

OCS prevents the Commonwealth from having every tool available to address rising energy costs.

Therefore, I rise to introduce legislation to allow Virginia to request oil and natural gas exploration activities off its coast. Should these exploration activities prove fruitful, then the legislation would allow Virginia to petition for drilling for these precious resources. This bill does not mandate that Virginia explore or drill off its coast. It simply removes the Federal Government's longstanding barriers to these activities. The final decision of whether to explore or drill is placed squarely where it should be—in the hands of the people of Virginia, through their State legislature and Governor.

This legislation is not a cure all, and it does not fix the problem all across the country. However, Virginia's two Senators, one from each political party, have introduced similar legislation over in the Senate, and this is promising. In order to demonstrate how broad the support is for allowing States to decide this issue for themselves, I would encourage Members from all States to introduce similar legislation until a threshold of support is achieved that breaks the Democrat leadership's logjam on this issue and allows the will of the American people to be heard.

HONORING BROTHER W.L. BAKER
AS HE CELEBRATES HIS 100TH
BIRTHDAY

HON. JIM COOPER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 2008

Mr. COOPER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor Brother W.L. Baker, a fine citizen and leader in Wilson County, Tennessee, on the occasion of his 100th birthday, August 3, 2008.

Brother Baker has served God as a Baptist minister for more than 80 years, preaching to all in earshot and ministering to all in need. In recent years, in his so-called retirement, Brother Baker has actively served several congregations across Wilson County. Even today, he is an associate pastor at Calvary Baptist Church and has been honored as the oldest living graduate of Cumberland University.

Madam Speaker, it gives me great pride to represent someone as selfless, as dedicated to God and fellow man, and as full of life as Brother W.L. Baker. In his actions, he serves as a role model for Americans everywhere and for all of us in the 110th Congress. We are a better people because of his 100 years among us. I ask you to join me in wishing him heartfelt congratulations on his birthday; may he have many more years of peace, gratitude and prosperity.

HONORING DR. HERBERT R. FISCHER
FOR 37 YEARS OF ACHIEVEMENTS
IN EDUCATION

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 2008

Mr. LEWIS of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a dear friend and

true leader in my community, Dr. Herbert R. Fischer, who is retiring after 37 years of dedication to educational development and public service throughout the Inland Empire.

After 27 years as a classroom teacher, principal, and district administrator in the San Bernardino City Unified School District and as superintendent of the Colton Joint Unified School District, Dr. Fischer was chosen to be the San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools, a position he held for 10 years.

The San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools office provides support to the 33 K-12 districts and roughly 425,000 students attending more than 500 schools in the county. The County Schools office also provides business and financial curriculum and instruction, personnel, credentials, and management information support to school districts county-wide.

Our district is privileged to have many fine educational professionals dedicated to improve the overall well-being of their students. Dr. Fischer is no exception and has taken his love for educational development even further. Under Dr. Fischer's leadership, the County Superintendent of Schools office has improved the State Academic performance index for 7 consecutive years. He has expanded many school safety programs through the Law Enforcement Education Partnership and the Countywide Gangs and Drugs Task Force. Dr. Fischer is also a founder of three regional P-16 Councils that work to eliminate the achievement gap by creating a comprehensive system for all levels of education.

Dr. Fischer's forward thinking has made San Bernardino a model for excellence in community service. In particular, he is credited with developing and implementing Alliance for Education initiative, which has over 1,200 business, labor, community and faith-based partners working with public schools to improve the college, career and labor readiness of students.

Throughout his career in education, Dr. Fischer worked with colleagues, students and parents, to increase college going rates, reduce student drop-out rates, and provide greater Internet and technology access to students and teachers. He also established programs to provide quality curriculums for all students and offer parents more educational choices. Dr. Fischer's hard work and dedication to the future success of our young people is truly appreciated.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Dr. Fischer for his many accomplishments and thanking him for making our community a leader in educational and professional advancement. The valuable contributions he has made throughout his career will be remembered for years to come.

INTRODUCING THE HEALTH CARE
FOR WOMEN RESOLUTION

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 2008

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, I rise to introduce the Health Care for Women Resolution of 2008 with my colleague in the Senate, Senator DEBBIE STABENOW. As we move towards enacting comprehensive Universal

Health Care we cannot leave out the important and unique health care issues of women. Women are often responsible for safeguarding the care for their families and they must be a central part of every universal health care debate.

I believe that the Health Care for Women Resolution recognizes the numerous of women as health care decision makers, caregivers and providers and requires that lawmakers acknowledge their needs during health care reform conversations.

We know that women face exceptional challenges and have a very personal stake in fixing our broken health care system. It is unacceptable that more women are uninsured and pay more for health care than their male counterparts. This resolution calls on Congress to take notice of these obstacles and make significant gains in solving these problems.

This resolution asks Congress to pass legislation within 18 months that provides health care for women and health care for all. I am all too familiar with how tough it is to provide care for our families. As a mother, grandmother and member of Congress, I will fight to make sure that women play a central part in every health care discussion.

The need for this resolution is clear. More than 17 million non-elderly women were uninsured in 2006, an increase of 1.2 million women since 2004. Women also pay 68 percent more than men for out-of-pocket medical costs, largely because of their reproductive health needs. Thirteen percent of all pregnant women are uninsured making them less likely to seek prenatal care and more likely to experience an adverse outcome after giving birth or pregnancy-related mortality.

Older women are particularly at risk. They often receive care through their husband and can become uninsured if their husband dies or loses private insurance by becoming eligible for Medicare. Because they have less disposable income, older women also have trouble paying growing out-of-pocket costs for the care they need. Moreover many older women have periodically left the workforce to raise families or care for aging family members they tend to have lower Social Security and pension benefits required to help them with increasing chronic care conditions.

Any health care discussions must also take into account the barriers women of color face in accessing quality care. Hispanic and Native American women and children are 3 times and African Americans nearly twice as likely to be uninsured than non-Hispanic whites.

I along with 32 of my colleagues in both the House and Senate agree, it is time to start acknowledging women in all efforts that we make to solve our nation's growing health care crisis.

I urge all of my colleagues to cosponsor this important legislation.

PAYCHECK FAIRNESS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2008

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1338) to amend

the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to provide more effective remedies to victims of discrimination in the payment of wages on the basis of sex, and for other purposes.

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in strong support of the Paycheck Fairness Act (H.R. 1338). This is a historic day in the fight for equal rights for women, and I would like to thank Speaker PELOSI, Congresswoman DELAURO, and Chairman MILLER for their leadership in this issue.

Women have made great strides in the American workplace during the last quarter century. Women are now more likely to have advanced degrees, own businesses, and make up nearly half the workforce. When Congresswoman NANCY PELOSI was sworn in as Speaker of the House, women and young girls were inspired to know that there is no job a woman in this country cannot do. As we send our young female graduates into the workforce we must ensure that they receive equal pay for equal work.

Although the wage gap has narrowed since the passage of the landmark Equal Pay Act in 1963, gender-based wage discrimination remains a problem for women in the workforce. It is unacceptable that women continue to earn just 77 cents for every dollar earned by men, and pay disparity can be even worse for minority women. This wage disparity will cost women anywhere from \$400,000 to \$2 million over a lifetime in lost wages. Furthermore, the wage disparity grows wider as women age and threatens their economic security, retirement, and quality of life.

The Paycheck Fairness Act will make commonsense reforms to strengthen the Equal Pay Act and close the loopholes that have allowed employers to avoid responsibility for discriminatory pay. It would require employers seeking to justify unequal pay to bear the burden of proving that their actions are justified, and allow women to sue for punitive damages. This bill would also prohibit employers from retaliating against employees who share salary information with their co-workers. Finally, it would create a training program to help women strengthen their negotiation skills, and require the Department of Labor to work with employers to eliminate pay disparities by enhancing outreach and training efforts.

The Paycheck Fairness Act recognizes that equal pay is not only an issue of fairness for women, but also one of fairness for working families. In these tough economic times, this bill could make all the difference for working families to make ends meet in their everyday lives. Through these efforts we can help give families the resources they need to give their children a better future. Pay equity should not be a benefit that needs to be bargained for, it is a promise that the Government must ensure.

I urge my colleagues to rise in support of this bill to ensure economic security for women and their families. Through this legislation we can ensure a better future for our daughters, granddaughters, and generations to come.

HONORING MR. THOMAS LIZIK OF INCARNATION CATHOLIC SCHOOL ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 2008

Mr. LIPINSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor an outstanding educator in my district, Thomas Lizik. This past June, Mr. Lizik retired from the Archdiocese of Chicago school system after 40 years of distinguished service and leadership. His remarkable contributions to his students, colleagues, and the entire community will always be remembered and his presence will be sorely missed. I would like to extend my appreciation to Mr. Lizik for his decades of dedicated service.

After receiving a degree in business administration from DePaul University in 1968, Mr. Lizik began his teaching career at Visitation Catholic School in Chicago, IL. He continued on to teach at St. Ann Catholic School in Chicago, St. Denis School in Chicago, and Incarnation School in Palos Heights. Mr. Lizik's awareness of the importance of family, friends, integrity, and career is the foundation of his professional success, and has led his colleagues and students to hold him in the highest regard.

Mr. Lizik's tireless work has earned him numerous awards, including the "Outstanding Teacher Award" from St. Ignatius College Prep and the "Most Influential Teacher Award" from De La Salle High School and Queen of Peace High School. In 2002, he was nominated for the Golden Apple Award for Excellence in Teaching. In addition to these special awards, he has also been featured in "Who's Who Among American Teachers" and has served as a distinguished member of the Illinois Council of Teachers of Mathematics.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Mr. Thomas Lizik as an outstanding educator, and recognize his tireless efforts to educate and develop generations of confident, responsible, and well-educated students. He has done nothing less than an extraordinary job in preparing future generations for their challenges ahead. I thank and congratulate Thomas for his service and dedication and wish him a happy, healthy, and fulfilling retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LAMAR SMITH

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 2008

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Madam Speaker, yesterday the House voted on a motion to censure the gentleman from New York, Mr. RANGEL.

Members had no advance notice of the vote, and I did not familiarize myself with the substance of the motion as much as I would have liked.

If the vote were taken again, I would vote present rather than "aye."

COMMEMORATING THE 1-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE I-35W BRIDGE COLLAPSE

HON. JOHN KLINE

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 2008

Mr. KLINE of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the anniversary of a tragedy still fresh in the minds of many Minnesotans.

Just 1 year ago today, thousands of men, women and families were on their way home from work and school when calamity struck. Without warning, the bridge that so many of us took for granted on our daily commutes failed, causing physical and emotional pain that lingers even today.

But this anniversary is not entirely solemn. Today we also recall the heroic actions of the men and women who came to the aid of those injured in the collapse.

The first emergency personnel on the scene responded without hesitation, risking their health and safety to rescue victims and provide medical care to the injured. In the weeks and months following the collapse, scores of ordinary people became extraordinary citizens by rushing to the aid of those in need.

Madam Speaker, on this somber occasion, as we remember the victims of this collapse and their families, we also celebrate the selfless service of the heroes who came to their rescue. Our thoughts and prayers remain with all who were affected.

HONORING EDWARD DAY COHOTA, JOSEPH L. PIERCE, AND OTHER VETERANS OF ASIAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER DESCENT WHO FOUGHT IN THE UNITED STATES CIVIL WAR

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVID WU

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2008

Mr. WU. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 415, a resolution to honor and recognize veterans of Asian and Pacific Islander descent who fought valiantly in the United States Civil War.

Historical research indicates that more than 250 soldiers of Asian and Pacific Islander descent served in both the Union and Confederate forces during the Civil War. Mr. Edward Day Cohota and Mr. Joseph L. Pierce, both of Chinese descent, are the most documented and researched of these veterans.

Mr. Cohota enlisted in the 23rd Regiment, Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry, in 1864 and fought courageously in the Battle of Drury's Bluff, where other soldiers reported that he had seven bullet holes in his coat but was not wounded. Mr. Cohota continued to serve in the U.S. Army for a total of 30 years.

Mr. Pierce enlisted in the 14th Regiment, Connecticut Volunteer Infantry, in 1862 and fought in his first battle at Antietam. He further distinguished himself in the Battle of Gettysburg, and bravely volunteered for a perilous attack on Bliss Farm during the day of Pickett's charge.