commitment of our brave men and women at the FBI Laredo Resident Agency and I applaud their efforts to safeguard the lives of my constituents along the U.S.-Mexico border, and to serve their Nation honorably. I thank you for this time.

HONORING THE URBAN LEAGUE'S
40TH ANNIVERSARY IN MADISON

HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2008

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Urban League for a commitment to social and economic justice in the Madison area that now spans four decades. When the National Urban League's affiliate arrived on the Southside in 1968, Madison and other larger cities had few support services for economically disadvantaged people. Most civil rights groups at the time had focused on legal barriers to equality. After the eventual toppling of de jure segregation and discrimination "on the books," our communities were left void of organizations and advocacy networks focused on the unequal economic conditions African Americans and other people of color still faced. Despite the shift in terrain, the Madison Urban League committed to fulfilling the need for economic programs.

Forty years later, the Urban League of Greater Madison has retained and restored the commitment the Madison Urban League made at such a crucial point in the history of our country and our city. Today, the diverse staff at the Urban League of Greater Madison serves thousands of youth, adults, and whole families all over Dane County through a wide range of programs and services. Last year, 2,000 people were reached through various initiatives throughout the county.

To bring to the forefront its renewed commitment to economic empowerment for those overlooked and underserved, the Urban League of Greater Madison is on the verge of breaking ground for a new Center for Economic Development along Park Street in front of the Villager. The center will be more than just another building on the Southside of Madison. It will be an investment in the people there. With the capacity to offer a more comprehensive set of programs and services than it can now, the Urban League of Greater Madison will be able to empower more citizens by relocating to and reclaiming an area that is ripe for revitalization.

An anniversary celebration will be held this evening to recognize the achievements and legacy of the Urban League in Madison and to commence a new chapter in the history of the organization.

For their commitment and service to the people of Dane County, I congratulate both the National Urban League and the Urban League of Greater Madison on this momentous milestone. Thanks to the work they have already done and will continue to do, we can and will achieve better.

TRIBUTE TO CITIZENS AND OFFICIALS
IN HAMILTON, BOONE AND
WEBSTER COUNTIES

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2008

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the collective effort of citizens and officials in Hamilton, Boone and Webster

Counties in rescuing two gentlemen from the flooded Boone River in Iowa.

On Monday, June 9, at 2:45 p.m., Charlie Davis noticed two men floating down the Boone River. He quickly dialed 911 on his cellular phone and got through to the Hamilton County Dispatch Center. He relayed the message but got disconnected because he was in a limited cellular signal area. When Charlie redialed 911, this time he was connected to the Webster County Dispatch Center. As a result, Fire and Rescue Departments in Kramer, Stratford, Stanhope and Webster City, the Boone County Search and Rescue Team, Hamilton County Conservation staff, Hamilton County Chief Deputy Scott McConnell, First Iowa Methodist Medical Center, Mercy AirLife helicopters, pilot Ralph Storm, and others were all on the scene to help.

As the two men floated down the river, rescue crews set up on the Stagecoach Road Bridge waiting for the men to float to them. After waiting for a period of time, Ralph Storm flew his spray plane up and down the river until he spotted them. Once spotted, the Boone Rescue Team; Brian Pontius and Dallas Wingate, were notified to put their boat in the river and then retrieved the brothers from the water at 3:50 p.m.

The diligent team effort of all involved in this rescue effort is a testament to the bravery and compassion of Iowans; willing to do whatever is necessary for a neighbor in need. I commend all those involved for their heroism and cooperation. I am honored to represent each of them in the United States Congress, and wish each of them health and happiness in the future.

THE OSCE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY SESSION IN KAZAKHSTAN

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2008

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I hereby submit, for the RECORD, the text of my report to you on the activities of the U.S. Delegation to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, held in early July in Astana, Kazakhstan. I want to thank you for allowing me to serve as the head of this delegation, and to express my gratitude to our colleague in the other chamber, Senator BEN CARDIN, for serving as the deputy head of the delegation.

I will refrain from repeating here the details of our trip, which can be found in the report, but I would like to make three brief points.

First, I want to praise the work of my 10 colleagues who participated on the delegation, namely Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. MCINTYRE, Ms. SOLIS and Mr. BUTTERFIELD who serve with me on the Helsinki Commission, as well as Mr. WAMP, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ, Ms. WATSON, Ms. BORDALLO and Ms. MOORE. All were active at the meeting, either speaking or introducing resolutions on issues of concern or making amendments to the initiatives of other delegations. Our colleague HILDA SOLIS deserves special praise for seeking and being elected to chair a committee in the OSCE PA this coming year, as does GWEN MOORE for her many initiatives that kept her busy.

Second, I want to stress to all my colleagues how useful engagement in world af-

fairs is, and the degree to which it advances U.S. interests by being out there, ready to discuss, to debate and ultimately to cooperate in making this a better world. In the framework of the Organization for Security and Cooperation for Europe, or the OSCE as it is often known, there is a strong parliamentary dimension that allows us to engage our allies and friends in Europe and Canada, and including the countries of the Caucasus and Central Asia. We discuss everything from human rights and democracy, to energy and the environment, to regional security and terrorism. I invite my colleagues to consider joining me for next year's session of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly in Vilnius, Lithuania.

Third, I want to say a word about Kazakhstan, which served as this year's host. Kazakhstan is a large, resource-rich and strategically located country, and a country that wishes to play a stronger role in the OSCE and in world affairs generally. The U.S. delegation used its presence in Astana to welcome that fact, and to express our willingness to work with Kazakhstan to that end. At the same time, the Assembly meeting provided an opportunity to stress the need for Kazakhstan to make greater progress regarding human rights and political reforms, in line with its OSCE commitments but also with specific promises its leaders made when the OSCE designated Kazakhstan to chair the organization in 2010.

The final declaration of the OSCE PA Annual Session can be found on the Assembly's website or by contacting the Helsinki Commission, which I chair. Again, thank you Madam Speaker, for giving me the opportunity to lead this delegation, which accomplished a great deal.

JULY 21, 2008.

HON. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: I write to thank you for designating me Head of the U.S. Delegation to the Seventeenth Annual Session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE PA), and to report to you on the work of our bipartisan delegation. The delegation participated fully in the activity of the Assembly's Standing Committee, the plenary sessions and the Assembly's three General Committees.

Joining me in leading the delegation was the Helsinki Commission Co-Chairman, Senator Benjamin L. Cardin. Other Helsinki Commissioners who also participated include Representatives Robert B. Aderholt, Mike McIntyre, Hilda L. Solis and G.K. Butterfield. They were joined by Representatives Zach Wamp, Loretta Sanchez, Diane Watson, Madeleine Z. Bordallo and Gwen S. Moore.

This year's Annual Session, hosted by the Parliament of Kazakhstan from June 29 to July 3, brought together 227 parliamentarians from 50 of the 56 OSCE States. The designated theme for this year's gathering was "Transparency in the OSCE."

The Standing Committee, which is the leadership body of the Assembly composed of the Heads of Delegations representing the OSCE participating States and the elected officers, met prior to the Annual Session. Chaired by the OSCE PA President, Swedish parliamentarian Goran Lenmarker, the committee heard reports from the Assembly's Treasurer, German parliamentarian Hans Raidel, and from the Secretary General, R. Spencer Oliver of the United States. The Assembly continues to operate well within its overall budget guidelines and to

receive positive assessments from auditors on financial management. The Standing Committee unanimously approved the proposed budget for 2008/2009, which provides for increased expenditures of just under seven percent to cover inflation and a small increase in secretariat staff.

The Standing Committee also heard reports from the Special Representatives of the OSCE PA on a variety of issues of concern. I presented a summary of my activities as Special Representative on Mediterranean Affairs, which included a recent Commission hearing, a briefing on the plight of Iraqi refugees and my participation on the congressional visit you led to Israel in May, marking that country's 60th anniversary. Similarly, Rep. Solis spoke in her capacity as the Special Representative on Migration, highlighting recent Commission hearings on women migrants and on regional impacts and opportunities for migrants. Rep. Christopher H. Smith, the Special Representative on Human Trafficking Issues, was unable to be present in Astana and asked that his written report be circulated to delegations. It highlights visits to Bosnia, Romania, Russia and Ukraine as well as a recent Commission hearing on combating the sexual exploitation of children. Senator Cardin attended the Standing Committee in his capacity as an OSCE PA Vice President.

In my capacity as Head of the U.S. Delegation at the Standing Committee, I welcomed the decision of the Assembly to hold an event in Washington on the upcoming U.S. elections immediately following a September meeting of the OSCE PA in Toronto, Canada.

With the Standing Committee's business concluded, Assembly President Lenmarker opened the Inaugural Plenary Session, noting the importance of holding its first Annual Session in the Central Asian region. The delegates were, in turn, welcomed by Kazakhstan's President, Nursultan Nazarbayev, who noted the importance of parliamentary diplomacy in democracy-building and further humanitarian and legal norms. The two Speakers of the Kazakhstan Parliament, Kassym-Jomart Tokayev of the Senate and Aslan Mussin of the Mazhilis, also addressed the delegates. OSCE Secretary General Marc Perrin de Brichambaut of France reviewed the work of the OSCE and took questions from the parliamentarians.

Members of the U.S. Delegation actively participated in the work of the Assembly's three General Committees: Political Affairs and Security; Economic Affairs, Science, Technology and Environment; and Democracy, Human Rights and Humanitarian Questions. Each committee considered a draft resolution as well as 18 supplementary items circulated by delegates prior to the opening of the Astana meeting. One additional supplementary item was considered during the opening plenary.

Five of the supplementary items were resolutions proposed by members of the U.S. Delegation: Encouraging Transparency in the Extractive Industries, by Senator Cardin; Recognizing the Economic, Civic and Social Contributions of Migrants, by Rep. Solis; Strengthening Efforts to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings and Addressing the Special Needs of Child Victims by Rep. Smith (and, in his absence, Rep. Wamp); Urging Adoption of the Paris Club Commitment Regarding Vulture Funds by Rep. Moore; and my own resolution Expressing Concern Over the Security Environment in Georgia. All were adopted with few if any amendments.

Parliamentarians from Russia, I should note, very strongly opposed my resolution on Georgia, as did some European parliamentarians, but I remained firm, pointing to the

moderately worded text and noting past willingness of U.S. delegates to consider and support as warranted resolutions critical of U.S. policies. Recent Russian action in the Caucasus was of sufficient concern to a majority of the delegates present that the resolution was ultimately adopted.

U.S. delegates were also instrumental in garnering support for Supplementary items by others, including a Canadian resolution on Afghanistan, a Ukrainian resolution on Holodomor (Ukrainian Famine-Genocide), and a Belgian resolution on Combating the Sexual Exploitation of Children. In addition, the U.S. Delegation introduced 20 amendments to various resolutions, covering issues from pollinator decline to religious freedom. Virtually all of them were adopted, and by dividing our work almost every member of the U.S. Delegation managed at least one resolution or amendment in committee. I would like to particularly note the exceptionally strong effort made by Rep. Moore, who had her own supplementary item and numerous amendments, including those calling for international action to reduce maternal mortality which were agreed to be a basis for a resolution at next year's Annual Session.

Belgian Senator Anne-Marie Lizin presented a report in committee on her latest activity as the OSCE PA Special Representative on Guantanamo Bay. Rep. Butterfield responded for the U.S. Delegation, expressing appreciation for her work and describing the latest Supreme Court, congressional and non-governmental efforts dealing with this stain on the U.S. human rights record.

Rep. Solis served as Acting Chair of the General Committee on Democracy, Human Rights and Humanitarian Questions during the Annual Session, and she was subsequently elected to be the committee chair for the coming year. Rep. Solis is the first female Member of the U.S. Congress to hold a leadership position in the OSCE PA.

The OSCE PA Special Representative on Gender Issues, Tone Tingsgaard (Sweden), hosted a working lunch to discuss gender issues during which she presented her thoughts for future action in the OSCE PA on these issues. The U.S. Delegation was well represented at this event.

The final Astana Declaration, attached, was adopted by the participants at the Assembly's closing plenary and reflects the initiatives and input of the U.S. Delegation. In line with the theme for the session, it calls for greater transparency in numerous fields, such as political or historical archives and the use of private military contractors, as well as within the OSCE itself. The declaration also calls for concrete steps to address global climate change, improve waste management and prepare for potential nuclear accidents and natural disasters.

Mr. Joao Soares, a parliamentarian from Portugal, was elected to serve as OSCE PA President for the coming year. Soares brings to the office extensive experience, having been a member of the Portuguese parliament from 1987 to 1990 and again since 2002, formerly a member of the European Parliament and of the Bureau of the European Parliament, and the mayor of Lisbon from 1995 to 2002. The delegates at the Annual Session also re-elected Pia Christmas-Moeller of Denmark, as a Vice president of the Assembly along with three new Vice Presidents: Kassym-Jomart Tokayev of Kazakhstan; Wolfgang Grossruck of Austria and Oleh Bilorus of Ukraine.

The OSCE Chair-in-Office, Finnish Foreign Minister Alexander Stubb, addressed the delegates during the closing plenary. He urged movement from managing unresolved conflicts in Georgia and Moldova to solving them. He also asked for continued support

for OSCE border-management training in Central Asia as well as for bolstering cooperative security in the Euro-Atlantic region.

While the Delegation's work focused heavily on OSCE PA matters, the venue presented an opportunity to advance U.S. interests and express U.S. concerns with our Kazakhstani hosts. The U.S. Delegation had meetings with President Nursultan Nazarbayev, Prime Minister Karim Masimov and Secretary of State Kanat Saudabayev as well as with prominent Kazakh human rights activists and opposition leaders. Members of the delegation also visited Beit Rachel, the largest synagogue in Central Asia, and met with the chief rabbi and the deputy imam from the Islamic community to discuss inter-faith tolerance and protection of religious freedom in Kazakhstan, especially for religious minorities.

The U.S. delegation held a press conference in Astana, during which we conveyed our willingness to work with Kazakhstan throughout its OSCE chairmanship in 2010. We strongly urged, however, greater progress regarding human rights and political reforms in keeping with the commitments Kazakhstan made at the Madrid OSCE Ministerial in November 2007, where the decision on the 2010 chairmanship was made.

Senator Cardin also used the visit to Kazakhstan as an opportunity to visit nearby Pakistan. He was joined by fellow Commissioners McIntyre and Aderholt as well as Representatives Wamp and Sanchez. The delegation met with President Pervez Musharraf, Prime Minister Syed Yousaf Raza Gillani, and U.S. Ambassador to Pakistan Anne W. Patterson. During the meetings, the delegation focused on U.S.-Pakistan relations, regional security, as well as human rights and democratic development.

I hope this summary of the U.S. Delegation's activity is useful to you, and let me thank you and your staff again for making this trip possible. The Eighteenth Annual Session of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly will be held early next July in Vilnius, Lithuania, and I hope we can count on your continued support in ensuring that U.S. interests abroad are advanced through active congressional participation in the OSCE PA.

Sincerely,

ALCEE L. HASTINGS,
Chairman.

ON THE INTRODUCTION OF THE
WHALING CONVENTION AMENDMENTS ACT OF 2008

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2008

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing, along with Alaska's Senators, legislation to authorize the Secretary of Commerce to set the bowhead whale quota for the Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission in the event the International Whaling Commission does not set an Aboriginal Subsistence Whaling quota for the bowhead whale.

Madam Speaker, the International Whaling Commission (IWC) is at a crossroads. Many observers of the IWC have raised concerns that the Commission will either fall apart in the next few years or it will turn into a whale protection organization that will allow no take of whales—even for subsistence purposes. In either case, without an alternative mechanism for authorizing the Alaska subsistence harvest of bowhead whales, the Alaska Eskimo Whal-

ing Commission could find itself with no quota authorized by the IWC. In the event that this were to occur and the Alaskan hunters tried to fulfill the communities needs for whale meat, they could find themselves in violation of the Whaling Convention Act of 1949 for attempting to feed their people.

And even if the IWC remains a viable management entity, the Aboriginal Subsistence Whaling quotas have been rejected by the IWC several times in recent memory due to political fights between the whaling nations and those nations that are opposed to any whaling. These fights have used the Alaskan Natives as political footballs and left the Native people of Alaska without a quota of whales. This happened most recently in 2002 when the IWC rejected the Alaskan quota for no other reason than politics. And at this year's IWC meeting, the Greenland Natives submitted a request to substitute humpback whales for the current quota of fin whales—something the IWC's Scientific Committee had already considered and determined that the harvest of 10 humpback whales would not endanger the stock. Despite the Scientific Committee's determination, the IWC did not have enough votes to allow this quota. In both of these cases, the IWC did not act on Native quotas despite recommendations or determinations by the Scientific Committee that the quota was sustainable and would not endanger the stocks. In both cases, the Aboriginal Subsistence Whaling quotas were rejected because of politics and not science.

Madam Speaker, it is clear that in the fight to outlaw scientific whaling and commercial whaling, many IWC member countries are being pressured by animal rights groups to stop all whaling. These animal rights groups do not understand the subsistence needs of Native people—or they don't care.

Alaskan Native whalers have already been held hostage during these fights over scientific and commercial whaling and that is not right.

Today, the Alaska delegation is introducing legislation to regulate domestic Native subsistence whaling under domestic law in the event that the IWC cannot authorize a quota for the Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission's bowhead whale harvest.

The legislation will allow the Secretary of Commerce to set the annual quota for the bowhead harvest in the event that the IWC is unable to set the quota. Under the legislation, the Secretary must set the quota based on science and the needs of the Alaska Natives.

The Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission's harvest has always been sustainable, based on science, based on harvest levels approved by the IWC's Scientific Committee, and set at a level that has allowed the bowhead whale population to increase to the point where some scientists are now calling for the downlisting of the stock.

The Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission has continually had to justify their harvest—both their cultural need and their nutritional need. They have done this and have also responded to every hurdle that anti-whaling nations have put in their way. In addition, they probably have provided more scientific information to the IWC on the bowhead whale than the IWC has on any other whale species. All of this was done to justify a harvest that has gone on for centuries.

The Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission has continued to respect the IWC, continued

to respect the scientific recommendations of the Secretary of Commerce and the IWC's Scientific Committee, and continued to respect the bowhead whale. But they cannot be used as political footballs by the IWC and they cannot have their need for the bowhead whale delayed if the IWC fails to renew their quota in a timely manner.

This legislation will ensure that the AEWC will have their cultural and nutritional needs met in the event that the IWC fails to act to renew their quota or if the IWC decided to hold their quota hostage for political reasons, but does so in a manner that is based on science and the needs of the Alaskan Native people as determined by the Secretary of Commerce.

RECOGNIZING MRS. ELYSE
JOHNSTON

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2008

Mr. HALL of Texas. Madam Speaker, next Wednesday, July 30th, will mark the 100th birthday of Mrs. Elyse Johnston of DeKalb, Texas. I am honored to join Congressman KEVIN BRADY in recognizing her today and sharing a small part of her life's story.

Born in Quitman, Texas, to Samuel Jackson Benton and Margaret Florence Jones Benton, Mrs. Johnston has witnessed a tremendous amount of change in her 100 years. When she entered the world, the Wright Brothers had only recently made history in North Carolina, and Henry Ford was still a few months away from introducing the world to the Model T. One hundred years later, the world is a much different place. Most of my colleagues will shortly get on a plane holding hundreds of people to get home for the weekend and will be delivered to the airport through considerable traffic congestion by cars that can hardly be compared to Ford's cutting edge invention.

Through her early years of education in Quitman, the one thing that made Elyse happy was music and playing the piano. This would become her lifelong passion. Starting with the First Baptist Church, Elyse played in too many revivals to count. Her reputation as a pianist spread and soon she was being asked to play for all the Methodist church revivals as well. Because she always loved to dance, she claimed to be a "Baptist with Methodist feet." She was elected a Burleson Beauty while she completed her college studies at Burleson College and prepared to enter the working world as a teacher.

After 2 years of teaching in Pleasant Ridge, she scraped together enough money to purchase a Ford Roadster and move back to Quitman. It was here that she would meet her future husband, Bentley Johnston, and where they would have their first date on Easter Sunday. It was clear to Bentley that he had met his bride to be, and he was so distracted that he skipped on his responsibility of watching the holiday dinner and the family ended up eating a burned roast for Easter.

After getting married, they moved to DeKalb and began farming cotton and soy beans and raising cattle. Times were hard during the Depression, but they managed in part due to the large garden and fruit trees that Elyse was

able to maintain and use to help make ends meet by supplying groceries to the area families. The family sacrificed to keep the farm going through the Depression and 5 straight years of crop failure; that old Roadster Elyse saved to buy lost its engine to keep a tractor in the fields. After several years on the farm, the family moved back to town in 1951.

Her love of the piano has never ended and as a church pianist, she has played in revivals and choirs for 42 years and made a name for herself through her showy offertories, leading one pastor to encourage her with, "Well, swing it sister!"

Elyse helped raise two daughters who still live in DeKalb. She celebrated her 50th wedding anniversary with Bentley shortly before he passed away in 1980. Her "Methodist Feet" haven't left her yet, and she still enjoys community shows, working in the garden and playing cards. "Nanny" to her six grandchildren and five great grandchildren, she is still very much independent and shows no signs of slowing down.

Madam Speaker, Congressman BRADY and I ask those in the chamber and our colleagues to join us in wishing a very happy 100th birthday to Mrs. Elyse Johnston.

TURKISH MILITARY OCCUPATION
IN CYPRUS

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2008

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Speaker. I rise today to recognize the unconscionable 34 years of Turkish military occupation in Cyprus.

On July 20, 1974, Turkey invaded Cyprus, in blatant violation of international law. Nearly 200,000 Greek Cypriots were forcibly expelled from their homes and approximately 5,000 Cypriots were killed. Today, Turkey has 43,000 troops occupying northern Cyprus, and the European Court of Human Rights has condemned Turkey in multiple decisions for violating the basic rights of Cypriots such as the right to life, the right to liberty and security, the right to respect for family life, the right to the protection of property and the prohibition of inhuman or degrading treatment.

Cypriots want a unified island and continue to demonstrate their commitment toward a genuine reunification of Cyprus. However, no solution can realistically happen until the Turkish troops are withdrawn.

I strongly urge Turkey to show a commitment to international law and basic human rights by ending its military occupation and withdrawing its 43,000 troops so that Cyprus can begin to heal these wounds, peacefully integrate its people and economy and grow together as a nation.

INTRODUCTION OF THE "ANIMAL
CRUELTY STATISTICS ACT OF
2008"

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2008

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to introduce the bipartisan "Animal

Cruelty Statistics Act of 2008" along with Representatives GALLEGLY, NADLER, VAN HOLLEN and MORAN. This bill will direct the Attorney General to make changes to existing crime data bases so that data on animal cruelty crimes will be collected and made publicly available. I thank the bipartisan coalition of Representatives who have joined me in introducing this important legislation.

Animal cruelty crimes exist on the books in the vast majority of states and in the federal system. Yet there is no established system to meaningfully collect data on these crimes. The collection of data is important in order to assess the effectiveness of the animal cruelty laws, identify trends and problem areas, and allocate resources efficiently. Social Service studies also have shown a relationship between animal cruelty crimes and family violence. Many domestic violence organizations support this bill because they believe data collection on animal cruelty crimes will also help address the critical problem of domestic violence. This bill will serve these important purposes.

Again, I thank the bipartisan coalition of Representatives who have joined me in introducing this important legislation.

HOUSING AND ECONOMIC
RECOVERY ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2008

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the American Housing Rescue and Foreclosure Prevention Act of 2008 (H.R. 3221). This measure will provide a helping hand for those reeling from the mortgage crisis. Just as importantly, it will restore confidence in our largest mortgage backers, Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac.

We have all seen how unscrupulous lending practices and skyrocketing interest rates associated with nontraditional mortgages have devastated families nationwide. Sadly, these families are often left with few options other than to see their homes foreclosed upon. In Rhode Island, foreclosures have increased by 20 percent in the last six months, and it is our most vulnerable communities that have been disproportionately affected.

Fortunately, today we are considering a package that will stem the tide of foreclosures by authorizing \$300 billion in loan guarantees to establish HOPE for homeowners, a voluntary program administered by the Federal Housing Administration (FHA) to help at-risk borrowers refinance into viable mortgages. I want to emphasize that this assistance is not a bail-out. On the contrary, the program will require lenders and mortgage investors to take significant losses in the form of a reduced loan principal, and borrowers must agree to share any profit from the resale of a refinanced home with the federal government. Furthermore, only primary residences will be eligible, not investment properties, vacation homes or speculators' purchases.

In addition, this package will provide \$3.92 billion in Community Development Block Grants for local governments to purchase abandoned and foreclosed properties—a provision that is fully paid for. I am glad the President has finally lifted his misguided veto threat

over this provision and will not stand in the way of local governments attempting to reduce the number of vacant properties in their communities and invest in affordable housing.

This legislation will also revitalize the FHA, which was established to provide a reliable source of affordable mortgage loans for first-time homebuyers. The lack of affordable housing has long plagued many communities throughout America, and the problem is particularly acute in high cost areas like Rhode Island. Through our efforts today, the FHA will be able to better assist America's working families by offering loans at affordable rates with fair terms. This legislation will also allow the FHA to raise loan limits in high cost areas and to offer zero- and low-down-payment loan options for borrowers that can afford mortgage payments, but lack the resources required for a down payment. I also strongly support this bill's creation of a National Affordable Housing Trust Fund, which will construct, rehabilitate and preserve 1.5 million housing units over the next ten years.

Above all, this measure will help safeguard the interests of the American taxpayer and ensure that our nation's largest mortgage-backers, Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, remain strong. I'm pleased that H.R. 3221 will create a new independent agency—the Federal Housing Finance Agency, FHFA—to regulate Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac and the Federal Home Loan Bank System. Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac currently back nearly half of our nation's mortgages, and the FHFA will ensure both entities remain financially strong. The creation of a strong independent regulator for our Government Sponsored Enterprises is long overdue. Four years ago I shared Alan Greenspan's concerns that the GSE's were involved in risky investments, saying on the House Floor: "It appears as though the increased risk that GSE's have been taking on is not related to their primary operation of purchasing affordable housing loans in the secondary market. Rather, much of their risk comes from derivative investments in an effort to maximize profits for shareholders. As we learned from Enron, complex derivative schemes may boost profits in the short-term, but the long-run risks can be too difficult to manage." While I regret that it took far too long for this problem to be taken seriously, I believe we are taking the proper action today.

This measure will also provide temporary, emergency authority through the end of 2009 to the Treasury Department to purchase stock in Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac to provide stability to our financial markets, prevent disruptions in the availability of mortgage finances, and protect taxpayers. While many, including the Congressional Budget Office, CBO, predict this authority may never be used, it is necessary to ensure a last-resort federal guarantee for our largest mortgage backers.

The American Rescue and Foreclosure Prevention Act also includes several key tax incentives designed to spur home buying and put money back in the hands of home owners. This legislation creates a \$7,500 credit for first-time homebuyers, designed to serve as an interest-free loan to be paid back after fifteen years. H.R. 3221 will also provide taxpayers that claim the standard deduction with an additional property tax deduction of up to \$500 for single filers and \$1,000 for joint filers.

Finally, the bill before us will combat unscrupulous lending practices and increase trans-

parency by establishing a nationwide loan originator licensing and registration system that will set minimum standards for licensing and substantially improve oversight of mortgage brokers and loan officers. Additionally, it improves disclosure requirements to help ensure that borrowers fully understand their mortgage loan terms.

This legislation is an important and common-sense response to the housing crisis and will help stabilize families and our economy. I thank Chairman FRANK for his leadership, and I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2008

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and missed rollcall votes 520 and 521. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 520 and "yea" on rollcall No. 521.

H.R. 6545, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, rollcall No. 520—"Yea."

H.R. 6545, To Table the Motion to Reconsider, rollcall No. 521—"Yea."

TRIBUTE TO BRUCE HERTZKE

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2008

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the retirement of Winnebago Industries Chief Executive Bruce Hertzke, and to express my appreciation for his dedication and commitment to his company and employees.

For over 36 years, Bruce dedicated his time and talents to Winnebago Industries. A native of Lakota, Iowa, Bruce graduated with an associate degree in accounting and business management from Iowa Lakes Community College. He began as a line worker at Winnebago in 1971, and for the past 10 years, he served as the chief executive and chairman of one of the industry's largest and most successful RV manufacturing firms. With his many years of service to the company, Bruce provided a wealth of knowledge and experience to the RV industry. Bruce leaves Winnebago Industries, which celebrated its 50th Anniversary on February 12, 2008, in strong financial standing, providing a source of economic strength and security for the surrounding community.

I know that my colleagues in the United States Congress join me in commending Bruce Hertzke for his service to Winnebago Industries and the employees he served. I consider it an honor to represent Bruce in Congress, and I wish him and his wife, Jan, a long, happy and healthy retirement.

HONORING SERGEANT BRIAN STEVEN LEON GUERRERO, U.S. ARMY

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2008

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of one of Guam's fallen sons, Army National Guardsman Sergeant Brian Steven Leon Guerrero. SGT Leon Guerrero, 34, from the village of Tamuning, was assigned to the 3rd Platoon, Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 294th Infantry. He was killed in the line of duty on July 10, 2008 during a deployment in Babo Kehyl, Afghanistan when his vehicle hit an improvised explosive device. SGT Leon Guerrero's passing marks the 27 death of a son from Micronesia fighting the War on Terror.

SGT Leon Guerrero was born on October 12, 1973. He was known as a committed family man, heading a household of 4 children and 2 step children. Fellow citizen soldiers will remember SGT Guerrero for his undying commitment to his country and to Guam. SGT Leon Guerrero was a proud member of the United States Army and the Guam National Guard. His dedication to our nation and our way of life was embodied by his desire to continue serving in the Army after 2 tours in the Horn of Africa. SGT Leon Guerrero was deployed to Afghanistan at the time of this passing. In the true spirit of a citizen soldier, SGT Leon Guerrero answered the repeated call to duty. During SGT Leon Guerrero's time serving our Nation, his fellow citizen soldiers recall his love of music and his expertise in playing the ukulele. He loved his family and friends and he will be remembered as a proud father and husband, and a dedicated soldier.

I offer my deepest sympathies and prayers to his wife, Emely, their children Karl, Brian, Karian, and Jude, his stepchildren Julian and Maely, his parents, Mr. Pedro DLG, Ms. Rosita Pangelinan and Mr. Gil Lujan, and to the many family and friends that have joined together to honor his life.

God bless the Leon Guerrero Family, God bless our uniformed men and women protecting our freedoms, God bless Guam, and God bless our country, the United States of America.

INTRODUCTION OF THE JAMES ZADROGA 9/11 HEALTH AND COMPENSATION ACT

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2008

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, today, I joined Rep. CAROLYN MALONEY and my colleagues from New York in introducing a revised version of the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act.

Working closely with the AFL-CIO, the City of New York, the local community, the House Leadership, and the Committees of jurisdiction we have revised the bill to reduce the overall cost of the bill while ensuring that it will provide a comprehensive, long term solution to problems faced by first responders, area residents, workers, students, and others in the

aftermath of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center.

I am pleased that we are making progress on this legislation, and I appreciate all of the work that has gone into the bill by all of the parties involved. I particularly want to thank Speaker PELOSI and the Democratic Leadership for helping to coordinate and focus our efforts. I am aware that more work remains to further refine the bill, but we are well on our way to finalizing an excellent piece of legislation that will help thousands of victims of the September 11 attacks. I am hopeful that Congress will be able to act swiftly to move this bill by the seventh anniversary of the attacks, and that the bill will be signed into law before the end of this Congress.

HONORING BENJAMIN DYE

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2008

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and express my pride in Mr. Benjamin Dye for winning first place in the 2008 Holocaust Remembrance Project essay contest with his essay, "Choices." I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Mr. Dye success in his future endeavors.

Mr. Dye resides in Modesto, California and is a recent graduate from The Hotchkiss School in Lakeville, Connecticut. As a high school student, Mr. Dye was an involved and passionate young man who excelled in many activities, but above all, committed himself to academic excellence.

In the award-winning essay, "Choices," which is printed below, Mr. Dye discusses the Holocaust and its effect on three individuals, author and Holocaust victim Elie Wiesel, newspaper editor-cum-rescue organizer Varian Fry, and a young Jewish man who would become the (former) United States Ambassador to Denmark, John Loeb.

This fall, Mr. Dye will begin a new chapter of his academic career as an honors student at University of California at Irvine. He will study political science and economics, in preparation for his goal of one day continuing his education in law school.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Benjamin Dye for winning the Holocaust Remembrance Project essay contest. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Mr. Dye continued success.

CHOICES

(By Benjamin Dye)

One Saturday night in fall 1944, a crowd of boys packed into the auditorium of their boarding school for the weekly movie, preceded as usual by a newsreel. But this week's footage was not just another montage of Allied victories; tonight, it contained some of the first publicly-released photos of the Holocaust, taken by Soviet soldiers liberating the Majdanek concentration camp. Tonight, the boys saw heaps of skulls, rows of genocidal crematoria, and processions of emaciated survivors. How did they react? John L. Loeb, Jr., one of the few Jewish students present, remembers with painful clarity: "[i]t's hard to believe, but when they first showed those terrible pictures, the entire school cheered." (Kolowrat, 265)

As these teenagers cheered, another teenager thousands of miles away lived in con-

stant terror on the brink of starvation. In fall 1944, sixteen-year-old Elie Wiesel struggled to maintain his humanity in the Auschwitz III-Monowitz labor camp as he subsisted on meager rations, endured arbitrary beatings, and watched his father's health deteriorate. (Wiesel, 66-78) After the Red Army took Warsaw in January 1945 and its resumed race to Berlin, the S.S. force marched Wiesel, his father, and 66,000 other prisoners to Gliwice (Gleiwitz), Poland, where they were herded into cattle cars and taken to the Buchenwald camp. (Wiesel 82) Shortly thereafter, Wiesel's father—whom Elie believed was his last living relative—died. When liberation finally came a few months later, Wiesel found himself utterly alone, his family, his possessions, and his faith incinerated by Nazi hatred. He had one thing left: a choice. How would he respond to his horrific experience? Would he despair and bury his ordeal as society tried to forget its nightmarish past? Or would he hope, remember, and speak out?

Wiesel chose the latter. As he recalls in the preface to the new translation of *Night*, in postwar Europe, "[t]he subject [of the Holocaust] was considered morbid and interested no one"; even in the Jewish community, "... there were always people ready to complain that it was senseless to 'burden our children with the tragedies of the Jewish past.'" (Wiesel xiv.) Nonetheless, he chose to bear witness, concluding that "... having lived through this experience, one could not keep silent no matter how difficult, if not impossible, it was to speak" (Wiesel x.) And he spoke of his ordeal without succumbing to despair; as he noted 41 years later in his Nobel lecture, "Because I remember, I despair. Because I remember, I have the duty to reject despair." (Wiesel (2)) The consequences of his choice have been far-reaching; by calling attention to the Holocaust Wiesel has likely done more than any other individual to promise the children of tomorrow that "his past [will not] become their future." (Wiesel xv.)

Five years before Wiesel's liberation, Varian Fry arrived in France, 14 years after leaving the aforementioned school. He had been sent to Marseille by the Emergency Rescue Committee (ERC), a private American organization established in 1940 to secretly evacuate 200 intellectuals sought by the Nazis. Immediately upon arrival, Fry realized that there were many more than 200 people in imminent danger. Like Wiesel, Fry had a choice to make.

As Elie Wiesel rejected despair, Varian Fry rejected indifference. His original mission called for three weeks in Marseille, but he chose to stay as long as possible saving as many as possible. With only \$3000 from the ERC and no clandestine operations training, Fry set up a latter-day underground railroad, helping Jews and dissidents intellectuals escape into Spain, on to Portugal, and by boat to the U.S. By the time the Gestapo expelled Fry in September, 1941, his choice had saved nearly 4000 lives.

Wiesel's and Fry's stories show that we must remember the Holocaust above all for its lessons about human nature. While we may know that the Nazis killed 6 million Jews, accounts like Wiesel's *Night* personalize and sharpen this statistic. And though putting individual faces on the victims helps us emphasize with victims of current crimes against humanity, it is perhaps even more important to humanize the perpetrators. It is easy to think of the Holocaust as a uniquely terrible deed committed by "them"—ruthless incarnations of evil, with sinister black uniforms and totenköpfe on their caps—but if we are to avert the Holocausts of the future, we must remember that the men responsible for the slaughter were once as human as their victims. If men born

into one of the world's most "civilized" societies could become genocidal automatons, so could we.

However, the Holocaust also reminds us of humanity's tremendous capacity for good. Varian Fry was a normal newspaper editor before the war, but confronted with evil, he became a hero, rising above the anti-Semitic conditioning of his high school years and risking his life to act "beyond himself." (Isenberg, ix.) And Elie Wiesel's commitment to raising awareness of humanitarian issues—a commitment forged as a direct result of the Holocaust—is equally heroic, although it is impossible to calculate how many lives he has saved. While the Holocaust is generally seen as a grim reflection on humanity, we must remember it also as a reminder that ordinary individuals can choose to rise above any evil.

Examining Wiesel's and Fry's experiences and choices, we see that we too have a profound choice to make. We can choose the path of least resistance, or we can follow Elie Wiesel in rejecting despair and Varian Fry in rejecting indifference, and in doing so empower ourselves to combat prejudice, discrimination, and violence today's world. In order to make a difference, however, not everyone needs to be a Wiesel or Fry. In the long term, the subtle choices we make to fight indifference and despair within our immediate communities are crucial in ensuring that "never again" is not an empty promise. We must, of course, stand up against modern day atrocities like the genocide in Darfur, but for deeper change, we must work in our everyday lives, doing what is right before crisis strikes.

A final example demonstrates the power of this focus. John Loeb, after witnessing the callous anti-Semitism that night in 1944 at his and Varian Fry's alma mater, ultimately became the United States Ambassador to Denmark and a delegate to the United Nations. Despite his high profile work for peace, Loeb never forgot the seeds of hatred and indifference sowed that Saturday in the auditorium. So in 1993, he subtly helped uproot them by establishing the John L. Loeb Jr. prize, awarded annually at his former school for the best essay on tolerance and mutual respect. We will never know how much bigotry Loeb's action prevented, but quiet aggregation of such contributions brings about immense change to places like the Nazi-applauding prep school—change evident to me as a current student at this institution. I recently participated in a school sponsored trip to Poland, touring the camp where Wiesel thought his life would end and seeing ruins of the crematoria that had turned his mother and sisters to ash. A few weeks later, I saw Wiesel in person as he addressed the student body that 60 years earlier would have cheered his death, but which now empathized deeply with his suffering.

HONORING SERGEANT SAMSON AUGUSTO MORA, U.S. ARMY

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2008

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the bravery and service of Army National Guardsman Sergeant Samson Augusto Mora. SGT Mora, from the village of Dededo, was assigned to the 3rd Platoon, Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 294th Infantry, deployed to Babo Kehyl, Afghanistan. He was killed in action when his vehicle hit an improvised explosive device on July 10, 2008. He

was twenty-eight. SGT Mora is Micronesia's twenty-eighth loss during the War on Terror.

SGT Mora, born August 13, 1979 to Abraham and Angelina Mora, lived a life of honor and respect. Known to his friends and family as "Sam" or "Champion," SGT Mora is remembered for his devotion to those he loved, and for his dedication and commitment to his fellow soldiers. He also demonstrated exemplary bravery during a recent conflict in Afghanistan. During an ambush SGT Mora risked his life alongside others in the Company to bring an injured soldier back to safety while under enemy fire.

I join our community in mourning the loss of SGT Mora, and I offer my condolences to his parents, Abraham and Angelina; his brothers, Army Reserve Major Michael Mora and Air Force Reserve Master Sergeant Abraham Mora, Jr.; his sister, Katherine M. Aquino, and his fiancée Rosanna Castro. SGT Mora served with honor and distinction, like the many sons of Guam who served before him and gave their lives in defense of our country. He lost his life answering the call to duty of our nation, fighting in Afghanistan in order to help make the United States more secure. For his sacrifice on our behalf, we will always be eternally grateful.

God bless the family and friends of Sergeant Samson Augusto Mora, God bless our uniformed men and women protecting our freedoms, God bless Guam, and God bless our country, the United States of America.

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR
NATIONAL GEAR UP DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. TOM COLE

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2008

Mr. COLE of Oklahoma. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak on behalf of the resolution honoring The Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Program. I would also like to thank Mr. FATTAH for introducing this bill. He has been a wonderful advocate for the GEAR UP program.

Madam Speaker, The Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Program (GEAR UP) is designed to increase the number of low income students who are prepared to enter and succeed in postsecondary education. Over the last ten years, this program has met with unprecedented success. As we all know, postsecondary education contributes to the well-being of individuals and their communities and helps to build a more vibrant, open-minded and stronger society. The GEAR UP staff members work with students to help them create personal accounts that allow them to explore colleges and careers, discover ways to plan and pay for college, and apply for colleges online. Even more significantly, students participating in GEAR UP programs have a high school graduation rate almost ten points above other low-income students who are not in the program.

While the GEAR UP program across the nation has met with tremendous achievement, I would like to draw attention to my home state of Oklahoma which has been one of the front runners in GEAR UP programs. Oklahoma began this program in 1999, making it one of

the oldest GEAR UP Programs in the nation. Since Oklahoma has one of the strongest GEAR UP programs in the country, other educators from other states regularly visit Oklahoma to learn about new and innovative ways to implement the program. So far, the efforts have served over 31,000 students throughout the state.

Madam Speaker, as a result of GEAR UP, participation in Postsecondary Education has increased 10 percent over the last 10 years overall in the state, and there has been a dramatic increase in participation by minority students. The number of African American students going to college in Oklahoma is up 41 percent, Native Americans attending college has increased 55 percent, and the number of Hispanic students attending college is up 80 percent! These figures are just amazing.

Also, fewer students in Oklahoma are taking remedial courses during their first year of college. In fact, Oklahoma has one of the lowest remediation rates in the nation. The GEAR UP Program has also significantly increased the number of students enrolled in Oklahoma's Promise scholarship program which targeted at low income students. Participation in the scholarship program is up 50 percent since 2005.

In addition to the overall state grant, Oklahoma's universities and local school districts have 8 GEAR UP partnership grants. These partnership grants serve local school districts and have over \$10 million in funding annually from a combination of state and federal dollars that will go towards Oklahoma's educational system.

Madam Speaker, one of these partnership schools, Eastern Oklahoma State College, hosted a summer camp for students enrolled in the program. The camp is designed to establish a positive direction for the students' future and encourage them to make positive decisions. Recently, our office received literally hundreds of letters from Middle and early High School students detailing their experiences with the GEAR UP summer camp. These low-income youth all detailed that they fully enjoyed the programs that GEAR UP guided and that some are now considering college as an option. The vast majority of these letters said that the students would participate again and hope to continue GEAR UP through high school.

The results of GEAR UP are clear. This program has helped thousands of students reach college over the last ten years, and I urge my colleagues to vote for this resolution commending its marked success.

MOTION TO INSTRUCT CONFEREES
ON S. 2062, NATIVE AMERICAN
HOUSING ASSISTANCE AND
SELF-DETERMINATION REAU-
THORIZATION ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. TOM COLE

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 17, 2008

Mr. COLE of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, while I appreciate the remarks of my colleague from Massachusetts, as the only Native American currently serving in this Congress, I would like to clarify a few of his assertions.

As you know, the Federal Government's relationship with Indian tribes over the first couple hundred years of our history was tragic. Continually, it was the policy of the Federal Government to not only exclude Indians from American society through broken treaties, but also to completely eradicate their culture. It would be nothing short of a tragedy for this Congress to carry on that policy.

During the early 19th century, the Cherokee did hold slaves, like thousands of other individuals throughout America at the time. Of course, there is no justification for such a barbaric practice. When the U.S. Government forced the tribe to relocate on the Trail of Tears, to Oklahoma in the 1830s, many slaves accompanied the Cherokees on this journey. After the Civil War, though the Government did not sign any official treaties with the Confederacy, the Federal Government did sign a Treaty with the Cherokee Nation. The Treaty of 1866 states that all the Freedmen and their descendants should retain the rights of Native Cherokees. At no point did this treaty use "citizenship" as the fulfillment of that provision. However, the important point is that the Cherokees honored this treaty and even exceeded the terms by amending their Constitution of 1866 to grant Freedmen, members of other tribes and inter-married whites tribal citizenship. The Cherokee have not failed to keep their part of the bargain.

Even so, Mr. Speaker, this 1866 treaty, which my colleague from Massachusetts insists the Cherokee have broken, was actually broken by the United States several times. For example, the Curtis Act of 1898, The Five Tribes Act, The Dawes Act, and the Enabling Act of the State of Oklahoma all violated the Federal Government's side of the Treaty of 1866. More significantly, however, this Treaty was once again rendered moot, in 1902 when Congress passed a law that fully changed the nature of tribal citizenship in its entirety and eliminated tribal citizenship across the board. Furthermore, the Dawes Commission, which was assigned to change tribal land into Indian allotment land removed the Freedmen from the Cherokee, but still gave them separate allotment land.

When the Cherokee Nation decided to reconstitute itself in 1975, it did so with a new Constitution and a new vision to return to its roots—a family of descendants of Indians. The Cherokee could make this decision because they were unconstrained by the Article IX obligation of the past. It was now up to the Cherokees to begin an era of Federal policy that promoted self-determination under the leadership of President Richard Nixon.

Furthermore, Mr. Speaker, the courts have continually recognized that one of an Indian tribe's most basic powers is the authority to determine its own citizenship, for they are independent political authorities. That being said, the Cherokee have one of the smallest blood quantum requirements in Indian Country. To be a citizen of the Cherokee Nation, an individual has to simply prove that they have only one Indian ancestor on the Dawes Rolls of 1906. To that end, the Cherokees are one of the most racially diverse tribes in the Nation, with thousands of African-American members. Because of the pending court litigation, the Cherokee have allowed the Freedmen to retain the benefits of tribal membership and have even hired genealogists to assist this group in finding an ancestor on the Dawes Rolls.

Mr. Speaker, it disturbs me that some in this Congress would accuse this tribe of breaking a treaty that was made long before the Federal Government eliminated the Cherokees as a tribe altogether. Their story, like most tribes throughout the Nation, is one of astonishing perseverance and determination. To limit Federal funding on the grounds that the Cherokees have supposedly broken a treaty that was in fact abrogated by official Government policy is absolute ridiculous. Congress should allow this issue to be settled in tribal and Federal court. It should not impose opinions on the Cherokee Nation. To do so violates tribal sovereignty, ignores history, and misuses and abuses legislative authority. The Cherokees have not broken their treaties with the United States. It is the United States that has consistently violated its treaties with the Cherokee Nation.

HOUSING AND ECONOMIC
RECOVERY ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2008

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, for several years, followers of the Austrian school of economics have warned that unless Congress moved to end the implicit Government guarantee of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, and took other steps to disengage the U.S. Government from the housing market, America would face a crisis in housing. This crisis would force Congress to choose between authorizing a taxpayer bailout of Fannie and Freddie, and other measures increasing Government's involvement in housing, or restoring a free market in housing by ending Government support for Fannie and Freddie and repealing all laws that interfere in housing. The bursting of the housing bubble, and the recent near-collapse in investor support for Fannie and Freddie has proven my fellow Austrians correct. Unfortunately, but not surprisingly, instead of ending the prior interventions in the housing market that are responsible for the current crisis, Congress is increasing the level of Government intervention in the housing market. This is the equivalent of giving a drug addict another fix, which will only make the necessary withdrawal more painful.

The provision giving the Treasury Secretary a blank check to purchase Fannie and Freddie stock not only makes the implicit Government guarantee of Fannie and Freddie explicit, it represents another unconstitutional delegation of Congress' constitutional authority to control the allocation of taxpayer dollars. While the Treasury Secretary has to file a report with Congress, the lack of any effective standards for the expenditure of funds makes it impossible for Congress to perform effective oversight on Treasury's expenditures.

H.R. 3221 also takes another troubling step toward the creation of surveillance state by creating a Nationwide Mortgage Licensing System and Registry. This Federal database will contain personal information about anyone wishing to work as a "loan originator." "Loan originator" is defined broadly as anyone who "takes a residential loan application; and offers or negotiates terms of a residential mort-

gage loan for compensation or gain." According to some analysts, this definition is so broad as to cover part-time clerks and real estate agents who receive even minimal compensation from "originators." Additionally, this database forced on industry will be funded by fees paid to the Federal banking agencies, yet another costly burden to the American taxpayers.

Among the information that will be collected from loan originators for inclusion in the Federal database are fingerprints. Madam Speaker, giving the Federal Government the power to force Americans who wish to work in real estate to submit their fingerprints to a Federal database opens the door to numerous abuses of privacy and civil liberties and establishes a dangerous precedent. Fingerprint databases and background checks have been no deterrent to espionage and fraud among governmental agencies, and will likewise fail to prevent fraud in the real estate market. I am amazed to see some members who are usually outspoken advocates of civil liberties and defenders of the fourth amendment support this new threat to privacy.

Finally, H.R. 3221 increases the Federal debt limit by \$800 billion. We are told that CBO has scored this bill at a cost of \$25 billion, but this debt limit increase belies that. The Federal Reserve has already propped up the housing and financial markets to the tune of over \$300 billion, and this raise of the debt limit indicates that the cost of this newest bailout will likely be even more costly. I am dismayed that my colleagues have not learned the lessons of the PATRIOT Act and Sarbanes-Oxley. Massive bills passed in knee-jerk reaction to crisis events will always be poorly written, burdensome and expensive to taxpayers, and destructive of liberty.

HONORING NATHAN TIPTON

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Nathan Tipton of Blue Springs, Missouri. Nathan 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 1058, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Nathan has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Nathan 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 Nathan Tipton for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

THE DAILY 45: A FAMILY'S HOUSING CRISIS ENDS WITH A GUN

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2008

Mr. RUSH. Madam Speaker, the Department of Justice tells us that, everyday, 45 people, on average, are fatally shot in the United States. While most of the gun violence stems from crime, far too often a loaded weapon in the hands of an emotionally distraught individual leads to tragedy.

Such was the case, two days ago, when the economic impact of the nation's housing crisis took a toll on a Massachusetts family. In a moment of despair, 53-year-old Carlene Balderrama took her life with a gun on the day that her mortgage company was set to sell her foreclosed home.

Balderrama was a wife and mother of a young son whose desperation found relief at the end of the barrel of a gun. Her suicide shocked the small, quiet town of Taunton, a community with origins that stem from the birth of our nation. In a tragic twist, before she killed herself, Mrs. Balderrama faxed a note to her mortgage company saying, "By the time you foreclose on my house, I'll be dead." While any number of intervening forces could have made a difference, in an instant, a gun took away those options. My heart goes out to her family and her community on their loss.

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

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2008

Mr. KIND. Madam Speaker, I was unable to have my vote recorded on roll No. 515 on Wednesday, July 23, 2008. Had I been present, I would have voted against the motion to adjourn.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF DOUG
BISHOP

HON. DAVID DAVIS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday July 24, 2008

Mr. DAVID DAVIS of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory and life of Sevierville City Administrator Doug Bishop, a true asset to the First Congressional District of Tennessee, who passed away Saturday, July 19, 2008.

Doug Bishop lived a life of service, entrepreneurship, and was known by all for his love and compassion to his wife Jane and their two daughters.

A great community leader, Doug Bishop served on numerous boards and committees and was honored as City Manager of the year by Tennessee City Managers Association.

His tireless work ethic, intelligence and dedication showed through his work for Sevierville.

Under Bishop's tenure as Sevierville City Administrator, he brought an events center and key infrastructure like water plants, fire stations and sewer systems.

Doug's values and characteristics embody that of a true Tennessee Volunteer. When attending college during the Vietnam War, he left to join the Air Force where he served in Vietnam and Thailand.

Doug Bishop's service to the United States, Tennessee, and Sevierville should not go unnoticed.

Madam Speaker, I ask that the House join me today in honoring the life of Doug Bishop and offering our sympathies to his family and friends. He was a dedicated member of the community who loved his family to no end. His service to the City of Sevierville is greatly treasured and he will be deeply missed.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE COMMON GOALS OF PEACE, DEMOCRACY, AND JUSTICE BETWEEN CYPRUS AND THE UNITED STATES

HON. MAURICE D. HINCHEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2008

Mr. HINCHEY. Madam Speaker, Cyprus and the U.S. share a deep and long-lasting commitment to upholding the ideals of freedom, democracy, justice, human rights, and the international rule of law. The international community has an obligation to stand with Cypriots to reunify their island and take the necessary steps towards reconciliation and peace.

The 34th commemoration of the Turkish invasion of Cyprus reminds us to recognize those who lost their lives in the invasion and to condemn the ongoing Turkish occupation. The solution of the Cyprus problem must be based on a bi-communal, bi-zonal federal State of Cyprus with a single sovereign entity and a single citizenship. This arrangement must comprise of two politically equal communities, as described by the relevant UN Security Council Resolutions, and protect the independence and territorial integrity of the nation. It must reunite the island, its people, its institutions and its economy.

The Republic of Cyprus has a long history of working cooperatively with the United States on issues of international concern and it is my belief that the United States Government, including Congress, should work to continue and expand that relationship and work towards a united, peaceful, and prosperous Cyprus.

HONORING SILAS NYRICK

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Silas Nyrick of Blue Springs, Missouri. Silas 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 1605, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Silas has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Silas 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 Silas Nyrick for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HOUSING AND ECONOMIC RECOVERY ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2008

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the American Housing Rescue and Foreclosure Prevention Act, H.R. 3221, and to congratulate Chairman FRANK and Speaker PELOSI for their quick action to help American families.

The dream of homeownership has become a nightmare for too many people in our country. Nationally, between 7,000 and 8,000 people a day are filing for foreclosure, and estimates show that over 28,000 Minnesotans will lose their homes to foreclosure in 2008. Foreclosures hurt our families, neighborhoods, and communities. I saw the impact of the foreclosure crisis firsthand when visiting the east side neighborhoods in St. Paul who are hit hardest by this crisis. Foreclosures result in lost tax revenue for local governments, reduced property values for neighbors, and can often contribute to criminal activity.

Congress must act to protect families and neighborhoods from a further expansion of this crisis, which is why I strongly support H.R. 3221. This legislation is a comprehensive response that will help families facing foreclosure keep their homes, help other families avoid foreclosures in the future, and help communities harmed by empty homes in the foreclosure process.

Specifically, H.R. 3221 expands a Federal Housing Administration program to allow borrowers in danger of losing their home to refinance into lower-cost Government-insured mortgages they can afford to repay. This voluntary program is not a bailout. Mortgage investors must take significant losses by reducing the loan principal, borrowers must share any profit from the resale of the home, and only primary residences are eligible. In addition, this bill provides \$4 billion in emergency assistance, CDBG Funds, to communities hit hardest by the foreclosure and sub prime crisis to purchase, rent, or rehabilitate vacant foreclosed homes with the goal of occupying them as soon as possible.

This bill provides new tax incentives to increase home buying, which will not only help families build wealth, but could also create jobs in our communities. For those who cannot buy a home, H.R. 3221 creates a new Housing Trust Fund to increase the Nation's stock of affordable rental housing at no cost to the taxpayer. The legislation protects veterans and returning soldiers from foreclosure by increasing the VA loan limit, lengthening the time a lender must wait before starting fore-

closure when a soldier returns, and increasing benefits to adapt the homes of veterans with service-related disabilities.

H.R. 3221 also responds to the financial crisis facing Government Sponsored Enterprises or GSEs by giving the Secretary of the Treasury the authority to buy stock in those companies to restore confidence in the financial and housing market and ensure the safe and sound operation of these enterprises. These GSEs are central to the housing market and the economy as a whole, as they are the largest sources of mortgage finance in the United States—buying more than two-thirds of new mortgages in the first three months of 2008. While recognizing this necessity, this legislation will also protect taxpayers by requiring that taxpayers are paid back before shareholders, adding restrictions on executive compensation, and strengthening oversight by putting an independent new regulator in charge. These measures will help safeguard the interests of the American taxpayer and ensure the availability of affordable home loans, while also strengthening the regulation of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac and raising the GSE loan limit.

Our priority as a community must be to get the economy moving, provide opportunities to succeed, and to restore the United States as a global leader. H.R. 3221 is a comprehensive response and will make a real difference for families and communities. And ending the foreclosure crisis—ensuring that families have access to safe and stable housing—is vital to the recovery of the American economy.

We need this legislation to get this country back on the right track. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation and move our housing policy in a new direction.

REMEMBERING THE FALL OF ZEPA—ONE OF SIX U.N. DECLARED "SAFE HAVENS" IN BOSNIA

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2008

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, on July 25, 1995, Zepa, one of the six "safe havens" that the U.N. declared during the 1992–1995 war in Bosnia and Herzegovina, fell to the Army of Republika Srpska. This happened 2 weeks after U.N. forces abandoned the Srebrenica "safe haven" to the same force, which committed genocide by killing 8,000 Bosniak men and boys, and raping an unknown number of Bosniak women.

Madam Speaker, before the war Zepa was a village of great natural beauty. Three thousand people lived there, and 750 children attended its primary school. Today the village is a standing reminder of the evil history of ethnic cleansing: only about 500 returnees live there and most of them are unemployed.

On July 11th of this year hundreds of diplomats and members of the international community joined thousands of Bosnian mourners and elected officials to mark the 13th anniversary of the fall of Srebrenica. Madam Speaker, tomorrow let us mark July 25th with the same solemnity and remember the victims of Zepa. Let us share the painful memories of the horror that befell the village 13 years ago and let

us never forget that only justice and democratic governance will lead to a stable and prosperous Bosnia and Herzegovina.

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 6525, THE
AMERICAN HISTORY AND CIVIC
ACHIEVEMENT ACT

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2008

Ms. McCOLLUM, of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, last week I introduced the American History and Civic Achievement Act to renew our national commitment to teaching history and civics in America's schools. This legislation is a companion to S. 1414, a bill authored by Senators KENNEDY and ALEXANDER, and it will help ensure that our schools maintain their important civic role in creating the next generation of engaged and informed citizens.

Social studies education is a vital mission of our public schools. With our rapidly changing world and all the challenges we must face as an international community, it is more important than ever that children grasp basic concepts about history, civics, geography and economics. These core disciplines help students understand the world today and give them the ability to think about possibilities for making things better tomorrow.

It is alarming that studies indicate that too many students do not know history and geography or understand basic facts about government and economics. According to the most recent National Assessment of Education Programs (NAEP) for U.S. History and Civics, nearly 75 percent of eighth graders cannot explain the historical importance of the Declaration of Independence. Even more eighth graders do not know why America was involved in the Korean War or how the fall of the Berlin Wall affected U.S. foreign policy.

These trends threaten the future vitality of our democracy. While we are making some progress thanks to the hard work of many history and civics teachers in classrooms across America, we must do more. Additionally, underfunding is prompting many school districts to cut resources for social studies instruction.

H.R. 6525 takes important steps to improve social studies education by making changes to the National Assessment of Education Programs (NAEP). This continuing assessment, also known as "The Nation's Report Card," can currently evaluate social studies subjects—but only "to the extent time and resources allow." While social studies testing is on the NAEP schedule, it has recently been targeted for elimination due to funding challenges. My legislation protects this important study in several ways: Requires a national assessment of students in American history under the NAEP at least every four years; creates new 10-state pilots to assess history and civics under NAEP to provide quality information and comparable results across states for educators; provides funding to ensure a quality assessment.

This legislation will allow more effective analysis of social studies in classrooms across America. The future of our democracy relies on having well-educated, highly skilled citizens with the ability to think critically, which is why

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

IN HONOR OF ANNETTE MORMAN

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2008

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Annette Morman, a member of the Georgia Municipal Association, the Mitchell County Hospital Authority, and a citizen of the Second Congressional District of Georgia, which I am privileged to represent.

Annette Morman is a native of Baconton, Georgia. She attended Dent-Reynolds Elementary School and graduated from Camilla Consolidated High School in 1966. She then furthered her education by attending both the Albany Technical College and Albany State University.

Ms. Morman is a very dedicated woman in many aspects of her life. She helps the children of her community through her job as a caseworker for the Mitchell County Department of Family and Children Services. For 34 years, she has guaranteed children in the area are protected and receive proper care. She truly epitomizes the motto, "no child left behind."

In addition to her service to children throughout the county, Ms. Morman leads her community through civic involvement. She has served on the Baconton City Council for 14 years in the same seat that her father, James E. Morman, once held. While on the council, she has served on the Recreation Committee, Budget Committee, and Chaired the Grand Opening Dedication of the Jackson Davis House.

Ms. Morman also serves on the Workforce Investment Board, the Mitchell County Democratic Executive Committee, and the Mitchell County School Board Facility Committee. Ms. Morman is also a devoted member of St. James Missionary Baptist Church, where she has served in numerous capacities.

Ms. Morman is the loving mother of two children: Olivia Dionne Morman and Dexter Dwayne Morman and the proud grandmother of five grandchildren.

Madam Speaker I am so pleased to honor this great woman who not only exemplifies the qualities of a dedicated activist for children, the community, and the church, but also epitomizes everything great about the United States of America.

HONORING VINE VILLAGE OF
NAPA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2008

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Vine Village of Napa County on the occasion of their 35th anniversary. Vine Village has done visionary work to provide people with developmental disabilities a comfortable place to call their home.

Thirty-five years ago, Grace Kerson, George Kerson and Dante Bagnani looked around at

the options they had for their developmentally disabled children: virtual isolation in an independent living situation, or institutionalization. They concluded that there had to be a better way; that people with developmental disabilities could have a comfortable home that allowed them social interaction and the same quality of life as their non-handicapped peers while still meeting their care needs.

The fruit of their ingenuity and compassion is Vine Village in Napa, California. Today at Vine Village, 19 developmentally disabled adults live full-time on a beautiful 25 acre ranch in the Cameros region amongst the animals and vineyards. They also maintain a day arts and recreation program that can be attended by any developmentally disabled person in the community.

The Kerson family remains the main benefactors of Vine Village. Grace and George's son, Michael and his wife, Nancy have directed Vine Village since 1973, and their daughter, Saanen, joined the staff in 2007. Debbie Kerson remains a resident.

Madam Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we thank the Kerson family and everyone at Vine Village for the remarkable work they have done for our community. Only through the hard work and generous contributions of countless members of our community has this program thrived for the past 35 years, and I know that we will see much more progress in the years to come.

HONORING NEAL THOMAS

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Neal Thomas of Blue Springs, Missouri. Neal 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 1696, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Neal has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Neal 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 Neal Thomas for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING THE FBI ON ITS 100TH
ANNIVERSARY

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2008

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I had the privilege of attending the 100th anniversary commemoration event for the Federal Bureau of Investigation on July 17 at the National Building Museum.

I insert for the record the remarks of Robert S. Mueller III, who was appointed the sixth director of the Bureau just one week before the

terrorist attacks on America of September 11, 2001, and salute Director Mueller and the thousands of FBI employees and leaders over the years for their dedication and bravery in protecting their country and their fellow citizens.

100TH ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATION, NATIONAL BUILDING MUSEUM, WASHINGTON, DC, JULY 17, 2008

(By Robert S. Mueller III, Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation)

Good morning. It is truly an honor to be here today to mark this significant milestone in the Bureau's history and to share in the celebration of this occasion—the 100th anniversary of the FBI.

My thanks to Attorney General Mukasey and the many other distinguished guests for joining us today.

My special thanks, also, to Directors Webster, Sessions, and Freeh, for being here. Together, they represent three decades at the Bureau in which we saw a strong emphasis on white collar crime and organized crime, as well as counterintelligence cases. We witnessed innovations in crime-solving technologies and a dramatic expansion of our international program.

But let's go back a bit further in history.

One hundred years ago, Attorney General Charles Joseph Bonaparte organized a group of investigators under the Justice Department. In July, 1908, the Bureau of Investigation opened its doors.

The first Bureau employees numbered just 34—nine detectives, thirteen civil rights investigators, and twelve accountants. They investigated, among other things, antitrust matters, land fraud, and copyright violations.

Compare that to today's FBI—a threat-based, intelligence-driven, technologically supported agency of over 30,000 employees—employees who are working in 56 field offices and 61 offices overseas. Employees who are combatting crimes as diverse as terrorism, corporate fraud, cyber crime, human trafficking, and money laundering. J. Edgar Hoover would have been proud.

Today's FBI is often, and I believe accurately, described as one of the world's few intelligence and law enforcement agencies combined.

The culture of the FBI is now, and for the past 100 years has been, a culture of hard work and dedication to protecting the United States, no matter what the challenges.

In the wake of the September 11 attacks, it became clear that the FBI's number one priority must be the prevention of another terrorist attack. We refocused our mission, revised our priorities, and realigned our work force. We strengthened lines of communication between the Bureau and our partners in the global intelligence and law enforcement community. And we are now stronger and better equipped to confront the threats we face today.

Today's FBI continues to reflect and embody its motto—Fidelity, Bravery, and Integrity. It is a motto emblazoned on the FBI Seal. And it is worth its weight in gold.

For the past 100 years, the men and women of the FBI have lived out their commitment to Fidelity, Bravery, and Integrity. It is precisely because they have done so that the Bureau has the reputation that it enjoys today.

Even so, these are qualities that need to be constantly burnished by the men and women of the Bureau, to ensure they do not rust for lack of use.

For most of us, fidelity is faithfulness to an obligation, trust, or duty.

For the men and women of the FBI, fidelity also means fidelity to country. It means fidelity to justice and the law, fidelity to the Constitution, fidelity to equality and liberty.

Bravery is the quality of being willing to face danger, pain, or trouble; to remain unafraid. Bravery is not merely the act of rushing in where others flee. It is the quiet, diligent dedication to facing down those who would do us harm and bring them to justice.

The well-known tennis champion and social humanitarian, Arthur Ashe, once said, "True heroism is remarkably sober, very undramatic. It is not the urge to surpass all others at whatever cost, but the urge to serve others at whatever cost."

Bravery is the capstone in the stories of Special Agents Rodney Miller, John O'Neill, and Lenny Hatton. On September 11, Miller and O'Neill went up, not down, the stairs of the North Tower of the World Trade Center to help others get out. Rodney Miller went all the way up to the 86th floor, offering assistance to fire and police personnel on the scene. Through radio transmissions, Lenny Hatton reported the crash of the second plane, and then assisted with evacuation efforts. Neither he nor John O'Neill survived.

And we will never know how many lives were saved as a result of their and the other first responders' extraordinary bravery on that day.

Although their stories are unique, their bravery is repeated by the men and women of the FBI working each and every day around the country, and around the world.

Whether cracking down on public corruption or white collar crime that corrodes the public trust. Or capturing criminals who exploit children on the Internet, or commit violent crime, hate crime, organized crime, espionage, or terrorism.

Such bravery can be seen in the story of Jay Tabb, a member of our Hostage Rescue Team. Tabb received the FBI Star after being shot and seriously wounded during the arrest of a wanted fugitive. Just months later, during a search of a terrorist safehouse in Afghanistan, he was injured again by a suicide bomber. Despite his own injuries, he rescued four wounded soldiers. After each incident his first question was, how soon can I get back to work with my team?

Bravery can be seen in the story of Port Authority Police Detective Tom McHale, who has served on our Newark Joint Terrorism Task Force since 1995. The morning of September 11, McHale was blocks from the World Trade Center when he heard the first plane fly overhead. He raced to the scene to assist with evacuations and rescues. He was caught in both building collapses and injured. And yet as a trained ironworker, McHale spent the next weeks in the rubble cutting through steel and recovering bodies. He worked at Ground Zero for 12 hours a day, before reporting for duty on the Joint Terrorism Task Force to help with thousands of leads.

Bravery can be seen in the work of Jennifer Keenan, the first female Special Agent to be stationed in Pakistan and Yemen, and who helped carry out dangerous missions in both of those countries. Along with Tom McHale, Keenan was part of the FBI team in Pakistan who captured Al Qaeda suspect Abu Zubaidah.

Bravery can be seen in the story of Special Agent Bruce Bennett and three other agents, who were seriously wounded just last March in a terrorist bombing, also in Pakistan.

And it can be seen in the story of Walter Walsh, our oldest living Special Agent, who

survived shootouts with gangsters in the 1930s.

And it so happens that each of these individuals stand with us today. Would you all please stand so we can recognize you?

And yet there is no shortage of heroes in the FBI. I am certain there are also many unsung heroes with us in the audience today—heroes whose stories may never be told. We honor them as well.

For the men and women of the FBI, bravery is reflected not only in the physical courage often necessary in the job. It can be seen in the courage of conviction, in the courage to act with wisdom in the face of fear, and in the courage it takes to admit mistakes and move forward.

This brings us to the third quality that defines the Bureau, and that is integrity. It is the quality of being of sound moral principle; uprightness, honesty, and sincerity.

For the men and women of the FBI, integrity is reflected in all that we say and we do—in honesty, in keeping promises, in fairness, in respect for others, and in compassion.

Integrity is, in some ways, the most important of the three words that make up our motto. Integrity is the fire by which fidelity and bravery are tested.

Fidelity, Bravery, and Integrity set the expectations for behavior; they set a standard for our work. More than just a motto, for the men and women of the FBI, Fidelity, Bravery, and Integrity is a way of life.

And it has always been a way of life. It has been said of FBI employees that they stand on the shoulders of their predecessors. Indeed, we do.

And while it is a time of change in the FBI, our values will never change.

It is not enough to stop the terrorist—we must stop him while maintaining his civil liberties.

It is not enough to catch the criminal—we must catch him while respecting his civil rights.

It is not enough to prevent foreign countries from stealing our secrets—we must prevent that from happening while still upholding the rule of law.

The rule of law, civil liberties, and civil rights—these are not our burdens. They are what make us better. And they are what have made us better for the past 100 years.

The men and women of the FBI today are part of history in the making. We understand that we have been passed a legacy and that it remains our responsibility to both build on and to pass on that legacy to those who will succeed us.

John F. Kennedy once said, ". . . when at some future date the high court of history sits in judgment on each of us . . . our success or failure, in whatever office we hold, will be measured by the answers to four questions: First, were we truly men of courage? Second, were we truly men of judgment? Third, were we truly men of integrity? Finally, were we truly men of dedication?"

The men and women of the FBI, here and around the world, past and present, can resoundingly answer yes to each of these questions. That is because they live our motto each and every day.

Fidelity, Bravery, and Integrity remain the attributes of an organization with a proud history of distinguished service to the nation. And each of us is indeed honored to be part of that.

With Fidelity, Bravery, and Integrity defining every FBI employee, we stand fully ready to face the challenges of the next century.

Thank you all again for being here with us today and God bless.

HONORING BRADFORD LOVE

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Bradford Love of Lee's Summit, Missouri. Bradford 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 1362, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Bradford has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Bradford 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 Bradford Love for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

CYPRUS

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2008

Ms. GRANGER. Madam Speaker, a new sense of optimism has emerged in the international community regarding Cyprus. Since the February 2008 election of Demetris Christofias as Greek Cypriot President, the leaders of the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot communities have met three times and have agreed to work toward a new federal partnership.

The most recent meeting between the leaders of the Turkish and Greek Cypriots was held on July 1, 2008. As stated in the Joint Declaration, they decided to meet again on July 25 to review the final reports of the working groups and technical committees and also to announce the commencement of full-fledged negotiations.

On April 24, 2000, after years of negotiations, both communities held separate votes on the United Nations Comprehensive Settlement Plan (Annan Plan). Turkish Cypriots approved the plan by 65 percent, while Greek Cypriots rejected it by 76 percent. Ironically, Greek Cypriots became members of the European Union, and Turkish Cypriots remained subject to political and economic isolation.

Hopefully, the process can move forward. The international community should encourage the sides to reach a comprehensive and just solution which will bring peace and stability not only on the island but also to the region as a whole.

As co-chair of the Turkey Caucus, I should inform my colleagues that Turkey continues to support Turkish Cypriot Leader Mehmet Ali Talat in his quest for a solution. Turkey will continue to support the process in good faith and encourages all sides to find an overdue solution to the Cyprus question.

THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF
HEMATOLOGY**HON. JESSE L. JACKSON, JR.**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2008

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend the American Society of Hematology (ASH) on its 50th anniversary. I also want to thank hematologists for their significant contributions to the research, treatment, and advocacy of sickle cell disease and other blood and bone marrow disorders.

Sickle Cell disease affects between 50,000 and 100,000 individuals in this country. In addition, almost 2,000 babies are born with sickle cell disease each year. While researchers make progress with treatments, patients continue to suffer from debilitating pain, frequent infections, anemia, and vision problems. Sickle cell disease also can lead to serious complications such as blood clots, organ failure, and strokes.

Undoubtedly, hematologists have helped lead the way in the development of new therapies and treatments for sickle cell disease. As a result of their work and advocacy, today's neonatal screening program has improved the overall health and survival of patients. In 1998, transcranial screening allowed doctors to identify sickle cell patients at risk for stroke and treat them with blood transfusions. Hematologists also have been responsible for pioneering the use of hydroxyurea in the successful treatment of the disease.

Moreover, ASH has been a leader in sickle cell advocacy by seeking additional funding for the Federal Government's sickle cell programs as well as helping Federal agencies identify major scientific opportunities in basic and clinical research of the disease. ASH was one of the leading organizations working with Congress on legislation to create the Sickle Cell Disease Treatment Demonstration Program—a federally funded program designed to improve and expand patient and provider education and the continuity and coordination of care for individuals with the disease. In fact, ASH worked diligently with congressional leaders to fund this program through August, 2010.

I look forward to continuing to work with ASH and its members to pursue the common goal of expanding research and providing excellent care for patients with sickle cell disease.

80TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
OKEECHOBEE HURRICANE**HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2008

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce a resolution memorializing the 80th anniversary of the Okeechobee Hurricane and the tragic losses of life from the catastrophic event. The experience of the Okeechobee Hurricane touches the lives of so many of my constituents and those throughout the Florida delegation, as well as my colleagues representing territories throughout the Caribbean.

This September marks 80 years since the Okeechobee Hurricane, also known as Hurricane San Felipe Segundo, ravaged Florida, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, the Bahamas, and numerous islands of the Caribbean. At this point in 1928, a number of factors contributed to this hurricane having the second largest death toll in United States history ever recorded by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Tragically, over 4,000 lives were lost along the path of the Okeechobee Hurricane.

Madam Speaker, Floridians living near Lake Okeechobee in communities that I now represent experienced a devastating loss of life when the hurricane led to extensive breaches of the levees surrounding the lake. Of the more than 3,000 casualties in the continental United States, more than 75 percent were migrant workers near Lake Okeechobee who were overwhelmingly African American. The lack of capacity to respond to the devastation of the storm and racial overtures of the era led to extensive disparities in the treatment of victims of this hurricane. Many African Americans were buried in poorly marked mass graves, including one site in West Palm Beach where over 670 unfortunate souls were laid to rest. Similar graves for white victims of the tragedy were visibly memorialized, whereas many African American graves were forgotten and only recognized many years later. When considering the development of a community, neglecting these darker moments of our history can overlook important lessons, as we saw with the devastation of Hurricane Katrina. Beyond recognition for all victims of the Okeechobee Hurricane tragedy, their loss should inform us how to prevent future injustices in disaster response and mitigation.

The potential for devastation due to failing infrastructure following similar natural disasters exists in many places throughout our nation. Thus, it is absolutely vital that we learn from the past and invest in strengthening our vulnerable water management infrastructure to prevent future tragic losses. We must also prioritize initiatives to educate migrant workers, economically disadvantaged communities, and others who may be disproportionately impacted by hurricanes and other natural disasters.

Madam Speaker, I call on my colleagues to join me memorializing the tragic loss of the Okeechobee Hurricane and reaffirming our commitment to protecting all inhabitants of the United States from the devastation of hurricanes. This resolution is the first step to encouraging our respective localities to prioritize natural disaster preparedness and education economically disadvantaged communities. I look forward to working with my colleagues toward its expeditious passage.

BARBARA ELOISE EARNEST

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2008

Mr. BACA. Madam Speaker, I stand here today to honor and remember a distinguished member of the Colton community and a beloved wife, mother, grandmother and friend, Barbara "Bobbie" Eloise Earnest.

Bobbie was born in Indio, California on January 30, 1930. After moving as a child, she

became a lifelong resident of Colton, California. Her mother, Gertrude Valenzan, was the first female Mayor Pro-Tem of Colton.

Bobbie graduated from Colton High School in 1948. An enterprising young woman, long before women were encouraged to work outside the home, Bobbie began working at the age of 16 in the mail room of the Retail Clerks Union, which would later become the United Food and Commercial Workers Union UCFW. For nearly forty years, Bobbie worked tirelessly for the UCFW, rising through the ranks from what she called "an envelope lick" to Insurance Department Supervisor for the UCFW for all of San Bernardino County. She was also the recorder for all of the minutes of all the union meetings for all of those years.

After retiring in 1985, Bobbie took up golf. Always insisting on walking, never using a cart or caddy, she famously walked all 18 holes 3 or 4 times a week well into her seventies. She was known in her neighborhood as a caring, compassionate woman, the "Mother Teresa" to her friends.

A devout woman, Bobbie was an active member of Immaculate Conception church in Colton, CA. Also a family woman, she raised her three children Nick, Larry, and Becky by herself. In 1980, she met and married Leroy Johnson and shared in a loving relationship for 28 years. Bobbie's true pride was her 12 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren.

In her youth, Bobbie was known as a first-rate dancer, and had once been a dance partner of the great Johnnie Bracia. And it was with that same spirit of grace, style and elegance that Barbara Eloise Earnest touched the lives of all those around her.

Let us take a moment to remember this amazing woman and her admirable dedication to others and leading an exemplarily life, one of whose footsteps we all hope to follow. Having known her for over twenty years, the thoughts and prayers of my wife Barbara, my family and I are with her loved ones at this time.

Madam Speaker, the community of Colton has lost one of its greatest native daughters, but she will forever live on in the hearts of those that knew her. God Bless Bobbie Earnest for love of country and mankind.

ANNIVERSARY OF TURKISH INVASION OF CYPRUS

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2008

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam Speaker, this year we mark the 34th anniversary of the Turkish invasion of Cyprus, a day in which the freedoms and human rights of the island's Greek Cypriots were violated. 200,000 Greek Cypriots lost their homes and almost 5,000 were killed in the invasion. Today, 43,000 Turkish troops maintain an illegal occupation in gross violation of international laws. Amazingly, there are more Turkish military personnel on the tiny island than U.S. troops serving in Afghanistan. Since the beginning of the occupation, thousands of Cypriots have been killed and many families were torn apart as a result of the invasion. Religious artifacts, many dating back to the 8th Century, were stolen, desecrated or destroyed. It is our duty to re-

member this anniversary so that we can move forward in bringing a resolution to the Cyprus Problem.

In 1997, I had the opportunity to travel to Cyprus. I saw the barbed wire that divides free Cyprus from occupied Cyprus and hoped for a day when Cyprus would be unified. Turkey's violation of international law and the United Nations' peace treaties remains an injustice. Free Cyprus has been a crucial ally to the United States in the War on Terror and has provided million in economic aid to Turkish Cypriots. In Congress it is our responsibility to stand up for those Cypriots who have stood with us for so many years. It is our duty to speak for the hundreds of thousands of silenced Greek Cypriots who are threatened with oppression in Turkish occupied Cyprus. There is a reason to feel hopeful about a solution to the Cyprus Problem. Preliminary discussions have taken place between Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot leaders to hopefully lay the groundwork for official negotiations. It is my hope that Turkey allows these discussions to go on undisturbed and for the Turkish military to retreat back to its own nation. The next time I visit Cyprus, I want that barbed wire to be a distant memory. I want Cyprus to be free again. Together, with cooperation from the United States and the international community, we will see that day.

HONORING KYLE WILLIAMS

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Kyle Williams of Grain Valley, Missouri. Kyle 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 1362, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Kyle has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Kyle 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 Kyle Williams for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING THE U.S. AIR FORCE B-52H STRATOFORTRESS CREW LOST ON JULY 21, 2008

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2008

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the lives and service of Major Christopher M. Cooper, aircraft commander; Major Brent D. Williams, navigator; Captain Michael K. Dodson, co-pilot; First Lieutenant Joshua D. Shepherd, navigator; First Lieutenant Robert Gerren, electronic warfare officer; and Colonel George Martin, flight surgeon,

who were the crew of a B-52H Stratofortress that crashed off the coast of Guam on July 21, 2008. The crew was assigned to the 20th Expeditionary Bomb Squadron based at Barksdale Air Force Base, Louisiana and were deployed to Andersen Air Force Base, Guam as part of the Air Force's continual bomber presence in the Pacific. Colonel Martin was the on-board flight surgeon and deputy commander of the 36th Medical Group at Andersen Air Force Base. The B-52 was preparing to fly over Guam's annual Liberation Day parade, commemorating the 64th Anniversary of the Liberation of Guam during World War II after thirty-two months of occupation by enemy forces.

This tragic event reminds us of the constant dangers that are faced by our men and women in uniform. The loss of this crew is felt by the Air Force family throughout the world and our island community of Guam. The people of Guam will always remember this crew on Liberation Day and their untimely passing gives us all the more reason to appreciate our freedom and the many sacrifices made by the men and women who serve in our Armed Forces defending our nation.

In their honor, I would like to recite the poem "High Flight" by John Gillespie Magee, Jr.:

Oh! I have slipped the surly bonds of earth
And danced the skies on laughter-silvered wings;
Sunward I've climbed, and joined the tumbling mirth
Of sun-split clouds—and done a hundred things
You have not dreamed of—wheeled and soared and swung
High in the sunlit silence. Hov'ring there
I've chased the shouting wind along, and flung
My eager craft through footless halls of air.
Up, up the long delirious, burning blue,
I've topped the windswept heights with easy grace
Where never lark, or even eagle flew—
And, while with silent lifting mind I've trod
The high untresspassed sanctity of space,
Put out my hand and touched the face of God.

I offer my deepest sympathies and prayers to all the families of these brave airmen who gave their lives in the service of their country.

God bless the families of these brave men, God bless the men and women defending our freedom, God bless Guam, and God bless our country, the United States of America.

RECOGNIZING THE JCC MACCABI ARTSFEST: FAIRFAX 2008

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2008

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Madam speaker, I rise today to recognize the Jewish Community Center (JCC) Maccabi ArtsFest that is taking place this summer in Fairfax, Virginia.

The JCC Maccabi ArtsFest was first launched in Baltimore, Maryland, during the summer of 2006. The program was designed to inspire Jewish teenagers to engage in the fine arts while using their religion as a vehicle to impact their community. This is accomplished by a dynamic combination of workshops, performances, exhibitions, recognition

of excellence, community service and social activities.

The 2008 Arts Fest has already made a significant impact in Northern Virginia. By employing 150 members of the community to actively work on all aspects of ArtsFest, engaging 120 host families to provide housing for the 250 visiting teen artists and enlisting nearly 800 more volunteers to help during the festivities, the JCC Maccabi ArtsFest is truly living up to its 2008 theme "Yachad" meaning "we are one".

The ArtsFest comes at a time when the general perception is that passion for the fine arts is being lost; I am glad to know that this is not the case in Virginia. To see creativity by teenagers flourishing in festivals such as this is very promising for the continuation of artistic innovation for generations to come. I know that Fairfax is glad to be part of such a promoted event within the Jewish artistic community nationwide.

By engaging so many volunteers and encouraging participation in the fine arts, the JCC Maccabi ArtsFest has truly been a catalyst for enhancing our community in Northern Virginia. For this, Fairfax is greatly honored to be the host of the 2008 JCC Maccabi ArtsFest.

HONORING TREVOR BOSAK

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Trevor Bosak of Kansas City, Missouri. Trevor 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 1180, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Trevor has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Trevor 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 Trevor Bosak for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

TRIBUTE TO MR. GLENDEN
CASTEEL

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2008

Mr. SHUSTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments and dedication of the Bedford Rotary Club's 2008 Citizen of the Year, Mr. Glenden Casteel. Mr. Casteel will be recognized for his service at a banquet held in his honor on July 28, 2008.

Over the past decade Mr. Casteel has worked consistently to enhance the value of the community in which he has lived. Since 2003, Mr. Casteel has made every effort as Chairman of the Board of Directors of the

Bedford County Historical Society to lead the society forward in a positive direction. Mr. Casteel's invaluable leadership in this society has opened the door for new beginnings in Bedford. These beginnings include the idea and adoption of a new official flag for Bedford County, as well as, the establishment of "Bedford County Day". Mr. Casteel's oversight in both of these new additions truly brings the community together and no doubt illuminates his nomination by the Bedford County Historical Society for the 2008 Citizen of the Year Award.

As a retired school teacher, Mr. Casteel has always understood the immense importance of history and has sought to inform others in his community of the historical uniqueness of Bedford. Historic education is a cornerstone which Mr. Casteel has sought to preserve by helping to establish the Bedford County Heritage Alliance—a coalition to provide a means of cooperation among historians throughout the United States. He also serves as an active member of the Bedford County 250th Anniversary Advisory Group which celebrates the founding of one of the most instrumental counties in Pennsylvania. Mr. Casteel strives to highlight Bedford's venerable historic achievements and bring a community together with knowledge.

As he reflects upon his work as a leader among many, Mr. Casteel can be proud of his life of service with which he has found a great amount of success. Mr. Casteel's dedication has brought a greater appreciation to our area and his accomplishments are a monumental asset to the community. I would like to wish Mr. Glenden Casteel all the best in his future endeavors as he continues to serve Bedford County. I am confident that Mr. Casteel will continue to faithfully contribute his knowledge to the community and I thank him for his dedication and service.

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM C. DEMENT,
M.D., PH.D.

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2008

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Dr. William Charles Dement, Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at the Stanford University School of Medicine, and the Division Chief of the Stanford University Division of Sleep, on the momentous occasion of his 80th birthday and his 45 years of service to Stanford.

Born in 1928 in the State of Washington, Dr. Dement attended the University of Chicago, where he earned his M.D. in 1955 and his Ph.D. in Neurophysiology in 1957.

A pioneer in the scientific study of sleep and sleep disorders, Dr. Dement began his career in sleep research as a medical student in the 1950's when he joined the lab of Dr. Nathaniel Kleitman. There, from 1954 through 1957, he helped discover and describe Rapid Eye Movement (REM) sleep and established the sleep patterns of humans as well as the relationship between REM sleep and dreaming. In doing so, he launched a new field of scientific discovery.

Dr. Dement joined the Psychiatry Department at Stanford University in 1963, where for

the past forty-five years he has continued his studies on the neurochemistry of sleep and the functional significance of the different sleep states, and has become one of the world's foremost experts on sleep disorders. Among his many major accomplishments, he established the world's first Sleep Disorders Clinic in 1970, started the publication Sleep Reviews, has written hundreds of scientific papers on sleep and dreaming, and developed the Multiple Sleep Latency Test which remains the standard diagnostic measure of daytime sleepiness. He has established an extraordinary human research program at Stanford which has led to the discovery and understanding of countless sleep-related disorders as well their clinical implications and the development of effective treatment strategies.

Dr. Dement co-founded the Sleep Research Society in 1961 and the American Sleep Disorders Association (ASDA) in 1975, where he served as President for 12 years. During his Presidency, the ASDA grew from five sleep disorder centers with twenty individual members to 140 accredited centers with over 2,000 members. In recent years, Dr. Dement has shifted his focus from research to public education about sleep disorders and the health dangers of persistent sleep deprivation. At the age of 80, Dr. Dement still works at least 40 hours a week and continues to direct the Sleep Disorders Clinic and Research Center. He is legendary for his research on dreams and is one of the most popular lecturers ever on the Stanford campus.

Madam Speaker, I ask the entire House of Representatives to join me in honoring this distinguished American on the occasion of his 80th birthday and his 45th anniversary at Stanford University. As Dr. Dement celebrates this important milestone, the gratitude and respect of the entire House of Representatives are extended to him for his decades of contributions to academic research which have illuminated the significance of sleep and for his work which has formed the basis for the diagnosis and treatment of millions of people affected by sleep-related disorders. How privileged I am to know him, to represent him and to have him as my friend. America is immeasurably better because of him.

HONORING JEFFREY COOK

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Jeffrey Cook of Kansas City, Missouri. Jeffrey 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 1180, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Jeffrey has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Jeffrey 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 Jeffrey Cook for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

COMMEMORATING THE 34TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TURKISH INVASION OF CYPRUS

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2008

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the dark day 34 years ago this week in which Turkey illegally invaded the island of Cyprus. I rise in honor of the thousands of Cypriots who lost their lives or whose fate remains unknown, and in honor of the hundreds of thousands who were exiled from their homes. I would like to share my sympathy for their losses as well as my hope for a brighter, peaceful future for the island. The 34 unjust years of occupation must come to an end.

July 20, 1974 marks the beginning of a tragic era in Cypriot history. The Turkish invasion and occupation of the northern region of Cyprus has proved an affront to human rights and the rule of law. Hundreds of thousands of Greek Cypriots have suffered serious abuses of fundamental rights and freedoms. Their property has been illegally seized, their land has been settled, and many of their religious and cultural treasures have been damaged, destroyed, or illegally transferred abroad.

Turkey's military hold over northern Cyprus has persisted over three decades despite condemnation by the international community and nearly 100 U.N. resolutions requesting the withdrawal of all foreign forces from the island, the return of Greek Cypriot refugees to their homes and properties and above all, respect for the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and unity of the Republic of Cyprus. Indeed, I authored a resolution which passed the House in 1995 calling for the demilitarization of Cyprus. While Turkey is a friend and ally of the United States, the time has come for Ankara to relinquish its grasp on Cyprus. Enough is enough.

Recent events have raised hopes for both Greek and Turkish Cypriots. Cyprus' accession to the European Union in 2004 was pivotal in the processes of integration and mutual development. The Turkish Cypriot population of over 90,000 benefit daily from rapidly increasing per capita income and the Government of Cyprus' provision of free education and medical and social services. In sum, the Government of Cyprus has provided nearly one billion dollars in tangible benefits to the Turkish Cypriot community. Along with hundreds of thousands of crossings between the Turkish occupied zone and the rest of the Republic of Cyprus, this progress has contributed to an environment of increasing trust and cooperation in which a peacefully negotiated solution may be pursued.

Since his election in February 2008, President of Cyprus Demetris Christofias has made resolution of the Cyprus problem his top priority and principal concern. He has reached out to Turkish Cypriot leader Mr. Mehmet Talat and called on him to cooperate face to face in order to implement a solution that honors relevant U.N. Security Council Resolutions, the High Level Agreements of 1977, 1979 and July 8, 2006 and the values and fundamental principles on which the European Union is founded.

In March, President Christofias and Mr. Talat agreed to establish a number of Working

Groups and Technical Committees as stipulated in the July 8 Agreement. The House of Representatives expressed its full support in H. Res. 405, which I cosponsored, for these actions as the ground on which to prepare for new comprehensive negotiations leading to Cyprus' reunification within a bi-zonal, bi-communal federation.

After several meetings earlier this year between the two parties and in the spirit of the opening in April of a symbolic crossing through the U.N.-controlled buffer zone in Nicosia, the world's last divided capital, I am proud to report that tomorrow, President Christofias and Mr. Talat will meet again to undertake the final review of the Working Groups and Technical Committees.

I ask each of my colleagues in the House to join me in support of this positive effort to realize full-fledged negotiations. We must urge Turkey to respect the fundamental human rights and freedoms of all citizens of Cyprus while exhibiting the political will that would enable a solution which will bring peace, prosperity and a better future for all the citizens of a united Cyprus.

ANNIVERSARY OF CAPITOL
POLICE DEATHS

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2008

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, every morning when I go in to work, I pass by a plaque honoring Detective John Gibson and Officer Jacob Chestnut on the spot where they were killed, 10 years ago today. It's a quiet hallway today: Down the hall you can hear the sounds of visitors to the Capitol, and a few feet away, the work of the Majority Leader's Office goes on every day.

What a shock to think that that hallway could be filled with gunshots and blood—to know that our Capitol, the most sacred space in our democracy, could be filled with violence. But what a saving grace to know that, every day, we are surrounded by brave men and women who will stand in the way of violence, even at the cost of their own lives. Detective Gibson and Officer Chestnut died doing just about the most worthwhile thing one human being can do for another: shielding the vulnerable—and yes, that includes every single one of us in this Chamber.

Detective Gibson and Officer Chestnut deserve every tribute they've been given: lying in honor under the Capitol dome; yesterday's words dedicated to their memory; today's moment of silence. But we know that what they did, every member of the Capitol Police—and every law enforcement officer—stands ready to do. We honor Detective Gibson and Officer Chestnut not because they were unique in their sacrifice, but because their willingness to sacrifice was so typical—typical of all the best in those who wear the badge.

Edmund Burke wrote that "Good order is the foundation of all things." It is certainly the foundation of everything that happens in this building. Let us thank those men and women who risk their lives to give us order, safety, freedom from fear. And let us keep their families in our thoughts, today and every day—especially their wives, Evelyn Gibson and Wendy Wenling Chestnut.

Without such brave officers, the work of this building—and the work of our democracy—wouldn't last a day.

HONORING RYAN SLANCZKA

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Ryan Slanczka of Liberty, Missouri. Ryan 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 1397, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Ryan has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Ryan 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 Ryan Slanczka for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING DEBRA BROWN
STEINBERG

HON. PETER T. KING

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2008

Mr. KING of New York. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor and recognize the tireless efforts of Debra Brown Steinberg on behalf of the families of victims of the September 11 terrorist attacks against our country.

For the past 7 years, Ms. Steinberg has worked passionately as an advocate for these families and to ensure they are treated equally, regardless of their respective citizenship or immigration status. She has played a significant role in drafting and implementing various bills to benefit 9/11 families including New York State's September 11th Victims and Families Relief Act, the September 11th Family Humanitarian Relief and Patriotism Act and the September 11th Victims Compensation Fund. In addition, I have had the pleasure of working closely with Ms. Steinberg and the Department of Homeland Security to allow eligible spouses and children of 9/11 victims to receive humanitarian parole and remain in the United States.

Of course, all of her efforts have been praiseworthy and her persistence in seeing that these families are taken care of is truly remarkable. On behalf of the 9/11 families, many of which are constituents of mine, I salute Debra Steinberg for her devotion and positive contributions to their lives.

TRIBUTE TO MILTON GRANT

HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2008

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Madam Speaker I rise today to celebrate the life of an icon in the

Eleventh Congressional District of Ohio, my friend Milton Grant.

Mr. Grant was the owner of Silk Screen Process Inc. for more than 50 years. He worked for the Cleveland Public Library, painted and was involved in many other business endeavors. I met Mr. Grant in 1981 in Cleveland when I ran for a Cleveland municipal judgeship. Mr. Grant was the owner of Silk Screen Process, Inc. I requested an estimate of the costs for the signs that I needed. This was my first run for public office and I had very little money. Mr. Grant, observing that I lacked the necessary funds to cover my order, extended credit to me. From that day forward he considered me part of the family and I knew that without the largess of Mr. Grant I would not have won that seat. I recently learned that I was not the only recipient of his kindness.

One day I realized that a friend of mine of many years, Margo Roth was Mr. Grant's daughter and that her sister, Paula had assisted me when I visited the business. I should have known that they were related to Mr. Grant, because they both exhibited the same caring and kindness.

Over the years I have celebrated graduations, weddings, births, homecomings, anniversaries, and successful elections with this wonderful Grant/Roth Family.

Mr. Grant was married to his wife Laura, who predeceased him in death for 61 years. He leaves to celebrate his life, a loving companion Roberta Silber, daughters Paula Rubinstein, Dr. Lee and Margo Roth, Bob, grandchildren, Michael Grant Jaffe, Karen Chaikin, Chip, Jennifer Jaffe Kaufman, Douglas, Julie Namy, Rob and 17 great grandchildren. His siblings, Ruth Buckland and Herman Goldstein and his grandson, Grant Roth, predeceased him.

Madam Speaker, I thank God for making Mr. Grant a part of my life and Mr. Grant for making me a part of his family. I ask all of my colleagues to join me in celebrating the wonderful 96 years of life of Mr. Milton Grant.

HONORING SEAN MCCALMON

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Sean McCalmon of Weatherby Lake, Missouri. Sean 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 1495, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Sean has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Sean 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 Sean McCalmon for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

CELEBRATING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF MICHIGAN RADIO

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2008

Mr. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate the anniversary of Michigan Radio for 60 years of service to the state of Michigan and the citizens of Southeast Michigan.

Michigan Radio, first known as WUOM, signed on July 5, 1948 with the first broadcast coming from the Angell Hall Observatory on the campus of the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. The station's studios have been in Ann Arbor ever since. As a multi-decade affiliate of National Public Radio, Michigan Radio strives to inform listeners throughout Michigan of the important issues taking place in the world around them. Michigan Radio also broadcasts informative programs like The Environment Report, and its national award-winning news documentaries. There is also no better source for news in Michigan than WUOM.

Michigan Radio's signal reaches the southern half of Michigan. With about 400,000 listeners per week, it has the largest audience of any public radio station in the state. Throughout its tenure, Michigan Radio has provided citizens of Michigan with detailed accounts of world and local news. This informative public radio news service has been essential to the Southeast Michigan community for the past 60 years. I fully believe that Michigan Radio will continue to serve the state of Michigan for many years to come.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues rise and join me in commending Michigan Radio for 60 years of dedicated service to the people of Michigan.

HONORING THE LIFE OF PAT FERRIS

HON. DAN BOREN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2008

Mr. BOREN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember a dear friend of Southern Oklahoma who passed away on July 20th, 2008 after a short battle with cancer. Pat Ferris devotedly served Johnston County as the District 1 Commissioner for nearly ten years and was a recognized friend of the entire community.

Pat lived most of his life in his home county, leaving briefly to pursue higher education through earning a bachelor's degree in Agricultural Education from Oklahoma State University in 1977. Ferris was an incredibly active member in the Johnson County community, but his true passion was working with Oklahoma youth. He was heavily involved with Future Farmers of America and the Johnson County Junior Livestock Association.

While a rancher in Connerville, Oklahoma for most of his life, Pat received the call of public service and ran for a County Commissioner position in 1998, winning in a hotly contested election. He was reelected twice, most recently in 2006. Throughout his tenure in the position of Commissioner, Pat worked on

issues important to his constituency. He was instrumental in preserving the county hospital and in the creation of a new jail.

Pat Ferris is not only dearly remembered by his wife Robin and their five children, but also by countless citizens in Johnston County, Oklahoma who he touched in the 53 years of his life. I stand today to honor and celebrate the life of this great Oklahoman.

NATIONAL HIGHWAY BRIDGE RECONSTRUCTION AND INSPECTION ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2008

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3999, The National Highway Bridge Reconstruction and Inspection Act.

In my home state of North Carolina there are hundreds of bridges that have been rated structurally deficient, and in my district alone there are over 150 bridges that have been rated structurally deficient. This bill enhances our ability to address this critical need.

H.R. 3999 will improve the safety of our nation's bridges by ensuring that they are properly monitored for repairs, and by ensuring that the federal funding that is set aside for their maintenance and repair goes towards that specific purpose. This bill authorizes an additional \$1 billion in fiscal year 2009, on top of the current \$4.5 billion authorized in the Federal Highway Administration's Bridge Program. In addition to this funding, this legislation requires the Federal Highway Administration to conduct annual inspections on bridges that are rated deficient, and inspect all other bridges every two years.

This additional funding, along with the mandated inspections, will go a long way towards insuring that the American public will have confidence in the bridges they traverse, without having to fear the disaster that occurred in Minnesota nearly one year ago.

Madam Chairman our nation's infrastructure is the engine that drives our economy, and the safety of our citizens also depends on the reliability of this infrastructure. I urge my colleagues to vote yes on H.R. 3999.

HONORING BYRON PENDLETON III

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Byron Pendleton III of Gladstone, Missouri. Byron 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 1354, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Byron has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Byron 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 Byron Pendleton III for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

COMMEMORATING TERRY NIEBEL'S LONG CAREER AS COMMISSIONER OF ELECTIONS IN CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2008

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate Terry Niebel's long career as elections commissioner in Chautauqua County, New York. Terry's more than 27 years of service is a brilliant example of commitment and devotion to one's community.

Terry was first elected in April 1981 and, at the age of 28, became the youngest Republican election commissioner in New York State. Since that day, Terry has served six four-year terms, becoming the longest serving election commissioner in Chautauqua County's history.

Terry has overseen several changes over the course of his career as election commis-

sioner, including computerization of office files and election-night reporting. His expertise in election procedure, wise and fair sense of judgment, and gracious spirit will be missed in the Chautauqua County Election Commission.

Terry has been a true public servant in every sense of the word. He is a devoutly proud Western New Yorker, and his dedication to the people of Chautauqua County is commendable; his service, exemplary.

Terry Niebel's work should inspire us all to serve our communities and fellow man with dedicated hearts and committed lives. I hope that you will join me, Madam Speaker, in offering congratulations to Terry and join me in wishing Terry and his family the very best of luck and Godspeed for years to come.

COMMEMORATING THE 34TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TURKISH OCCUPATION OF CYPRUS

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2008

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, I rise to commemorate the 34th anniversary of the July 20, 1974 Turkish invasion and occupation

of Cyprus. The island has been effectively partitioned since that time, and Turkey currently maintains a force of at least 30,000 troops in the unilaterally declared Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus. This is roughly equivalent to the number of U.S. troops in Afghanistan, where we are actively pursuing a war.

The Turkish occupation of northern Cyprus has had a tremendous impact on the lives of the Greek Cypriots. My district includes part of Chicago, home to the largest Greek population in the United States, and I have spoken to countless people who relay stories of occupation including the destruction and desecration of churches, restrictions on Greek Cypriots in the Turkish region. Recently Turkey's image was further injured after the European Court of Human Rights found Turkey guilty of human rights violations on Cyprus.

I am very encouraged by news reports stating that Greek and Turkish Cypriot leaders, both of whom have publicly committed to working toward reconciliation, will meet tomorrow to discuss the possibility of restarting direct peace talks. I hope that these talks will pave the way toward true reconciliation for the people of Cyprus.