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PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 110th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

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House of Representatives

The House met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. JACKSON of Illinois).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
September 8, 2008.

I hereby appoint the Honorable JESSIE L. JACKSON, Jr. to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

On the first day of this autumn session of the 110th Congress of the United States, Members of the House of Representatives gather to do the work of the people to establish the common good of the country.

As Representatives, they speak for their constituents and act in their name. Bless not only their very best intentions to serve well the will of the people, but empower them to set aside all that inhibits true freedom at work in them. By Your inspiration, may every decision they make bring joy, security and true satisfaction to the Nation.

Lord, give them peace at all times and in all circumstances so each one may be his or her very best, together reach their full potential, accomplish great deeds, and give You glory now and forever.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. CARNEY) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. CARNEY led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under clause 5(d) of rule XX, the Chair announces to the House that, in light of the passing of the gentlewoman from Ohio (Mrs. JONES), the whole number of the House is 434.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, August 1, 2008.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
The Speaker, The Capitol, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in clause 2(h) of rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on August 1, 2008, at 4:12 p.m.:

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 2245.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 4918.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 6340.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 6580.

That the Senate agreed to without amendment H. Con. Res. 318.

With best wishes. I am
Sincerely.

LORRAINE C. MILLER,
Clerk of the House.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, August 1, 2008.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
The Speaker, The Capitol, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in clause 2(h) of rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on August 1, 2008, at 1:25 p.m.:

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 4210.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 5477.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 5483.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 5631.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 6061.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 6085.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 6150.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 6432.

That the Senate passed S. 3241.

Appointments: Commission on Wartime Contracting.

With best wishes, I am
Sincerely,

LORRAINE C. MILLER,
Clerk of the House.

Printed on recycled paper.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, August 1, 2008.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
The Speaker, The Capitol, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in clause 2(h) of rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on August 1, 2008, at 5:40 p.m.:

That the Senate passed with an amendment H.R. 2095.

That the Senate passed with an amendment H.R. 2608.

That the Senate passed with an amendment H.R. 5683.

That the Senate passed S. 2507.

That the Senate passed S.J. Res. 45.

With best wishes I am

Sincerely,

LORRAINE C. MILLER,
Clerk of the House.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 4 of rule I, the following enrolled bills were signed by the Speaker on Friday, August 1, 2008:

H.R. 2245, to designate the Department of Veterans Affairs outpatient clinic in Wenatchee, Washington, as the ''Elwood 'Bud' Link Department of Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic''

H.R. 4040, to establish consumer product safety standards and other safety requirements for children's products and to reauthorize and modernize the Consumer Product Safety Commission

H.R. 4137, to amend and extend the Higher Education Act of 1965, and for other purposes

H.R. 4210, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 401 Washington Avenue in Weldon, North Carolina, as the ''Dock M. Brown Post Office Building''

H.R. 4918, to name the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Miami, Florida, as the ''Bruce W. Carter Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center''

H.R. 5477, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 120 South Del Mar Avenue in San Gabriel, California, as the ''Chi Mui Post Office Building''

H.R. 5483, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 10449 White Granite Drive in Oakton, Virginia, as the ''Private First Class David H. Sharrett II Post Office Building''

H.R. 5631, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1155 Seminole Trail in Charlottesville, Virginia, as the ''Corporal Bradley T. Arms Post Office Building''

H.R. 6061, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 219 East Main Street in West Frankfort, Illinois, as the ''Kenneth James Gray Post Office Building''

H.R. 6085, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 42222 Rancho Las Palmas Drive in Rancho Mirage, California, as the ''Gerald R. Ford Post Office Building''

H.R. 6150, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 14500 Lorain Avenue in Cleveland, Ohio, as the ''John P. Gallagher Post Office Building''

H.R. 6340, to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 300 Quarropas Street in White Plains, New York, as the ''Charles L. Brieant, Jr., Federal Building and United States Courthouse''

H.R. 6432, to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to revise and extend the Animal Drug User Fee Program, to establish a program of fees relating to generic new animal drugs, to make certain technical corrections to the Food and Drug Administration Amendments Act of 2007, and for other purposes

H.R. 6580, to ensure the fair treatment of a member of the armed forces who is discharged from the armed forces, at the request of the member, pursuant to the Department of Defense policy permitting the early discharge of a member who is the only surviving child in a family in which the father or mother, or one or more siblings, served in the armed forces and, because of hazards incident to such service, was killed, died as a result of wounds, accident, or disease, is in a captured or missing in action status, or is permanently disabled, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the dollar limitation on contributions to funeral trusts, and for other purposes

S. 3294, to provide for the continued performance of the functions of the United States Parole Commission

S. 3295, to amend title 35, United States Code, and The Trademark Act of 1946 to provide that the Secretary of Commerce, in consultation with the Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office, shall appoint administrative patent judges and administrative trademark judges, and for other purposes

S. 3370, to resolve pending claims against Libya by United States nationals, and for other purposes.

REPUBLICAN FAILURES

(Mr. HOYER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, Senator Moynihan once said, ''You are entitled to your own opinions, but you are not entitled to your own facts.''

The dominant political fact of the last 8 years has been Republican failure, serial governing malpractice. This month, we will be holding them to account.

There ought to be a heavy cost for 2.5 million lost jobs; for 5 million more of our fellow citizens thrust into poverty; for stagnating wages; for skyrocketing costs of essentials; for 8.6 million more Americans uninsured; for surpluses turned into record deficits; for an America whose respect has been reduced around the world; for foreign borrowing that has exceeded the total racked up under the first 42 Presidents combined. All of that happened under the grip of Republican ideology. Eight years in the White House, 6 years with all the levers of power, and after all that, they suggest more of the same.

Every time they try to change the subject, every time they pretend to be agents of change, we will answer with the simple facts of failure. We have faith in the facts. We will stake an election on that faith. And when we win, we will govern secure in that faith.

CONGRESS IS IN THE DARK

(Mr. POE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, we're back. After a 5-week break, Congress has returned to do the people's business.

The number one concern among Americans is the high cost of energy, especially gasoline. Americans want Congress to come up with an energy plan to make our Nation independent from energy control of foreign powers. We send millions of dollars a day overseas to countries that don't like us and hold us hostage until we pay the ransom for that crude oil.

But Congress is not going to deal with energy legislation today. In fact, our first priority, our very first order of business after this long recess is to name a new Federal building in Virginia. And the second thing we're going to do is name a new Federal building in New York.

So no votes today on offshore drilling, no votes on drilling in ANWR, developing clean coal technology, building nuclear power plants, or anything else regarding energy.

For 5 weeks the lights were off in the House of Congress, and while we were gone they stayed off. We might as well leave them off now because Congress is still in the dark about energy independence.

And that's just the way it is.

THE WORKING CONGRESS

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to return to the most do-something Congress in the last 8 years, the Congress that has addressed the plight of soldiers and education benefits and health care, and the Congress that is going to solve the energy crisis: The working Congress.

That's why I stand here today because I would like us to continue to work to help the automobile dealers in Detroit, and as well to help those homeowners who need mortgage repair and mortgage refinance, and give them an opportunity for the American Dream.

I am saddened by the conflict between Georgia and Russia, not Georgia in the United States, but I believe that is a NATO issue. And I would ask that we not give $1 billion for repairing Georgia; we need to give $1 billion to help repair our auto industry and to help those in mortgage crisis. Yes, we can be a partner in their rebuild, we believe in their democracy, but it is time now to reinvest in home. Give them a contribution, along with the NATO efforts. Give them the ability to stand strong. Provide for them the opportunity to engage in conflict resolution between Russia and Georgia. But it is time now not to give excessive funds to ensure that they stand up, we need to stand up here in America.

I ask my colleagues to reflect on this so that we can rebuild America in this do-something Congress.

LET'S VOTE ON AMERICAN ENERGY

(Mr. BROUN of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, last week I was here and other Republicans were here. The week before I was here. Republicans have been coming to this floor every single day since we voted to adjourn back in July. We've been here working for the American people to try to find commonsense solutions to our energy crisis.

We hear from the other side that they want to support the poor and the elderly. That's hogwash. The poor and the elderly are suffering more from energy prices than anything else. People can't afford to go to the doctor or drive to take their kids to school. School buses can't take kids to school.

We've been coming here every single day working to try to do something for the American public, but the Democrats went on vacation. They haven't continued to work like the Republicans have. We've got to find solutions to our energy crisis that makes sense economically, makes sense environmentally, and that's exactly what the American Energy Act will do.

So I call upon my Democratic colleagues, let's have an up or down vote on American energy so that we can make sense for the poor, the working class, everybody in America.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Let the Chair remind visitors in the gallery that they are guests of the House of Representatives, but expressions of approval or disapproval of the proceedings are not permitted.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken after 6:30 p.m. today.

SPOTTSWOOD W. ROBINSON III AND ROBERT R. MERHIGE, JR. FEDERAL COURTHOUSE

Mr. CARNEY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 2403) to designate the new Federal Courthouse, located in the 700 block of East Broad Street, Richmond, Virginia, as the ''Spottswood W. Robinson III and Robert R. Merhige, Jr. Federal Courthouse,'' as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the Senate bill.

The text of the Senate bill is as follows:

S. 2403

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

SECTION 1. DESIGNATION.

The United States courthouse located in the 700 block of East Broad Street, Richmond, Virginia, shall be known and designated as the ''Spottswood W. Robinson III and Robert R. Merhige, Jr., United States Courthouse''.

SEC. 2. REFERENCES.

Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the United States courthouse referred to in section 1 shall be deemed to be a reference to the ''Spottswood W. Robinson III and Robert R. Merhige, Jr., United States Courthouse''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. CARNEY) and the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. KING) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CARNEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on S. 2403.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 2403, as amended. This bill honors the distinguished careers of two giants in the civil rights field.

From 1948 until 1960, Judge Robinson served at the NAACP's Legal Defense and Education Fund. During that time he was instrumental in representing the Virginia plaintiffs in the landmark lawsuit Brown vs. Board of Education, which declared separate but unequal schools as unconstitutional.

In 1961, President John F. Kennedy appointed Judge Robinson to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, a six-member bipartisan commission charged with studying civil rights violations in the United States. Judge Robinson was confirmed by the Senate by a vote of 73–17.

In 1964, President Lyndon B. Johnson appointed Judge Robinson to the District Court, and 2 years later he became the first African American to serve on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit. Judge Robinson served as Chief Judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals from 1981 to 1986, and served on the Court until his retirement in 1992.

□ 1415

Judge Robert Merhige, Jr. was born in Brooklyn, New York on February 5, 1919. Judge Merhige attended High Point College in North Carolina and received his law degree from the University of Richmond's T.C. Williams School of Law in 1942. Upon graduation he enlisted in the United States Army Air Corps, where he served as a crewman aboard a B–17 bomber based in Italy.

Judge Merhige was U.S. district judge for the Eastern District of Virginia in 1967. He served there for over 30 years. He was a frequent lecturer at the University of Virginia and served on the faculty of the University of Richmond. While on the bench, Judge Merhige ordered the University of Virginia to admit women, and 2 years later he led the order to desegregate dozens of schools in Virginia.

Two weeks into his service on the court, Judge Merhige drew the first of many high-profile cases that became the landmark of his career. He ordered the release of black activist H. Rap Brown, who was imprisoned in Virginia after making an impassioned and militant speech in Maryland.

Mr. Speaker, this bill has broad bipartisan support, and I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill.

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

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

S. 2403 designates the new Federal Courthouse on East Broad Street in Richmond, Virginia, as the ''Spottswood W. Robinson III and Robert Merhige Jr. Federal Courthouse.'' Both Judge Robinson and Judge Merhige were exceptional leaders and prominent figures in the desegregation and civil rights movement.

Spottswood W. Robinson III was a distinguished jurist and a Virginia native. His was a career of firsts, beginning with his graduation from law school, first in his class. He then became the first African American to be appointed to the United States District Court for the District of Columbia, the first African American to serve on the U.S. Court of Appeals, and the first African American chief judge of the D.C. Circuit.

Beyond simply being the first African American to serve in these positions, Judge Robinson worked on many important cases that helped to pave the way for those who followed. During his time working at the NAACP, Judge Robinson worked on the Brown v. Board of Education case and was part of several other groundbreaking civil rights judicial decisions.

Prior to his appointment to the bench, Judge Robinson served on the United States Commission on Civil Rights and was dean of the Howard University Law School. Much like Judge Robinson, Judge Merhige will be remembered for, among many other accomplishments, his significant impact in the civil rights movement.

Judge Merhige's 1967 opinion to desegregate Virginia schools was one of the most important and groundbreaking steps in the civil rights movement. Following the issuance of the opinion, Judge Merhige had an around-the-clock guard to protect him from those who disagreed. While his decision was unpopular at the time, it was a vital step towards educational equality in Virginia.

Prior to his service on the Federal bench as a judge, Merhige served honorably in the United States Air Force during World War II. He returned home to work as a lawyer and an advocate for a variety of clients in his adopted State of Virginia.

The naming of this courthouse after these two well-respected judges is an appropriate way to honor their service. While their service as jurists had an impact on the entire Nation, they will also be remembered as distinguished Virginia judges.

The bill has the support of the two Senators from Virginia and the entire Virginia congressional delegation. I support this legislation and urge my colleagues to do the same.

And I would just ask that we reflect upon the circumstances in Virginia today, the progress that we have made since these decisions and since these judges led us out of segregation and into this modern era where we are in a society where our children grow up without real comprehension of what some of their predecessors lived through.

I would urge adoption.

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

Mr. CARNEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT) such time as he may consume.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor and privilege to rise in support of S. 2403, a bill to designate the new Federal Courthouse, located in the 700 block of East Broad Street, Richmond, Virginia, as the ''Spottswood W. Robinson III and Robert R. Merhige, Jr. United States Courthouse.''

The Commonwealth of Virginia has a rich history of contributions in the founding of this country and in the establishment and development of our legal system. Virginia practitioners such as George Wythe, Thomas Jefferson, John Marshall, James Monroe, and Henry Clay have all profoundly shaped and molded our country's legal traditions. In fact, the first law school in the country was our own College of William and Mary located in Williamsburg, Virginia.

It is therefore fitting that we would name the new Federal Courthouse in our State's capital after two distinguished jurists, Judge Spottswood W. Robinson III and Judge Robert R. Merhige, Jr., whose exemplary careers under the law displayed the best ideals and principles of our Constitution and legal traditions.

Spottswood William Robinson III was born in Richmond, Virginia, on July 26, 1916, and passed away in his home in Virginia on October 11, 1998. He attended Virginia Union University and then Howard University Law School, graduating first in his class in 1939 and serving as a member of the faculty until 1947.

In 1964 Judge Robinson became the first African American to be appointed to the United States District Court for the District of Columbia. In 1966 President Lyndon B. Johnson appointed Judge Robinson the first African American to the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit. On May 7, 1981, Judge Robinson became the first African American to serve as chief judge of the District of Columbia Circuit. Judge Robinson served on the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights and as dean of the Howard University Law School.

In addition to these exemplary and groundbreaking roles, Judge Robinson is probably best known for his role as one of the lead attorneys with the NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund from 1948 to 1960 and specifically for his representation of the Virginia plaintiffs in the 1954 landmark U.S. Supreme Court case of Brown v. Board of Education, which declared ''separate but equal'' schools unconstitutional and is one of the landmark cases in our Nation's history.

Judge Robert R. Merhige was born in New York, New York on February 5, 1919, and passed away in Richmond on February 18, 2005. He attended High Point College in North Carolina where he received his undergraduate degree in 1940. He then earned his law degree from T.C. Williams School of Law at the University of Richmond from which he graduated at the top of his class in 1942.

From 1942 to 1945, during World War II, Judge Merhige served in the United States Army Air Force as a crewman on a B–17 bomber based in Italy. After the war he returned to Richmond where he practiced law from 1945 to 1967. During that time, Judge Merhige established himself as a formidable trial lawyer representing a wide variety of clients.

In August of 1967, Judge Merhige was appointed U.S. District Court judge for the Eastern District of Virginia, Richmond Division, by President Lyndon B. Johnson, where he served for 31 years. While on the Federal bench, Judge Merhige presided over some of the most important and complex litigation in United States history. He ordered the University of Virginia to admit women in 1970. In 1972 he ordered the desegregation of dozens of Virginia school districts. As a result of his decision, he and his family were victims of threats and violence, and he was given 24-hour protection by U.S. marshals. His judicial courage and independence in the face of strong opposition is a testament to his dedication to equal justice under the law, and I believe his example is as pertinent today as it was then.

The new Federal Courthouse in Richmond is under construction and nearing completion. I believe that naming it after these two exemplary jurists will not only serve as a tribute to their fierce adherence to the Constitution and to their legacy of equal justice under the law but also will serve as a reminder of their contributions to ensuring a fair and just legal system for all people.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Senator JOHN WARNER and Senator JIM WEBB for introducing this bill in the Senate, as well as the support from the entire Virginia delegation. I would like to thank Chairman OBERSTAR and Chairwoman NORTON, Ranking Members MICA and GRAVES, Representatives CARNEY and KING, and both the Democratic and Republican leadership for the swift passage of this measure.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I just wanted to say a few extra words about this resolution and about the progress that this country has made.

I have by now a few years on me, longer than a half century, and having grown up in the very Caucasian Midwest but traveled almost all the corners of this country and a lot of places in the world, and I have seen some examples of the segregation that existed back in those years that flowed through post-Civil War all the way up through the 1950s and 1960s and began to break down in the 1960s. And as I mentioned in my brief remarks in the opening, it is a condition today where we have a desegregation and integration that is far, far superior to what we had in our society a generation or two ago. And the young people growing up today really don't have, I think, a touch or a feel for what this Nation was like or the culture that was there. The South has transformed remarkably from what it was to where it is today.

I would submit that the leadership of these two gentlemen is part of the solution. They deserve significant credit for the leadership to move out of this.

I would state that we are all God's children, and because of that we need to pull together and recognize there is

much more that identifies us together than separates us apart. And when we get to this point where we are pulling together as one Nation, one people, and one cause and erase the divides that are easy to identify, we get to the point where we can joke with one another and laugh with one another and work with one another and love and fight with one another in a fashion that enhances this country and glorifies our Creator, then that is where this Nation needs to go. This is a big step in the right direction. It's timely. I urge the adoption of this resolution, and I appreciate all the gentlemen and gentlewomen from Virginia that are cosponsors of this resolution.

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

Mr. CARNEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE).

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, allow me to rise for a brief moment to congratulate the Senators from Virginia and my good from friend and colleague on the Judiciary Committee, Mr. SCOTT, and, of course, the manager of this legislation and the minority manager as well.

No one who has benefited from the civil rights of the law, if you will, could ignore the contributions of Spottswood William Robinson III. So I rise today to again add my respect for the naming of this courthouse after these two jurists, both Robert Merhige and of course Spottswood W. Robinson III, but particularly want to add my appreciation to what Judge Robinson did for education in the lawsuit that was filed on behalf of 100 parents and 450 students at Moton High School in Prince Edward County, convinced that their only chance was getting this case before the Supreme Court. In addition, his work on the 1954 Brown versus Board of Education, the work of his efforts with the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, he laid the pathway for those of us who are the beneficiaries of his great work.

Let me also suggest that the same with Robert Merhige and his work on civil rights issues but also dealing with major corporate litigation cases.

These namings sometimes are alluded to as not being very important, but as we proceed on many important issues such as solving the energy crisis, I'm glad, Mr. Speaker, that we stop for a moment to give honor to individuals who laid the groundwork not only for me and those like me but really for America, and those who stand on the floor of the House that value democracy and equal opportunity, these individuals are deserving of the respect and admiration of this United States Congress and certainly are deserving of the naming of the courthouse after them.

I rise today in support of S. 2403, which designates the new Federal courthouse in Richmond, Virginia as the "Spottswood W. Robinson III and Robert R. Merhige, Jr., Federal Courthouse." I want to thank Senator WARNER and the Senate Transportation and Infrastructure, and Senator WEBB, for remembering a great educator, civil rights attorney, and judge, along with U.S. Representative BOBBY SCOTT of Virginia who has championed this legislation.

BACKGROUND

Spottswood William Robinson III

Spottswood William Robinson III, was born in Richmond, Virginia, on July 26, 1916. He attended Virginia Union University and then attended Howard University School of Law, graduating first in his class in 1939.

Like his fellow jurist, Thurgood Marshall, he often credited the law school with instilling in its students the notion of social responsibility. He said, "one of the things that was drilled into my head was . . . 'This legal education that you're getting is not just for you, it was for everybody. So when you leave here, you want to put it to good use.'"

Spottswood Robinson argued one of the Supreme Court cases that led to the 1954 decision striking down school segregation. In early 1951, Robinson, who would later become a Federal judge, and his law partner in Richmond had no plans to attack school segregation in Virginia as unconstitutional. They were more focused on forcing local school systems to invest more in segregated black schools.

But that was before Barbara Johns, a high school junior, called their law office in April. She complained that nothing at her school—buses, textbooks, facilities—even approached the quality of those provided at White schools.

Robinson and his then-law partner Oliver Hill filed suit on behalf of 100 parents of 450 students at Moton High School in Prince Edward County, Va., convinced that their only chance lay in getting the case before the U.S. Supreme Court.

The issues in that case and four others—including Brown vs. Board of Education—were decided in the high court's historic 1954 Brown decision declaring "separate but equal" schools unconstitutional.

Former Virginia Gov. Douglas Wilder wrote in a tribute to Robinson that, "Where one can ride on a bus, a train, or plane, or where one can live and rent or buy a house, or whether public education has to be given the same level to all people are basic Issues. Spottswood Robinson has been there . . . in his quiet, unassuming . . . way, charting and paving a path for countless Americans . . . who owe to him a great debt of gratitude."

Judge Robinson was a faculty member of the Howard University School of Law from his graduation in 1939 until 1947. Judge Robinson was one of the core attorneys of the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund from 1948 to 1960. Through the NAACP LDF Robinson worked on important civil rights cases including Brown v. Board of Education and Chance v. Lambeth, 4th Cir., 1951, establishing the invalidity of carrier-enforced racial segregation in interstate transportation.

From 1960–64 Spottswood Robinson became Dean of the Howard University School of Law. He then served as a member of the United States Commission on Civil Rights from 1961 to 1963.

In 1964, Judge Robinson was the first African-American to be appointed the United States District Court for the District of Columbia. In 1966, Judge Robinson became the first African-American appointed to the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit when he was appointed by President Johnson.

On May 7, 1981, Judge Robinson became the first African-American to serve as Chief Judge of the court. Judge Robinson took senior status in 1989 and later retired. He passed on in 1998. Leaving behind a legacy of civil rights leadership and legal advocacy.

Robert R. Merhige, Jr.

Robert R. Merhige Jr., was the U.S. District Court judge who ordered Virginia schools desegregated and presided over major corporate litigation cases. His unusually long tenure on the Federal bench—31 years—brought him many cases of national importance. He wrote the decision for a three-judge panel that threw out the appeals of Watergate figures G. Gordon Liddy, Bernard Barker, and Eugenio Martinez, after they were convicted of breaking into the office of Daniel Ellsberg's psychiatrist.

He ordered the University of Virginia to admit women in 1970. He clarified the rights of pregnant women to keep their jobs. He presided over the trials of Ku Klux Klan and American Nazi Party members accused of injuring and killing members of the Communist Workers Party in Greensboro, NC, in 1979.

No decision made him more unpopular than his orders to integrate dozens of Virginia's school systems. He was widely considered the most hated man in Richmond in the early 1970s and required 24-hour protection by U.S. marshals. Segregationists threatened his family, spat in his face, and shot his dog to death after tying its legs. Protesters held weekly parades outside his home. A guest cottage on his property, where his mother-in-law lived, was burned to the ground.

Not long ago he told the Richmond Times-Dispatch that he was still amazed, disappointed and angry at the public reaction to his rulings. He was known for his kindness and integrity and for brooking no delays or foolishness in his court, part of the Eastern District of Virginia known as the "rocket docket." He once ordered a marshal to remove a man who had fallen asleep in the courtroom. The man, it turned out, was his father.

Born in New York, Mr. Merhige attended High Point College in North Carolina and received his law degree from the University of Richmond's T.C. Williams School of Law in 1942.

He served in the Army Air Forces in World War II as a crewman on a B–17 bomber based in Italy. Mr. Merhige practiced law in Richmond from 1945 until he was appointed to the Federal bench in 1967 by President Lyndon B. Johnson.

Two weeks into his job, the new judge drew the first of the controversial cases that became the hallmark of his career. He ordered the release of African-American activist H. Rap Brown, who was imprisoned in Virginia after making an impassioned and militant speech in Maryland.

In 1968, Mr. Merhige ruled that the conflict in Vietnam was a war, whether or not it was a declared war. That ruling came in a case in which 96 Army reservists tried to avoid serving in Vietnam. Mr. Merhige denied their request.

On a tour of his memorabilia-filled chambers two decades later, a reporter noted that among signed photographs, which ranged from former FBI director J. Edgar Hoover to former attorney general Ramsey Clark, a copy

of President Richard M. Nixon's resignation adorned the mantelpiece. "I wanted that since the day he was inaugurated," Mr. Merhige was quoted as saying.

Conclusion

Mr. Speaker, Judge Robinson and Judge Merhige were men who stood their ground, followed their conscience and the law. I am pleased to see the good State of Virginia—known as the Capitol of the South—recognizing two men who sought to change it—for the better.

I urge my colleagues to support S. 2403, and the new Federal courthouse that celebrates these two great civil rights advocates.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of S. 2403, a bill to designate the United States courthouse, located at 700 East Broad Street, Richmond, Virginia, as the "Spottswood W. Robinson III and Robert R. Merhige, Jr., United States Courthouse". Spottswood W. Robinson III and Robert R. Merhige, Jr., were appointed to the Federal bench by President Lyndon B. Johnson in 1964 and 1967, respectively. Judge Robinson graduated from Howard University Law School, was a prominent civil rights lawyer, and was appointed by President Kennedy to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights. Judge Merhige graduated from the University of Richmond, served in the U.S. Army, and was considered one of the most formidable lawyers in Virginia. Judge Merhige was known for presiding over several high-profile cases and was noted for ordering the University of Virginia to admit women.

Both judges served with distinction and played a key role in the racial integration of Virginia schools so it is fitting and proper to name the U.S. courthouse in Richmond, Virginia, as the "Spottswood W. Robinson III and Robert R. Merhige, Jr., United States Courthouse".

I urge my colleagues to join me in support of S. 2403, the "Spottswood W. Robinson III and Robert R. Merhige, Jr., United States Courthouse".

Mr. CARNEY. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. CARNEY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 2403, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. CARNEY. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

□ 1430

THEODORE ROOSEVELT UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE

Mr. CARNEY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 2837) to designate the United States courthouse located at 225 Cadman Plaza East, Brooklyn, New York, as the "Theodore Roosevelt United States Courthouse".

The Clerk read the title of the Senate bill.

The text of the Senate bill is as follows:

S. 2837

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

SECTION 1. THEODORE ROOSEVELT UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The United States courthouse located at 225 Cadman Plaza East, Brooklyn, New York, shall be known and designated as the "Theodore Roosevelt United States Courthouse".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the United States courthouse referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Theodore Roosevelt United States Courthouse".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. CARNEY) and the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. KING) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. CARNEY).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CARNEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on S. 2837.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 2837, a bill which designates the courthouse located at 225 Cadman Plaza East, Brooklyn, New York, as the Theodore Roosevelt United States Courthouse.

As we all know, President Roosevelt was the 26th President of the United States. He led an extraordinary life. He steered the United States into world politics and was a polished and accomplished public servant and indeed was a Nobel Peace Prize winner.

Theodore Roosevelt was born in New York City on October 27, 1858, and died in Oyster Bay, New York, in 1919. He served as the 26th President of the United States. During his youth, he struggled with ill health and later dedicated his life to strenuous outdoor activities and Spartan living. He served during the Spanish American War, leading the Rough Rider Regiment, which became famous during the battle of San Juan Hill.

He was elected Governor of New York in 1898. Upon the assassination of President McKinley in 1901, he became President, and served until 1909. He believed the government should serve as an equal and fair arbiter between great economic forces such as labor and management.

Roosevelt's life was rich with varied experiences. He served as Police Commissioner of New York City, Governor of New York, and was an avid outdoorsman and naturalist, an ardent conservationist, and the author of 26 books. As I mentioned before, he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1905. He died peacefully in his sleep in 1919.

I support this bill, and I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting it.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

S. 2837 designates the United States Courthouse in Brooklyn, New York, as the Theodore Roosevelt United States Courthouse.

Theodore Roosevelt, one of our most famous Presidents and a true American icon, was born in New York City in 1858. In many ways, Teddy Roosevelt defies easy description. Over the course of his amazing life he was an historian, explorer, a hunter, a frontiersman, a conservationist, an author, a soldier, a political reformer, a Governor, and he was our Nation's youngest President.

After graduating from Harvard in 1880, he was elected to the New York Assembly, where he was a prolific Republican activist.

In 1884, after the tragic loss of his first wife and his mother, he struck out for the Western Frontier. In the Dakotas, Roosevelt became an avid hunter and rancher. As a deputy sheriff, he chased down horse thieves and criminals. The tough cowboy persona Roosevelt developed on the frontier would stay with him for the rest of his life.

Roosevelt made his mark as a political reformer when he became President of the New York City Police Commissioners and took on the corrupt practices of the time.

When the Spanish American War broke out in 1898, Roosevelt resigned his position as Assistant Secretary of the Navy to organize and lead a volunteer cavalry brigade, known as the Rough Riders. Roosevelt and the Rough Riders became famous for their assault on San Juan Hill.

After Roosevelt's success on the battlefield, he was elected the Governor of New York, as a Republican. Roosevelt's reputation as a political reformer grew as he took on the State's machine politics and corruption.

His reputation as a reformer helped put him on the McKinley Presidential ticket. Roosevelt was a powerful campaign asset and helped lead the landslide Republican victory in the 1900 election. Roosevelt became the youngest American President ever, at age 42, when President McKinley was tragically assassinated. The year then was 1901.

Teddy Roosevelt was a strong political reformer, a conservationist, which I identify with, and the President that elevated the United States to a world power. Roosevelt busted up monopolies and trusts. He created the National Park Service, the Forest Service, he built the Panama Canal, and he expanded the United States Navy into a fleet capable of projecting U.S. power

into every corner of the globe. Roosevelt's foreign policy can be summed up in one sentence: ''Speak softly and carry a big stick.''

President Roosevelt will be forever known as an American icon and one of our best Presidents. It is fitting that this courthouse in Brooklyn will bear his name. I look forward to the inspiration that will be given from that courthouse to especially the young people who walk into those doors in Brooklyn. I urge that my colleagues support this bill.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of S. 2837, a bill to designate the U.S. courthouse located at 225 Cadman Plaza East, Brooklyn, New York, as the "Theodore Roosevelt United States Courthouse". This bill honors former President Theodore Roosevelt, who at various times served as a member of the United States Civil Service Commission, President of the New York Board of Police Commissioners, Assistant Secretary of the Navy, and as a Colonel of a voluntary cavalry regiment of the United States Army during the Spanish-American War, which became known as "Roosevelt's Rough Riders".

President Roosevelt also has the distinction of becoming, at the age of 42 in 1901, the youngest serving president at that time. During his two terms in office, President Roosevelt's list of achievements include facilitating and ensuring the construction of the Panama Canal, establishing the Department of Commerce and the Department of Labor, signing the Elkins Anti-Rebate Act for railroads, and greatly advancing environmental conservation efforts by providing Federal protection for close to 230 million acres of land. He was also awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1906, for his work in ending the Russo-Japanese War.

Becaue of his honorable and distinguished service it is appropriate to name the U.S. courthouse in Brooklyn, New York, as the "Theodore Roosevelt United States Courthouse".

I urge my colleagues to join me in support of S. 2837.

Mr. KING of Iowa. I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CARNEY. I yield back as well.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. CARNEY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 2837.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. CARNEY. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

ADDRESSING WAIVER OF ATTORNEY-CLIENT PRIVILEGE

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 2450) to amend the Federal Rules of Evidence to address the waiver of the attorney-client privilege and the work product doctrine.

The Clerk read the title of the Senate bill.

The text of the Senate bill is as follows:

S. 2450

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

SECTION 1. ATTORNEY-CLIENT PRIVILEGE AND WORK PRODUCT; LIMITATIONS ON WAIVER.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Article V of the Federal Rules of Evidence is amended by adding at the end the following:

"Rule 502. Attorney-Client Privilege and Work Product; Limitations on Waiver

''The following provisions apply, in the circumstances set out, to disclosure of a communication or information covered by the attorney-client privilege or work-product protection.

''(a) DISCLOSURE MADE IN A FEDERAL PROCEEDING OR TO A FEDERAL OFFICE OR AGENCY; SCOPE OF A WAIVER.—When the disclosure is made in a Federal proceeding or to a Federal office or agency and waives the attorney-client privilege or work-product protection, the waiver extends to an undisclosed communication or information in a Federal or State proceeding only if:

''(1) the waiver is intentional;

''(2) the disclosed and undisclosed communications or information concern the same subject matter; and

''(3) they ought in fairness to be considered together.

''(b) INADVERTENT DISCLOSURE.—When made in a Federal proceeding or to a Federal office or agency, the disclosure does not operate as a waiver in a Federal or State proceeding if:

''(1) the disclosure is inadvertent;

''(2) the holder of the privilege or protection took reasonable steps to prevent disclosure; and

''(3) the holder promptly took reasonable steps to rectify the error, including (if applicable) following Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(b)(5)(B).

''(c) DISCLOSURE MADE IN A STATE PROCEEDING.—When the disclosure is made in a State proceeding and is not the subject of a State-court order concerning waiver, the disclosure does not operate as a waiver in a Federal proceeding if the disclosure:

''(1) would not be a waiver under this rule if it had been made in a Federal proceeding; or

''(2) is not a waiver under the law of the State where the disclosure occurred.

''(d) CONTROLLING EFFECT OF A COURT ORDER.—A Federal court may order that the privilege or protection is not waived by disclosure connected with the litigation pending before the court—in which event the disclosure is also not a waiver in any other Federal or State proceeding.

''(e) CONTROLLING EFFECT OF A PARTY AGREEMENT.—An agreement on the effect of disclosure in a Federal proceeding is binding only on the parties to the agreement, unless it is incorporated into a court order.

''(f) CONTROLLING EFFECT OF THIS RULE.—Notwithstanding Rules 101 and 1101, this rule applies to State proceedings and to Federal court-annexed and Federal court-mandated arbitration proceedings, in the circumstances set out in the rule. And notwithstanding Rule 501, this rule applies even if State law provides the rule of decision.

''(g) DEFINITIONS.—In this rule:

''(1) 'attorney-client privilege' means the protection that applicable law provides for confidential attorney-client communications; and

''(2) 'work-product protection' means the protection that applicable law provides for tangible material (or its intangible equivalent) prepared in anticipation of litigation or for trial.''.

(b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING CHANGES.—The table of contents for the Federal Rules of Evidence is amended by inserting after the item relating to rule 501 the following:

''502. Attorney-client privilege and work-product doctrine; limitations on waiver.''.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this Act shall apply in all proceedings commenced after the date of enactment of this Act and, insofar as is just and practicable, in all proceedings pending on such date of enactment.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) and the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. KING) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation enacts a new Federal Rule of Evidence, proposed by the Judicial Conference, to address a growing problem that is adding inordinate and unnecessary burden, expense, uncertainty, and inefficiency to litigation.

The new rule 502 reaffirms and reinforces the attorney-client privilege and work product protection by clarifying how they are affected by, and withstand, inadvertent disclosure in discovery.

As the author of the companion bill, H.R. 6610, in the House, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the Senate-passed bill so that we can send it to the President and enact it into law without further delay.

Doing the research on this legislation and spending time with a number of lawyers, and the American Bar Association, Mr. Speaker, I can assure you that this has no negative impact on those lawyers representing defendants or those lawyers representing plaintiffs. In fact, unlike the courthouse and the courtroom, plaintiff lawyers and defendant lawyers, the plaintiff bar and the defendant bar, have come together in a unanimous voice, indicating that this will in fact enhance their ability to represent their clients and to ensure that they may have the broadest based discovery possible.

We have asked and answered a series of questions that impact this particular legislation, including engaging the Federal bench. And so I move that

my colleagues view this enthusiastically and that it be supported.

The attorney-client privilege and work product protection are crucial to our legal system. They encourage businesses and individuals to obtain legal counsel when appropriate by protecting the confidentiality of communications between clients and their attorneys, and documents prepared by attorneys to assist their clients in litigation. In fact, this is the backbone, the infrastructure of civil and criminal litigation.

These legal protections are not absolute, however. Traditionally, persons seeking to rely on them must maintain the confidentiality of the information involved. If the information is shared outside the circle of confidentiality provided by the law, the legal protection is forfeited, or waived, as the purpose for it no longer applies.

This traditional principle can work unfair results in modern-day litigation when privileged information is disclosed by accident. Fast-moving litigation or expensive and vast litigation has both plaintiff and defendant shooting back and forth various documents, particularly in extensive discovery. In the course of the kind of voluminous discovery that often takes place, this can happen, where a privileged document is seen by the other party.

When vast amounts of documents are transmitted and stored electronically and can be searched and collected in the same manner, it is all too easy for a document containing privileged information to be overlooked, despite careful efforts to prevent it. Even in my practice of some years ago, the technology has made it different. I remember being in a massive case, a personal injury case, where documents were going back and forth, but I might say, Mr. Speaker, that it moved a lot slower than it does today.

Unfortunately, the case law has not kept up with these developments of expedited discovery and the electronic use of passing documents. Outdated legal precedents from an earlier era continue to create uncertainty. There are precedents, for example, holding that an inadvertent disclosure of a single document or communication not only can waive the privilege as to that one item, but can result in a blanket waiver as to all information concerning the same subject. That can collapse a case.

Concern about the potential adverse consequences has in recent years forced clients and their lawyers to undertake exhaustive, time-consuming, and expensive examination of documents item by item, often page by page, before they can be comfortable turning them over in discovery. That impacts, of course, negatively plaintiffs and defendants.

The document reviews can be grossly disproportionate in cost to the stakes of the underlying litigation and significantly impede the efficient processing of cases through the courts.

Courts have developed a balance rule in the case law that appropriately protects confidentiality, while guarding against abuses. But one court's order and one district's order and one circuit's order has uncertain authority, at best, in another court. Only a uniform rule can bring the certainty needed, and a uniform rule in the area of evidentiary privileges can only be achieved by an act of Congress.

The rule we are submitting today, submitted to Congress last year by the Judicial Conference, is a product of careful deliberations in its Advisory Committee on Evidence Rules, informed by years of examination of the issue in its Committee on Rules of Practice and Procedure.

The Advisory Committee enlisted the help of eminent jurists, practitioners, and legal scholars, and sought and obtained extensive public comment both in written submissions and at two hearings. The rule that resulted has wide support in the legal community. I know, Mr. Speaker. I have spent time, my staff has spent time with lawyers on both sides of the bar, and I can assure you their voices were one in arguing for the passage of this change.

In order to more fully explain how the new rule is to be interpreted and applied, the Advisory Committee also prepared an explanatory note, as is customary, for publication alongside the text of the rule. The text of the explanatory note appears in the RECORD in the Senate debate.

The proposed rule has now also undergone careful review in the House, as well as the Senate. During its consideration in the House Judiciary Committee, a number of questions arose regarding the scope and contours of the effect of the proposed rule on current law regarding attorney-client privilege and work product protection. That is a very important and cherished right, to ensure that privilege does not interfere or hamper the rights of a plaintiff, sometimes the underdog, and the defendant.

The Judicial Conference was able to answer all these questions satisfactorily, without need to revise the text of the rule as submitted to Congress. In order to further reduce any potential uncertainty regarding how the rule is to be interpreted and applied, the committee has asked and the Judicial Conference has agreed to augment the explanatory note. I would like to insert the agreed addendum to the explanatory note in the RECORD at this point.

STATEMENT OF CONGRESSIONAL INTENT REGARDING RULE 502 OF THE FEDERAL RULES OF EVIDENCE

During consideration of this rule in Congress, a number of questions were raised about the scope and contours of the effect of the proposed rule on current law regarding attorney-client privilege and work-product protection. These questions were ultimately answered satisfactorily, without need to revise the text of the rule as submitted to Congress by the Judicial Conference.

In general, these questions are answered by keeping in mind the limited though important purpose and focus of the rule. The rule addresses only the effect of disclosure, under specified circumstances, of a communication that is otherwise protected by attorney-client privilege, or of information that is protected by work-product protection, on whether the disclosure itself operates as a waiver of the privilege or protection for purposes of admissibility of evidence in a federal or state judicial or administrative proceeding. The rule does not alter the substantive law regarding attorney-client privilege or work-product protection in any other respect, including the burden on the party invoking the privilege (or protection) to prove that the particular information (or communication) qualifies for it. And it is not intended to alter the rules and practices governing use of information outside this evidentiary context.

Some of these questions are addressed more specifically below, in order to help further avoid uncertainty in the interpretation and application of the rule.

Subdivision (a)—Disclosure vs. Use

This subdivision does not alter the substantive law regarding when a party's strategic use in litigation of otherwise privileged information obliges that party to waive the privilege regarding other information concerning the same subject matter, so that the information being used can be fairly considered in context. One situation in which this issue arises, the assertion as a defense in patent-infringement litigation that a party was relying on advice of counsel, is discussed elsewhere in this Note. In this and similar situations, under subdivision (a)(1) the party using an attorney-client communication to its advantage in the litigation has, in so doing, intentionally waived the privilege as to other communications concerning the same subject matter, regardless of the circumstances in which the communication being so used was initially disclosed.

Subdivision (b)—Fairness Considerations

The standard set forth in this subdivision for determining whether a disclosure operates as a waiver of the privilege or protection is, as explained elsewhere in this Note, the majority rule in the federal courts. The majority rule has simply been distilled here into a standard designed to be predictable in its application. This distillation is not intended to foreclose notions of fairness from continuing to inform application of the standard in all aspects as appropriate in particular cases—for example, as to whether steps taken to rectify an erroneous inadvertent disclosure were sufficiently prompt under subdivision (b)(3) where the receiving party has relied on the information disclosed.

Subdivisions (a) and (b)—Disclosures to Federal Office or Agency

This rule, as a Federal Rule of Evidence, applies to admissibility of evidence. While subdivisions (a) and (b) are written broadly to apply as appropriate to disclosures of information to a federal office or agency, they do not apply to uses of information—such as routine use in government publications—that fall outside the evidentiary context. Nor do these subdivisions relieve the party seeking to protect the information as privileged from the burden of proving that the privilege applies in the first place.

Subdivision (d)—Court Orders

This subdivision authorizes a court to enter orders only in the context of litigation pending before the court. And it does not alter the law regarding waiver of privilege resulting from having acquiesced in the use of otherwise privileged information. Therefore, this subdivision does not provide a basis for a court to enable parties to agree to a selective waiver of the privilege, such as to a

federal agency conducting an investigation, while preserving the privilege as against other parties seeking the information. This subdivision is designed to enable a court to enter an order, whether on motion of one or more parties or on its own motion, that will allow the parties to conduct and respond to discovery expeditiously, without the need for exhaustive pre-production privilege reviews, while still preserving each party's right to assert the privilege to preclude use in litigation of information disclosed in such discovery. While the benefits of a court order under this subdivision would be equally available in government enforcement actions as in private actions, acquiescence by the disclosing party in use by the federal agency of information disclosed pursuant to such an order would still be treated as under current law for purposes of determining whether the acquiescence in use of the information, as opposed to its mere disclosure, effects a waiver of the privilege. The same applies to acquiescence in use by another private party.

Moreover, whether the order is entered on motion of one or more parties, or on the court's own motion, the court retains its authority to include the conditions it deems appropriate in the circumstances.

Subdivision (e)—Party Agreements

This subdivision simply makes clear that while parties to a case may agree among themselves regarding the effect of disclosures between each other in a federal proceeding, it is not binding on others unless it is incorporated into a court order. This subdivision does not confer any authority on a court to enter any order regarding the effect of disclosures. That authority must be found in subdivision (d), or elsewhere.

The new rule protects the confidentiality of privileged information against waiver in several ways. It protects information inadvertently disclosed in discovery, as long as the party has taken reasonable efforts to avoid disclosing privileged information and, upon learning of the disclosure, promptly takes reasonable steps to rectify it.

It protects against a waiver extending to other, undisclosed documents except where privileged information is being intentionally used to mislead the fact finder to the disadvantage of the other party, so that fairness requires that other information regarding the same subject matter also be available.

□ 1445

And it authorizes courts to enter orders enforceable in all jurisdictions permitting parties to make initial discovery exchanges efficiently without waiving the right to appropriately assert privilege later for documents culled for actual use as evidence.

This is sort of a back-up protection. This is your guarantee. This is an assistance to the idea of protecting privilege. This is extremely important, in that vast majority of documents exchanged in discovery, in some cases running to millions of pages, ultimately prove to be of no interest.

Importantly, the rule does not alter the law regarding when the attorney-client privilege or work product protection applies in the first instance. It is narrowly targeted to address the question of when the specified kinds of litigation-related disclosures do or do not operate as a waiver of the privilege that would otherwise apply.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation enjoys strong support in the House Judiciary Committee and the Senate Judiciary Committee and, of course, the House Judiciary Committee, with both sides of the aisle supporting it. I would like to especially commend Congressman JIM SENSENBRENNER for encouraging the Judicial Conference when he was chairman of the committee to pursue developing a new rule of evidence to address this problem.

I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

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

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, last year the U.S. Judicial Conference submitted a proposed addition to the Rules of Evidence governing waivers of the attorney-client privilege or work product immunity. Rules governing evidentiary privilege must be approved by an act of Congress.

The Judicial Conference concluded that the current law on waivers of privilege and work product is largely responsible for the rising costs of discovery, especially discovery of electronic information. The reason is that if a protected document is produced, there is a risk that a court will find a subject matter waiver that will apply not only to the instant case and document, but to other cases and documents as well. The fear of waiver also leads to extravagant claims of privilege.

Mr. Speaker, the Judicial Conference devoted great process to drafting their proposal. For more than a year, the conference's Advisory Committee on Evidentiary Rules conducted hearings that featured testimony that was submitted by eminent judges, lawyers and academics. The advisory committee later coordinated with the Conference of Chief Justices to assure that the evolving draft addressed federalism concerns raised by the individual State court systems.

In April of 2006, the advisory committee held a conference at Fordham Law School at which a selected group of academics and practitioners reviewed the draft. More revisions were developed that resulted in a revised rule that was published for public comment in August of 2006. The advisory committee received more than 70 public comments and heard testimony from 20 witnesses at two hearings.

In April of 2007, further changes were made based on this process, and the new rule 502 was released. This draft was approved by the Committee on Rules of Practice and Procedure and the full Judicial Conference. The text of S. 2450 incorporates the submission developed and approved by the Judicial Conference. The Senate passed the measure on February 27, 2008, by unanimous consent.

The content of the new rule includes the following provisions: If a waiver is found, it applies only to the information disclosed, unless a broader waiver is made necessary by the holder's intentional and misleading use of privileged or protected communications or information. An inadvertent disclosure does not operate as a waiver if the holder took reasonable steps to prevent such a disclosure and employed reasonably prompt measures to retrieve the mistakenly disclosed communications or information.

If there is a privileged or protected disclosure at the Federal level, then State courts must honor the new rule in subsequent State proceedings. If there is a disclosure in a State proceeding, then admissibility in a subsequent Federal proceeding is determined by the law that is most protective against a waiver. A Federal Court order that a disclosure does not constitute a waiver is enforceable in any Federal or State proceeding.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, parties in a Federal proceeding can enter into a confidentiality agreement providing for mutual protection against waiver in that proceeding.

Mr. Speaker, the cost of discovery has spiked in recent years based on the proliferation of e-mail and other forms of electronic recordkeeping. Litigants must constantly sift through a mountain of documents to ensure that privileged material is not inadvertently released. While most documents produced during discovery have little value, attorneys must still conduct exhaustive reviews to prevent disclosures. The cost to litigants is staggering and the time consumed by courts to supervise these activities is excessive.

The system is broken and must be fixed. S. 2450 does just that by providing a predictable standard to govern waivers of privileged information. The legislation improves the efficiency and the discovery process, while it still promotes accountability. It alters neither Federal nor State law on whether the attorney-client privilege or the work product doctrine protects specific information. The bill only modifies the consequences of an inadvertent disclosure once a privilege exists.

The process devoted to the development of new Federal Rule of Evidence 502 by the Judicial Conference was extensive. The Senate has reviewed the measure and approved it by unanimous consent with an accompanying committee report. The House Judiciary Committee spent months informally reviewing S. 2450, a process that included intense discussions with representatives of the judiciary and a Fordham Law School professor who assisted in the drafting of the rule.

Now, Mr. Speaker, it is time to act. I urge my colleagues to support S. 2450.

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

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his

very kind remarks about the bipartisan negotiations at the level of the House Judiciary Committee. I was delighted again to also have the companion bill, H.R. 6610, on that legislation.

I do want to add a particular point of contention dealing with subdivision E, party agreements. This subdivision simply makes clear that while parties to a case may agree among themselves regarding the effect of disclosures between each other in a Federal proceeding, it is not binding on others unless it is incorporated into a court order.

I think this is very important, and it was certainly a point that others, various counsel raised, because of the impact that it might have, the far-reaching impact it might have. This particular subdivision does not confer any authority on a court to enter any order regarding the effect of the disclosures. That authority must be found in subdivision D or elsewhere. So we see that this rule has been meticulously refined in order to ensure that the sanctity of the attorney-client privilege is preserved.

This is good legislation, and I would ask my colleagues to support it.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back my time, asking for support of this legislation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 2450.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CHILD SOLDIERS ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2008

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 2135) to prohibit the recruitment or use of child soldiers, to designate persons who recruit or use child soldiers as inadmissible aliens, to allow the deportation of persons who recruit or use child soldiers, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the Senate bill.

The text of the Senate bill is as follows:

S. 2135

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Child Soldiers Accountability Act of 2008''.

SEC. 2. ACCOUNTABILITY FOR THE RECRUITMENT AND USE OF CHILD SOLDIERS.

(a) CRIME FOR RECRUITING OR USING CHILD SOLDIERS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 118 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''§ 2442. Recruitment or use of child soldiers

''(a) OFFENSE.—Whoever knowingly—

''(1) recruits, enlists, or conscripts a person to serve while such person is under 15 years of age in an armed force or group; or

''(2) uses a person under 15 years of age to participate actively in hostilities;

knowing such person is under 15 years of age, shall be punished as provided in subsection (b).

''(b) PENALTY.—Whoever violates, or attempts or conspires to violate, subsection (a) shall be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than 20 years, or both and, if death of any person results, shall be fined under this title and imprisoned for any term of years or for life.

''(c) JURISDICTION.—There is jurisdiction over an offense described in subsection (a), and any attempt or conspiracy to commit such offense, if—

''(1) the alleged offender is a national of the United States (as defined in section 101(a)(22) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(22))) or an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence in the United States (as defined in section 101(a)(20) of such Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(20));

''(2) the alleged offender is a stateless person whose habitual residence is in the United States;

''(3) the alleged offender is present in the United States, irrespective of the nationality of the alleged offender; or

''(4) the offense occurs in whole or in part within the United States.

''(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(1) PARTICIPATE ACTIVELY IN HOSTILITIES.—The term 'participate actively in hostilities' means taking part in—

''(A) combat or military activities related to combat, including sabotage and serving as a decoy, a courier, or at a military checkpoint; or

''(B) direct support functions related to combat, including transporting supplies or providing other services.

''(2) ARMED FORCE OR GROUP.—The term 'armed force or group' means any army, militia, or other military organization, whether or not it is state-sponsored, excluding any group assembled solely for nonviolent political association.''.

(2) STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS.—Chapter 213 of title 18, United States Code is amended by adding at the end the following:

''§ 3300. Recruitment or use of child soldiers

''No person may be prosecuted, tried, or punished for a violation of section 2442 unless the indictment or the information is filed not later than 10 years after the commission of the offense.''.

(3) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—Title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(A) in the table of sections for chapter 118, by adding at the end the following:

''2442. Recruitment or use of child soldiers.'';

and

(B) in the table of sections for chapter 213, by adding at the end the following:

''3300. Recruitment or use of child soldiers.''.

(b) GROUND OF INADMISSIBILITY FOR RECRUITING OR USING CHILD SOLDIERS.—Section 212(a)(3) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(a)(3)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(G) RECRUITMENT OR USE OF CHILD SOLDIERS.—Any alien who has engaged in the recruitment or use of child soldiers in violation of section 2442 of title 18, United States Code, is inadmissible.''.

(c) GROUND OF REMOVABILITY FOR RECRUITING OR USING CHILD SOLDIERS.—Section 237(a)(4) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1227(a)(4)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(F) RECRUITMENT OR USE OF CHILD SOLDIERS.—Any alien who has engaged in the recruitment or use of child soldiers in violation of section 2442 of title 18, United States Code, is deportable.''.

(d) ASYLUM AND WITHHOLDING OF REMOVAL.—

(1) ISSUANCE OF REGULATIONS.—Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Attorney General and the Secretary of Homeland Security shall promulgate final regulations establishing that, for purposes of sections 241(b)(3)(B)(iii) and 208(b)(2)(A)(iii) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1231(b)(3)(B)(iii); 8 U.S.C. 1158(b)(2)(A)(iii)), an alien who is deportable under section 237(a)(4)(F) of such Act (8 U.S.C. 1227(a)(4)(F)) or inadmissible under section 212(a)(3)(G) of such Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(a)(3)(G)) shall be considered an alien with respect to whom there are serious reasons to believe that the alien committed a serious nonpolitical crime.

(2) AUTHORITY TO WAIVE CERTAIN REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS.—The requirements of chapter 5 of title 5, United States Code (commonly referred to as the ''Administrative Procedure Act''), chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code (commonly referred to as the ''Paperwork Reduction Act''), or any other law relating to rulemaking, information collection, or publication in the Federal Register, shall not apply to any action to implement paragraph (1) to the extent the Attorney General or the Secretary Homeland of Security determines that compliance with any such requirement would impede the expeditious implementation of such paragraph.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) and the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. KING) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, let me note what a tragedy it is that we have to stand on the floor of the House in 2008 to speak about the exploitation of children as soldiers. Up to 250,000 children are exploited each day around the world in state-run armies, paramilitaries and guerilla groups. These child soldiers, boys and girls as young as 8 years old, are forced to serve as combatants and human mine detectors. They are often used to conduct suicide missions, and many are used as sex slaves. In fact, we have seen many of them turn themselves in Liberia, Sierra Leone and Colombia. In many cases they are provided with drugs and alcohol to numb them to the atrocities they are required to commit. In all cases, their childhoods are taken from them, their health and lives are endangered, and their psyches are destroyed.

It is a war crime under customary international law to recruit or use children under 15 years of age as soldiers.

I am reminded of an early amendment when I first came to the United States Congress that I added to an appropriations bill that we should restrain the use of appropriations foreign aid for those countries that would not commit to releasing their child soldiers. It is an ongoing and persistent problem.

It is a violation of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which 110 countries, including the U.S., have ratified, to recruit or use child soldiers under the age of 18. But such actions do not currently violate U.S. criminal or immigration law. We are thus hindered in our ability to prevent those who use or recruit child soldiers from coming to our country, and we are unable to punish those perpetrators who make it here. In contrast, other grave human rights violations, including torture, are punishable under U.S. criminal and immigration law.

The Child Soldier Accountability Act of 2008 would correct this disparity by making it a Federal crime and violation of immigration laws to recruit or use child soldiers under the age of 15.

This bipartisan legislation was sponsored in the Senate by Senators DICK DURBIN and TOM COBURN, the chairman and ranking member of the Senate Judiciary Committee Subcommittee on Human Rights and the Law. They worked together on this bill to ensure that war criminals who would exploit children cannot find safe haven in our country.

The bill we vote on today is slightly changed from the bill that was sent to us by the Senate. It now includes changes agreed to in bipartisan and bicameral discussions between Senators DURBIN, COBURN, JON KYL and JEFF SESSIONS, as well as numerous House Members, including Judiciary Committee Chairman JOHN CONYERS and Ranking Member LAMAR SMITH, Crime Subcommittee Chairman BOBBY SCOTT and Ranking Member LOUIE GOHMERT, and Immigration Subcommittee Chairwoman ZOE LOFGREN and Ranking Member STEVE KING.

The United States must hold accountable the war criminals who steal the childhood of innocents by turning them into killers or human fodder. I thus urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

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

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 2135, the Child Soldier Accountability Act of 2008, which prohibits the use of children under the age of 15 in military forces or armed conflicts.

Children are currently used as soldiers in over 20 countries. An estimated 200,000 to 300,000 children are used as soldiers for rebel groups, militias and government armed forces. The individuals who recruit children do so because children are physically vulnerable and easily intimidated. Many children are recruited by force and often compelled to follow orders under threat of death. Child soldiers are a global phenomenon. The problem is most critical in Africa and Asia, but armed groups in the Americas, Eurasia and the Middle East also use child soldiers.

The United States is a party to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict. President Clinton signed the Optional Protocol in 2000 and it was ratified by the Senate in 2002.

The Optional Protocol requires states to raise the age of voluntary recruitment from 15 and to impose a binding declaration of the minimum age for recruitment into their armed forces. The protocol also requires states to take all feasible measures to ensure that members of the armed forces under the age of 18 do not participate in hostilities and prohibits the conscription of anyone under the age of 18 into the armed forces.

The protocol prohibits the recruitment or use in hostilities of children under the age of 18 by rebel or other nongovernmental and armed groups and requires states to criminalize such practices.

In addition to joining the Optional Protocol, the United States funds programs to, one, rehabilitate children who were abducted in Southern Sudan and Northern Uganda; two, demobilize 4,000 children soldiers in Afghanistan and enroll them in education and counseling programs; and three, reintegrate former child combatants in Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Liberia.

□ 1500

The bill before us today complements the ongoing efforts of the United States to combat the use of child soldiers. S. 2135 is the product of several months of good-faith negotiations among Democrats and Republicans in the House and Senate and the administration.

The amended version of S. 2135 that the House will vote on today includes several technical changes to clarify the intent and scope of the bill. Most notably, the bill ensures that U.S. military recruiting practices are not impeded by this legislation. The bill also authorizes the government to deport or deny admission to any individual who recruits or uses child soldiers under the age of 15. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to yield such time as he may consume to the chairman of the Subcommittee on Crime of the House Judiciary Committee, BOBBY SCOTT of Virginia.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. I thank the gentlelady for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 2135, the Child Soldiers Accountability Act of 2008. S. 2135 amends title 18 of the United States Code to create a criminal provision under U.S. law aimed at those who recruit or conscript children under the age of 15 into armed conflict. It establishes criminal penalties for up to 20 years in prison and up to life imprisonment if death results from the crime.

The bill also makes it a violation of immigration law for any person seeking admission to the United States to have committed such acts.

Finally, the bill would extend United States jurisdiction to perpetrators of this crime who are present in the United States, regardless of their nationality or where the crime takes place, so that those who commit these crimes cannot use this country as a safe haven from prosecution. This type of jurisdiction exists for similar crimes such as laws on torture and genocide, which allow for extraterritorial jurisdiction for crimes committed outside of the United States.

In at least 18 countries around the world, children are utilized as direct participants in war. Many of these children soldiers, some as young as 8 years old, are abducted or recruited by force and often compelled to follow orders to participate under harsh duress. And girls make up more than 30 percent of child soldiers and participate in many conflicts. Oftentimes, they are abused and raped. Once recruited, these children, boys and girls, participate in all forms of combat, even wielding AK–47s and M–16s as portrayed in the media.

There is international opposition to recruiting and using child soldiers. Over 110 countries, including the United States, have ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which prohibits the recruitment and use of child soldiers under the age of 18. Nevertheless, the prevalence and nature of the child soldier problem is not going away. It continues to plague the international community. For example, in Uganda, the rebel group has abducted at least 20,000 children and has forced them to work as laborers, soldiers, and sex slaves. We hear about the ongoing persecution and atrocities in Burma, but what has escaped media attention is the use of child soldiers there, as the government has recruited up to 70,000 children, more than any other country in the world.

Recruiting and using child soldiers does not currently violate United States criminal law. S. 2135 was introduced by Senator DURBIN and Senator COBURN to correct that problem. We overwhelmingly passed the Genocide Accountability Act last year to end the immunity gap in genocide law. By this bill, we seek to do the same thing for those who maliciously recruit and use innocent children in warfare. I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, as I listen to the debate here and contemplate the global situation of 200,000, 300,000 child soldiers and

what that means, and the repatriation, so to speak, of the child soldiers in Afghanistan, having just returned from Iraq, Afghanistan, and Georgia, and having walked in some of the dust-covered mountains and in the dust-covered plains over there and been brought up to speed in briefings in both of those countries, it occurs to me how tough it is over in that part of the world, how close they are to the Stone Age, and how difficult it is to live in that country, let alone stand and fight, and the generations of warfare that have built one on top of the other. There is not a generation there that can remember not having fought.

Life expectancy in Afghanistan, 44 years. Up until a couple years ago, Afghanistan, by my recollection, was the only country in the world where men could expect to live longer than women, even though men were the ones that were most often killed in the conflict. The health care is that bad.

When young people are brought up in warfare and they are conscripted into the military and they are confronted with armed conflict at an early age, they may not know any other way of life. And to bring them back into education and try to repatriate them into more of, as we would see it, a normal lifestyle is a very difficult task. But Mr. Speaker, we must. We must break that cycle of violence. We must break that cycle of violence and the culture that reconstitutes at each generation. That is the case in Afghanistan, it is the case in Iraq, it is the case in the West Bank and in the Gaza strip and Israel proper. And it goes on and on and on around this world.

When little children, when little girls are raised to wear a pseudo suicide belt as part of perpetuating a culture of violence, when they are taught to hate people because of their religion or their ethnicity and they see that practiced on the news every day, when I turn on al-Jazeera TV and I see the venom and the hatred that is there, when I watch the leaders of the people that oppose us bring it back home to be inspiring in recruiting people who believe that their path to salvation is killing people who are not like them, then I understand how important it is to break this cycle. I don't know if we are going to be able to do that. I think this bill will move us a little bit closer along that way. At least it stands on the right principle for the right cause, and I urge its adoption.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

By listening to my two colleagues from Iowa and from Virginia, you can see the commonality of viewpoints on this persistent and cancerous aspect of our world society, the continuous use of child soldiers.

I offer to my colleagues the words of a child soldier, and I read them as follows:

''My parents refused to give me to the LITE, so about 15 of them came to my house. It was both men and women in uniforms with rifles and guns in holsters. I was fast asleep when they came to get me at one point in the morning. These people dragged me out of the house. My father shouted at them, saying, 'What is going on?' Some of the LITE soldiers took my father away towards the woods and beat him. They also pushed my mother onto the ground when she tried to stop them.''

This girl was recruited by the Tamil Tigers in Sri Lanka at age 16.

Another story from a young child:

''Early on, when my brothers and I were captured, the LRA explained to us that all five brothers couldn't serve in the LRA because we would not perform well. So they tied up my two younger brothers and invited us to watch. Then they beat them with sticks until two of them died. They told us it would give us strength to fight. My youngest brother was 9 years old.''

Martin, recruited by the Lord's Resistance Army in Uganda at age 12.

This legislation of course is long overdue. And I would ask my colleagues to consider that it may be time after time and year after year that we have to continue to pass this legislation, but I would hope that we would be persistent, hope that the President signs this legislation, and, as well, that we can stamp out the cancer of using and victimizing these wonderful children.

I would like to submit these statements into the RECORD from Human Rights Watch: Child Soldiers, The Voices of Child Soldiers.

THE VOICES OF CHILD SOLDIERS

''The section leader ordered us to take cover and open fire. There were seven of us, and seven or ten of the enemy. I was too afraid to look, so I put my face in the ground and shot my gun up at the sky. I was afraid their bullets would hit my head. I fired two magazines, about forty rounds. I was afraid that if I didn't fire the section leader would punish me.''—Khin Maung Than, recruited by Burma's national army at age eleven.

''My parents refused to give me to the LTTE so about fifteen of them came to my house—it was both men and women, in uniforms, with rifles, and guns in holsters. . . . I was fast asleep when they came to get me at one in the morning. . . . These people dragged me out of the house. My father shouted at them, saying, ''What is going on?'' but some of the LTTE soldiers took my father away towards the woods and beat him. . . . They also pushed by mother onto the ground when she tried to stop them.''—girl recruited by the Tamil Tigers in Sri Lanka at age sixteen.

''I was captured in Lofa County by government forces. The forces beat me, they held me and kept me in the bush. I was tied with my arms kept still and was raped there. I was fourteen years old. . . . After the rape, I was taken to a military base. . . . I was used in the fighting to carry medicine. During the fighting I would carry medicine on my head and was not allowed to talk. I had to stand very still. I had to do a lot of work for the soldiers, sweeping, washing, cleaning. During this time, I felt really bad. I was afraid, I wanted to go home, but was made to stay with the soldiers.''—Evelyn, recruited in Liberia by government forces at age fourteen.

''I had a friend, Juanita, who got into trouble for sleeping around. We had been friends in civilian life and we shared a tent together. The commander said that it didn't matter that she was my friend. She had committed an error and had to be killed. I closed my eyes and fired the gun, but I didn't hit her. So I shot again. The grave was right nearby. I had to bury her and put dirt on top of her. The commander said, ''You did very well. Even though you started to cry, you did well. You'll have to do this again many more times, and you'll have to learn not to cry.''—Angela, joined the FARC–EP in Colombia at age twelve.

''Early on when my brothers and I were captured, the LRA explained to us that all five brothers couldn't serve in the LRA because we would not perform well. So they tied up my two younger brothers and invited us to watch. Then they beat them with sticks until two of them died. They told us it would give us strength to fight. My youngest brother was nine years old.''—Martin, recruited by the Lord's Resistance Army in Uganda at age twelve.

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak in very strong support of the Child Soldiers Accountability Act of 2007. S. 2135 addresses the ongoing struggle to protect children from the horrors of war. The recruitment, enlisting, or conscripting of children in any armed force is unacceptable. Child soldiers face increased mortality rates as well as emotional and psychological damage that are often irreversible. The time has come for the United States to once again uphold justice and stand up for defenseless children who are at risk of losing their childhood, their families, and their physical and emotional well being.

Currently, more than 250,000 child soldiers suffer at the hands of exploitative, ruthless military commanders. Too often, their cries for help are stifled by poverty, ongoing armed conflict, and political instability; it is our responsibility to take up their cause and punish those who have participated in their torment to the extent possible. There is widespread disagreement on the particulars of what might constitute justification for war or aggressive military action, but it is almost universally acknowledged that children should not be used as combatants in such conflicts.

It is imperative that the United States sends a clear and firm message condemning the use of child soldiers and showing our willingness to take the necessary measures to respond to those who would use children in this fashion. Passing S. 2135 is a significant step forward in holding perpetrators accountable for their actions, particularly in light of the fact that the United States has not yet ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, which expresses the wide-ranging opposition to the use of minor children as soldiers. Children in any country deserve the same opportunity to succeed and thrive at life; I believe this bill will solidify our commitment to a higher moral standard.

By passing S. 2135 we have the opportunity to join the many nations fighting the scourge of child soldiering which is why I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting S. 2135.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. I ask my colleagues to enthusiastically support this particular legislation.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 2135, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

HOUR OF MEETING ON TOMORROW

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 10:30 a.m. tomorrow for morning-hour debate; and further, that when the House adjourns on Wednesday, September 10, it adjourn to meet at 11 a.m. on Thursday, September 11.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Texas?

There was no objection.

DISPENSING WITH CALENDAR WEDNESDAY BUSINESS ON WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2008

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the business in order under the Calendar Wednesday rule be dispensed with on September 10, 2008.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Texas?

There was no objection.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 3 o'clock and 10 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 1830

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. JACKSON of Illinois) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

S. 2403, by the yeas and nays;

S. 2837, by the yeas and nays;

S. 2135, by the yeas and nays.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Remaining electronic votes will be conducted as 5-minute votes.

SPOTTSWOOD W. ROBINSON III AND ROBERT R. MERHIGE, JR. FEDERAL COURTHOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 2403, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the Senate bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. CARNEY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 2403, as amended.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 376, nays 0, not voting 57, as follows:

[Roll No. 567]

YEAS—376

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Aderholt
Akin
Alexander
Allen
Altmire
Arcuri
Baca
Bachmann
Bachus
Baird
Baldwin
Barrett (SC)
Barrow
Bartlett (MD)
Barton (TX)
Bean
Becerra
Berkley
Berman
Biggert
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Blunt
Boehner
Bonner
Bono Mack
Boozman
Boren
Boustany
Boyd (FL)
Boyda (KS)
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Broun (GA)
Brown (SC)
Brown-Waite, Ginny
Buchanan
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Buyer
Calvert
Camp (MI)
Campbell (CA)
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cardoza
Carney
Carson
Carter
Castle
Castor
Chabot
Childers
Clarke
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coble
Cohen
Cole (OK)
Conaway
Cooper
Costa
Costello
Courtney
Cramer
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Davis (AL)
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
Davis (KY)
Davis, David
Davis, Lincoln
Deal (GA)
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
Dent
Dingell
Doggett
Donnelly
Doolittle
Doyle
Drake
Dreier
Duncan
Edwards (MD)
Edwards (TX)
Ehlers
Ellsworth
Emanuel
English (PA)
Eshoo
Etheridge
Everett
Fallin
Farr
Fattah
Feeney
Ferguson
Filner
Flake
Forbes
Fortenberry
Fossella
Foster
Foxx
Frank (MA)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gallegly
Garrett (NJ)
Gerlach
Giffords
Gillibrand
Gingrey
Gohmert
Gonzalez
Goode
Goodlatte
Gordon
Granger
Graves
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Gutierrez
Hall (NY)
Hall (TX)
Hare
Harman
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Heller
Hensarling
Herger
Herseth Sandlin
Higgins
Hill
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hirono
Hobson
Holt
Honda
Hooley
Hoyer
Hunter
Inglis (SC)
Inslee
Israel
Issa
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Jefferson
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jones (NC)
Jordan
Kagen
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Keller
Kildee
Kilpatrick
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Klein (FL)
Kline (MN)
Knollenberg
Kucinich
Kuhl (NY)
LaHood
Lamborn
Lampson
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
LaTourette
Latta
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (GA)
Lewis (KY)
Linder
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lucas
Lungren, Daniel E.
Lynch
Mack
Mahoney (FL)
Manzullo
Marchant
Markey
Marshall
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McCaul (TX)
McCollum (MN)
McCotter
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McHugh
McIntyre
McKeon
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
Meek (FL)
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller (NC)
Miller, Gary
Miller, George
Mitchell
Mollohan
Moore (KS)
Moore (WI)
Moran (KS)
Moran (VA)
Murphy (CT)
Murphy, Patrick
Murphy, Tim
Murtha
Musgrave
Myrick
Nadler
Napolitano
Neugebauer
Nunes
Oberstar
Obey
Olver
Ortiz
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor
Paul
Payne
Pearce
Pence
Perlmutter
Petri
Platts
Poe
Pomeroy
Porter
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Pryce (OH)
Putnam
Radanovich
Rahall
Ramstad
Rangel
Regula
Rehberg
Reichert
Renzi
Reyes
Reynolds
Richardson
Rodriguez
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothman
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruppersberger
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Salazar
Sali
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schmidt
Schwartz
Scott (GA)
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Sestak
Shadegg
Shays
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sires
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Snyder
Solis
Souder
Space
Speier
Spratt
Stark
Stearns
Sullivan
Sutton
Tancredo
Tanner
Tauscher
Taylor
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Tierney
Tsongas
Turner
Upton
Van Hollen
Visclosky
Walberg
Walden (OR)
Walsh (NY)
Walz (MN)
Wamp
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson
Watt
Waxman
Weiner
Welch (VT)
Weldon (FL)
Westmoreland
Wexler
Whitfield (KY)
Wilson (NM)
Wilson (OH)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman (VA)
Wolf
Woolsey
Wu
Yarmuth
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

NOT VOTING—57

Andrews
Berry
Boswell
Boucher
Braley (IA)
Brown, Corrine
Butterfield
Cannon
Carnahan
Cazayoux
Chandler
Clay
Conyers
Cubin
Cummings
Davis, Tom
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Dicks
Ellison
Emerson
Engel
Gilchrest
Grijalva
Hodes
Hoekstra
Holden
Hulshof
Kennedy
Kirk
Lee
Levin
Loebsack
Maloney (NY)
McCrery
McNulty
Meeks (NY)
Melancon
Neal (MA)
Peterson (MN)
Peterson (PA)
Pickering
Pitts
Rohrabacher
Rush
Saxton
Scott (VA)
Shuler
Smith (NE)
Smith (WA)
Stupak
Terry
Towns
Udall (CO)
Udall (NM)
Velázquez
Weller

□ 1857

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the Senate bill, as amended, was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The title was amended so as to read: ''A bill to designate the United States courthouse located in the 700 block of East Broad Street, Richmond, Virginia, as the 'Spottswood W. Robinson III and Robert R. Merhige, Jr., United States Courthouse'.''.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ANNOUNCING THE PASSING OF THE HONORABLE STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

(Ms. KAPTUR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I seek to be recognized in order to officially for the first time on the RECORD place the passing from this life of our beloved colleague, Congresswoman STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES of Ohio's 11th District.

I would like to announce to my colleagues that after votes this evening, we will manage a special bereavement resolution. Many Members, I know, will want to pay tribute to STEPHANIE's beautiful life. We as Ohioans, as Buckeyes, share her son Mervyn's profound sense of loss; but also I know we share an equal gratitude for the manner in which she lived her life and what she contributed, not just to her family or her church family or her staff, but to our country and indeed to our world.

When STEPHANIE hugged many of us before we left in August, I can tell you I certainly didn't think I would be down here this evening. Any Member who wishes to honor her life can do so after the votes are cast this evening.

Let me just mention to my colleagues that we knew STEPHANIE here as Chair of the Ethics Committee and as the first African American woman to serve on the Ways and Means Committee. But her path was not an easy one. Coming from East Cleveland, she was a gregarious leader who blazed many trails.

□ 1900

She was one of the few women who have ever served in the Ohio delegation, and the first African American woman ever to be elected to the Congress of the United States from the State of Ohio. She was the first black woman to become a judge of the Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court, as well as the county's first African American prosecutor.

She gave so much to so many. I always seemed to catch STEPHANIE running through the airport with her suitcase, traveling somewhere, with that boundless energy and that constant smile; and we will pay tribute more fully to her later this evening.

To her son, Mervyn, who I would expect is listening this evening, we all know that your mother's strength will hold you now in a very profound way; and we extend our deepest sympathy to you. We know that in the years ahead you will come to appreciate even more what her life has meant to our country.

Mr. Speaker, I think my dear colleague, Mr. BOEHNER, the minority leader, has remarks at this time.

I will be happy to yield you time.

Mr. BOEHNER. Let me thank my colleague from Ohio for her words.

We all loved STEPHANIE. Here is a lady who gave her entire career to public service, and she did so in a way that was gregarious, that was outspoken, loud, if you will.

All of you know STEPHANIE. Her office was next to mine over in the Longworth Building, and we always knew when STEPHANIE was coming back to her office because she would be walking down the hall talking to somebody. But she and I were friends and we were smoking buddies. Now, I know that might offend some of you, but you just never know how well you get to know someone over a cocktail. But here was a lady who blazed a lot of trails, who dedicated her life to public service, and someone that we will dearly miss in this Chamber.

Ms. KAPTUR. I thank the gentleman.

And as I paid my respects at the wake the day before the service, I was reminded I had been in that church twice before to pay tribute to STEPHANIE's father who died during her tenure here, and then her husband who also died. And it was almost hard to walk into that church for the third time, and my respect for her grew even more for the strength that she showed to all of us despite these enormous personal losses that she had borne.

Mr. Speaker, in concluding, let me just say that from 1 Peter 4:10–11, this is what the prayer card said at her funeral service:

> Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power forever and ever. Amen.

And at the base of the card is STEPHANIE's signature with the words, ''I hope I made you proud.''

Mr. Speaker, may I ask now for the membership to rise and pay tribute to the life of Congresswoman STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members will now rise for a moment of silence in honor of the distinguished gentlelady from Ohio, the distinguished chairwoman of the Ethics Committee, Congresswoman STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, 5-minute voting will continue.

There was no objection.

THEODORE ROOSEVELT UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 2837, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the Senate bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. CARNEY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 2837.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 375, nays 1, not voting 57, as follows:

[Roll No. 568]

YEAS—375

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Aderholt
Akin
Alexander
Allen
Altmire
Arcuri
Baca
Bachmann
Bachus
Baird
Baldwin
Barrett (SC)
Barrow
Bartlett (MD)
Barton (TX)
Bean
Becerra
Berkley
Berman
Biggert
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Blunt
Boehner
Bonner
Bono Mack
Boozman
Boren
Boustany
Boyd (FL)
Boyda (KS)
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Broun (GA)
Brown (SC)
Brown-Waite, Ginny
Buchanan
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Buyer
Calvert
Camp (MI)
Campbell (CA)
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cardoza
Carney
Carson
Carter
Castle
Castor
Chabot
Childers
Clarke
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coble
Cohen
Cole (OK)
Conaway
Cooper
Costa
Costello
Courtney
Cramer
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Davis (AL)
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
Davis (KY)
Davis, David
Davis, Lincoln
Deal (GA)
DeFazio
Delahunt
DeLauro
Dent
Dingell
Doggett
Donnelly
Doolittle
Doyle
Drake
Dreier
Duncan
Edwards (MD)
Edwards (TX)
Ehlers
Ellsworth
Emanuel
English (PA)
Eshoo
Etheridge
Everett
Fallin
Farr
Fattah
Feeney
Ferguson
Filner
Flake
Forbes
Fortenberry
Fossella
Foster
Foxx
Frank (MA)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gallegly
Garrett (NJ)
Gerlach
Giffords
Gillibrand
Gingrey
Gohmert
Gonzalez
Goode
Goodlatte
Gordon
Granger
Graves
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Gutierrez
Hall (NY)
Hall (TX)
Hare
Harman
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Heller
Hensarling
Herger
Herseth Sandlin
Higgins
Hill
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hirono
Hobson
Holt
Honda
Hooley
Hoyer
Hunter
Inglis (SC)
Inslee
Israel
Issa
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Jefferson
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jones (NC)
Jordan
Kagen
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Keller
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilpatrick
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Klein (FL)
Kline (MN)
Knollenberg
Kucinich
Kuhl (NY)
LaHood
Lamborn
Lampson
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
LaTourette
Latta
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (GA)
Lewis (KY)
Linder
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lucas
Lungren, Daniel E.
Lynch
Mack
Mahoney (FL)
Manzullo
Marchant
Markey
Marshall
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McCaul (TX)
McCollum (MN)
McCotter
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McHugh
McIntyre
McKeon
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
Meek (FL)
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller (NC)
Miller, Gary
Miller, George
Mitchell
Mollohan
Moore (KS)
Moore (WI)
Moran (KS)
Moran (VA)
Murphy (CT)
Murphy, Patrick
Murphy, Tim
Murtha
Musgrave
Myrick
Nadler
Napolitano
Neugebauer
Nunes
Oberstar
Obey
Ortiz
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor
Payne
Pearce
Pence
Perlmutter
Petri
Platts
Poe
Pomeroy
Porter
Price (GA)

Price (NC)
Pryce (OH)
Putnam
Radanovich
Rahall
Ramstad
Rangel
Regula
Rehberg
Reichert
Renzi
Reyes
Reynolds
Richardson
Rodriguez
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothman
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruppersberger
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Salazar
Sali
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schmidt
Schwartz
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Sestak
Shadegg
Shays
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sires
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Snyder
Solis
Souder
Space
Speier
Spratt
Stark
Stearns
Sullivan
Sutton
Tancredo
Tanner
Tauscher
Taylor
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Tierney
Tsongas
Turner
Upton
Van Hollen
Visclosky
Walberg
Walden (OR)
Walsh (NY)
Walz (MN)
Wamp
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson
Watt
Waxman
Weiner
Welch (VT)
Weldon (FL)
Westmoreland
Wexler
Whitfield (KY)
Wilson (NM)
Wilson (OH)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman (VA)
Wolf
Woolsey
Wu
Yarmuth
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

NAYS—1

Paul

NOT VOTING—57

Andrews
Berry
Boswell
Boucher
Braley (IA)
Brown, Corrine
Butterfield
Cannon
Carnahan
Cazayoux
Chandler
Clay
Conyers
Cubin
Cummings
Davis, Tom
DeGette
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Dicks
Ellison
Emerson
Engel
Gilchrest
Grijalva
Hodes
Hoekstra
Holden
Hulshof
Kirk
Lee
Levin
Loebsack
Maloney (NY)
McCrery
McNulty
Meeks (NY)
Melancon
Neal (MA)
Olver
Peterson (MN)
Peterson (PA)
Pickering
Pitts
Rohrabacher
Rush
Saxton
Shuler
Smith (NE)
Smith (WA)
Stupak
Terry
Towns
Udall (CO)
Udall (NM)
Velázquez
Weller

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). Members are advised there are 2 minutes remaining in this vote.

□ 1912

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the Senate bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CHILD SOLDIERS ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2008

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 2135, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the Senate bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 2135, as amended.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 371, nays 0, not voting 62, as follows:

[Roll No. 569]

YEAS—371

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Aderholt
Akin
Alexander
Allen
Altmire
Arcuri
Baca
Bachmann
Bachus
Baird
Baldwin
Barrett (SC)
Barrow
Bartlett (MD)
Barton (TX)
Bean
Berkley
Biggert
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Blumenauer
Blunt
Boehner
Bonner
Bono Mack
Boozman
Boren
Boustany
Boyd (FL)
Boyda (KS)
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Broun (GA)
Brown (SC)
Brown-Waite, Ginny
Buchanan
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Buyer
Calvert
Camp (MI)
Campbell (CA)
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cardoza
Carney
Carson
Carter
Castle
Castor
Chabot
Childers
Clarke
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coble
Cohen
Cole (OK)
Conaway
Cooper
Costa
Costello
Courtney
Cramer
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Davis (AL)
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
Davis (KY)
Davis, David
Davis, Lincoln
Deal (GA)
DeFazio
Delahunt
DeLauro
Dent
Dingell
Doggett
Donnelly
Doolittle
Doyle
Drake
Dreier
Duncan
Edwards (MD)
Edwards (TX)
Ehlers
Ellsworth
Emanuel
English (PA)
Eshoo
Etheridge
Everett
Fallin
Farr
Fattah
Feeney
Ferguson
Filner
Flake
Forbes
Fortenberry
Fossella
Foster
Foxx
Frank (MA)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gallegly
Garrett (NJ)
Gerlach
Giffords
Gillibrand
Gingrey
Gohmert
Gonzalez
Goode
Goodlatte
Gordon
Granger
Graves
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Gutierrez
Hall (NY)
Hall (TX)
Hare
Harman
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Heller
Hensarling
Herger
Herseth Sandlin
Higgins
Hill
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hirono
Hobson
Holt
Honda
Hooley
Hoyer
Hunter
Inglis (SC)
Inslee
Israel
Issa
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Jefferson
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jones (NC)
Jordan
Kagen
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Keller
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilpatrick
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Klein (FL)
Kline (MN)
Knollenberg
Kucinich
Kuhl (NY)
LaHood
Lamborn
Lampson
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
LaTourette
Latta
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (GA)
Lewis (KY)
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lucas
Lungren, Daniel E.
Lynch
Mack
Mahoney (FL)
Manzullo
Marchant
Markey
Marshall
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McCaul (TX)
McCollum (MN)
McCotter
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McHugh
McIntyre
McKeon
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
Meek (FL)
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller (NC)
Miller, Gary
Miller, George
Mitchell
Mollohan
Moore (KS)
Moore (WI)
Moran (KS)
Moran (VA)
Murphy (CT)
Murphy, Patrick
Murphy, Tim
Murtha
Musgrave
Myrick
Nadler
Napolitano
Neugebauer
Nunes
Oberstar
Obey
Olver
Ortiz
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor
Payne
Pearce
Pence
Perlmutter
Petri
Platts
Poe
Pomeroy
Porter
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Pryce (OH)
Putnam
Radanovich
Rahall
Ramstad
Rangel
Regula
Rehberg
Reichert
Renzi
Reyes
Reynolds
Richardson
Rodriguez
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothman
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruppersberger
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Salazar
Sali
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schmidt
Schwartz
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Shadegg
Shays
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sires
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Snyder
Solis
Souder
Space
Speier
Spratt
Stark
Stearns
Sullivan
Sutton
Tancredo
Tanner
Tauscher
Taylor
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Tierney
Tsongas
Turner
Upton
Van Hollen
Visclosky
Walberg
Walden (OR)
Walsh (NY)
Walz (MN)
Wamp
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson
Watt
Waxman
Weiner
Welch (VT)
Weldon (FL)
Westmoreland
Wexler
Whitfield (KY)
Wilson (NM)
Wilson (OH)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman (VA)
Wolf
Woolsey
Wu
Yarmuth
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

NOT VOTING—62

Andrews
Becerra
Berman
Berry
Blackburn
Boswell
Boucher
Braley (IA)
Brown, Corrine
Butterfield
Cannon
Carnahan
Cazayoux
Chandler
Clay
Conyers
Cubin
Cummings
Davis, Tom
DeGette
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Dicks
Ellison
Emerson
Engel
Gilchrest
Grijalva
Hodes
Hoekstra
Holden
Hulshof
Kirk
Lee
Levin
Linder
Loebsack
Maloney (NY)
McCrery
McNulty
Meeks (NY)
Melancon
Neal (MA)
Paul
Peterson (MN)
Peterson (PA)
Pickering
Pitts
Rohrabacher
Rush
Saxton
Sestak
Shuler
Smith (NE)
Smith (WA)
Stupak
Terry
Towns
Udall (CO)
Udall (NM)
Velázquez
Weller

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining in this vote.

□ 1920

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the Senate bill, as amended, was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, on September 8, 2008, I was called away on personal business. I regret that I was not present to vote on S. 2403, S. 2837, and S. 2135.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on all votes.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, due to personal matters, today I missed rollcall vote No. 567 on final passage of S. 2403, rollcall vote No. 568 on final passage of S. 2837, and rollcall vote No. 569 on final passage of S. 2135. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on each of these rollcall votes.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H. CON. RES. 362

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to have my name removed as a cosponsor of House Concurrent Resolution 362.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SESTAK). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Georgia?

There was no objection.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, on the passage of S. 2403, I was unavoidably detained. I would like the RECORD to reflect that had I been present I would have voted ''yes.''

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 1619

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to have my name removed from H.R. 1619 as a sponsor.

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

There was no objection.

PERMISSION FOR COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES TO FILE SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT ON H.R. 3667, MISSISQUOI AND TROUT RIVERS WILD AND SCENIC RIVER STUDY ACT OF 2008

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Natural Resources be authorized to file a supplemental report on H.R. 3667.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from California?

There was no objection.

EXPRESSING THE CONDOLENCES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON THE DEATH OF THE HONORABLE STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES, A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE STATE OF OHIO

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening in order to consider the bereavement resolution in memory of our beloved colleague.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 1415

Resolved, That the House has heard with profound sorrow of the death of the Honorable Stephanie Tubbs Jones, a Representative from the State of Ohio.

Resolved, That the Clerk communicate these resolutions to the Senate and transmit a copy thereof to the family of the deceased.

Resolved, That when the House adjourns today, it adjourn as a further mark of respect to the memory of the deceased.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from Ohio is recognized for 1 hour.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker and colleagues, it is with a profound sense of sadness, as well as a deep sense of privilege that I rise this evening to commemorate and to celebrate the life of our friend, colleague, and sister, Congresswoman STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES of Ohio's 11th District. This evening, we do this with the deepest gratitude for her life, and on behalf of our entire Ohio delegation, the people of our State, her home city of Cleveland, and citizens far and wide, who were blessed to know and walk, work, worship and smile along with STEPHANIE.

On the day of her funeral, the Cleveland Plain Dealer, or actually it was the day after, the Sunday Plain Dealer, had a very large photo of the memorial service held in Cleveland, Ohio. And the headline read, STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES, 1949 to 2008: Tears flow, laughter rolls during memorial service. And the paper goes on to recount so many beautiful, beautiful remarks and remembrances that people across this country attributed to her life. We will be placing this in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, as well as I would like to read from my home paper, the Toledo Blade, way on the other side of the State from where STEPHANIE represented. It stated, a leader passes, the loss of her fighting spirit will be keenly felt, deeply mourned and difficult to replace.

I think particularly this evening of her son, Mervyn. We wish him comfort, and we wish him her strength as he mourns her passing.

We all know that when one met STEPHANIE, you knew you had met strength. You knew you had met someone who endured struggle. She had a keen intelligence, a high-minded idealism, and wow, her charisma just overflowed.

The other day I was in my district and I met a man from Cleveland who had gone to school with STEPHANIE. And I said, tell me, was STEPHANIE always that enthusiastic? He said, ''Marcy, I went to law school with her. She never changed.''

And from the time she was in her late teens and early 20s to her service here, she had the same boundless energy, drive and positive spirit.

She was a devoted wife, a beloved mother, a sister to us all, and an elected leader, in that order. And she relished all of her life's roles. Her drive and energy were genuine, and they were infectious. And she carved a nobler path for America with her election as the first African American woman from Ohio to serve in the U.S. Congress. We Ohioans were very proud of her.

I know that I, like my colleagues, have so many vivid lasting memories of STEPHANIE. Upon her first swearing in, I still recall a little table in a reception hall here where I was able to present her with a single red rose as she was sitting next to her predecessor, Congressman Louis Stokes, and how she poignantly responded. She knew the steepness of the climb.

I recall my efforts to comfort her on the loss of her husband, and she immediately reciprocated as she shared with me, over my Blackberry, a favorite poem from which she drew succor.

Imagine how many memories each of us has, how many thousands of lives she touched, representing a district and State that tested her talents, her spirit, and her conscience daily. She served people well beyond her district, logging thousands of miles in freedom's cause.

I don't think I saw STEPHANIE too many times without that little valise in the back room here. She was always going somewhere. She held a hard job, and she put her entire being into it. She literally gave herself to us. And in her memory, we should dedicate ourselves to her unfinished work.

One can imagine how few women have ever served in the Congress from our State. To those afforded the privilege, there is a priceless bond that links our spirits and provides support.

STEPHANIE was such a valued sister. Though her years with us were far too short, her impact endures well beyond the years. She made history. She spoke her conscience, and she reveled in every step of the journey.

Thanks be to God, she did not suffer in the end. The Lord spared her that, perhaps as, through her life, she had endured too much personal sadness and loss that would have broken lesser spirits.

In loss, STEPHANIE's strength strengthens us. Her enduring personal legacy of character and endurance, beyond her milestone achievements, remain the portrait of her life. Our delegation is especially honored to fittingly commemorate her life and achievements here this evening.

[From the Sunday Plain Dealer, Aug. 31, 2008]

STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES, 1949–2008: TEARS FLOW, LAUGHTER ROLLS DURING MEMORIAL SERVICE

(By Tony Brown)

It was a moment that surely would have earned one of the wide, knowing smiles remembered so well by all the friends of Stephanie Tubbs Jones.

Rep. Tim Ryan of Niles, the man Tubbs Jones used to call her ''white son,'' and fellow Congressman Kendrick Meek of Florida, whom she nicknamed her ''black son,'' had just finished moving tributes to their congressional ''mom.''

That's when Mervyn Jones II, her real son, slipped out of his front-row seat to join his ''brothers'' in an intimate, tearful embrace in front of thousands gathered to bid farewell to the first black woman elected to Congress from Ohio.

The three remained locked in each other's arms well into remarks made by former Rep. Louis Stokes, the man whose seat Tubbs Jones inherited in 1989.

After the men returned to their places, Sen. Barack Obama—the son of a black father and a white mother who grew up to become the first black presidential nominee of a major U.S. political party—turned in his chair to console a still-sobbing Meek.

In that moment, amid the grieving and the laughter and the consolation and the stories and the campaign rhetoric of the celebration of a life well-lived, everyone under the vaulted ceiling of Public Hall—all friends of Tubbs Jones—shared in that group hug.

It was a hug that encircled the woman whose body lay in a flag-draped casket that rested on a square of red carpet in front of the stage: Rep. Stephanie Tubbs Jones, who died of a burst brain aneurysm on Aug. 20 at the age of 58.

Friend was a word heard over and over as the nation's most powerful Democratic leaders, fresh from Obama's nomination in Denver, joined religious leaders and Tubbs Jones' beloved constituents, family and sorority sisters in testifying to the immensity of Tubbs Jones' spirit.

Former President Bill Clinton, not scheduled to speak but unable to help himself, called his relationship with Tubbs Jones ''16 years of astonishing friendship.''

So astonishing that Tubbs Jones continued to support a failing presidential bid by his wife, Sen. Hillary Clinton, well after many of the congresswoman's constituents had voted for Obama.

''She was not a fair-weather friend,'' Hillary Clinton told the crowd.

''I certainly know what that means. Now, her friendship was not uncritical. When she was your friend, she felt it her responsibility to inform you of all the matters that needed improvement.''

Obama, Clinton's opponent for the party's presidential nomination, also counted himself among Tubbs Jones' buddies.

''I am here today to pay tribute to an extraordinary American and a devoted public servant, a mother, a daughter, a sister, a wife and a dear friend to so many here in Cleveland, so many in Ohio and so many across America.

''And during the most recent contest, Stephanie and I were on different sides, and we would see each other, she would say to me, ''This is what it means to be a friend for me.' All I could say is, 'I understand.' ''

There were more words of praise and prayer from elected officials, some quoting Shakespeare and Scripture, during the three-hour-and-47-minute marathon of tributes.

Speakers included Sen. Sherrod Brown, Mayor Frank Jackson, Cuyahoga County Commissioner Jimmy Dimora, Rep. Carolyn Kilpatrick of Michigan and Ohio Gov. Ted Strickland.

And they told plenty of funny and poignant stories.

Perhaps the funniest and most poignant was recounted by Bill Clinton, who recalled accompanying Tubbs Jones to Puerto Rico on a primary campaign visit for his wife.

''Now, how Stephanie became a native Puerto Rican in 15 minutes, I'll never know,'' Clinton said, warming to his subject.

They went into a shop, Clinton said, where Tubbs Jones admired a piece of locally made jewelry. Clinton bought it surreptitiously and presented it to her.

''She looked at me and laughed and she said, 'You know, I really like this,' she says. 'It's not often a man'll give a woman a piece of jewelry and not want anything for it.' I totally lost it.''

So did Clinton's audience. As the laughter died down, the former president moved in for the kicker.

''I looked at her and said, 'Stephanie, you have given me and our family more, you have given your people and this country more than you will ever know.' ''

In addition to the eloquent politicians who were gathered, there were plenty of just plain friends who laughed and wept and patted each other on the back to the rhythm of hymns like ''Amazing Grace'' and ''Canaan's Happy Shore.''

Some of the late arrivals almost didn't make it into the funeral.

At 11:30 a.m., about 30 minutes after the service began, Secret Service officers blocked the entrance. ''The event is closed,'' one told approaching visitors.

Within minutes, the number lingering at the entrance grew to more than a dozen. They spoke in shared disbelief. ''Stephanie would not want this,'' one woman said angrily.

Someone in charge agreed. Within minutes, the officers stepped aside. Newcomers flowed into the cavernous auditorium until well past noon.

One of the most moving speakers the Friends of Stephanie heard Saturday was no politician or preacher.

She was a 16-year-old named Tiffany Robertson, a member of an all-girls health careers class at Cleveland's Martin Luther King Jr. High School that Tubbs Jones took under her wing two years ago.

''This is the future,'' Tiffany recalled Jones telling the girls.

The congresswoman took time from her political and legislative schedule to visit the class and take them places. She took them to church one Sunday, but Tiffany had to work.

So Jones dropped by the workplace with Tiffany's classmates in tow.

''We're family,'' Tiffany told her classmates, who stood in a show of unity with their peer.

''We got to stick together. We got to carry on her legacy. She was steward, protector and advocate to us.

''I will miss her as a friend.''

''There's a famous song a few years back . . . and the refrain of the song says, 'If you have a choice, to sit it out or dance, I hope you dance.' And we all know that Stephanie didn't sit it out, she danced.''—Tim Ryan, U.S. Representative from Ohio.

''Stephanie was the kind of political leader who needed hours to go grocery shopping because everyone she saw wanted a moment of her time, and she willingly gave it. Because if you met Stephanie, she was your friend.''—Ted Strickland, Ohio Governor.

''Oftentimes, late at night, on the campaign trail, whether the news had been good or bad, she would have a look in her eye. Sometimes she would grab my hand, and she would say, 'Oh, I miss my husband, I wish he were here.' Well, they are together now.''—Hillary Clinton, U.S. Senator.

''That's not the air show. The rumbling you hear is the rearrangement of chairs in heaven.''—Dennis Eckart, Former Representative standing outside Public Hall as a jet roared by.

''I considered her my congresswoman as well. We talked all the time about statewide issues.''—Michael Coleman, Columbus Mayor.

''Whenever Stephanie came in contact with young people, she inspired them, she taught them, she mentored them, she stayed in touch with them. Her legacy is in their legacy.''—Sherrod Brown, U.S. Senator from Ohio.

''Whenever we talked on the phone, she would say, 'Congresswoman, I love ya.' And I'd say: 'I love you, too.' She was a great congressman. She was a good friend. Thanks, Stephanie, I love ya.''—Louis Stokes, former U.S. Representative from Ohio.

''For Stephanie, it wasn't enough to rise up from modest circumstances and break so many barriers herself. She had to reach back and pull others through the doors she opened.''—Barack Obama, Democratic presidential nominee.

''I want to let you know, Cleveland, that you were represented by one of the best . . .Ladies and gentlemen, she lived a life that was worth living.''—Kendrick Meek, U.S. Representative from South Carolina.

''I'll always know her as Aunt Stephanie. She had a big smile.''—Erin Norton, 24, of Cleveland, whose uncle lived next to Tubbs Jones.

''All the good things she started, it's like she's still living.''—Schuvar Murray, 37, of Cleveland.

[From the Blade, Aug. 24, 2008]

A LEADER PASSES

Society's' downtrodden, disadvantaged, disillusioned, and disconnected have lost an influential voice and ally in Washington with the unexpected passing of Stephanie Tubbs Jones, the first black woman to represent Ohio in the U.S. House of Representatives.

The 11th District representative from the east side of Cleveland died Wednesday after suffering a brain hemorrhage.

The loss to Ohio and the nation was described by one of her colleagues as ''incalculable,'' and that was an understatement. It was a setback for the cause of impassioned, committed, gutsy leadership, especially for the district, made up of east Cleveland and its nearby suburbs, which Ms. Tubbs Jones served so tirelessly.

A decade ago, the 58-year-old Democrat was handpicked by U.S. Rep. Lou Stokes to be his successor after his legendary stewardship of that congressional district for 30 years. Over five terms, Mr. Stokes said, ''she took it to a higher level, a new level. She made me so proud.''

A gregarious leader, she also blazed trails for others with a resume of many firsts—the first black woman to become a judge of Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court, as well as the county's first black prosecutor, succeeding the storied John T. Corrigan.

In Washington, she was also the first black woman to sit on the powerful House Ways and Means Committee, where she was a force to be reckoned with. Fiercely partisan, but not necessarily predictable, she was that unusual politician who said what she meant and meant what she said.

In 2001, she endorsed an unknown black lawyer for Cleveland mayor over the more politically experienced Jane Campbell, who eventually won. This year, she perplexed—and provoked—her constituents with her unflagging support of Hillary Clinton for president over newcomer Barack Obama.

But her word was her bond, said the Rev. Jesse Jackson. ''It didn't waver in the wind.'' Like all congressional Democrats, she was scheduled to serve as a super delegate at the Democratic National Convention in Denver next week to witness the formal nomination of Mr. Obama as the first black candidate for president of the United States.

Ms. Tubbs Jones, who once said she considered herself a voice for minorities across the country, would have reveled in the moment. The loss of her fighting spirit will be keenly felt, deeply mourned, and difficult to replace.

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Mr. Speaker, I would like to yield at this time to Congresswoman BETTY SUTTON from the Ohio delegation, the able Representative from Akron, Lorain.

Ms. SUTTON. I thank the gentlewoman from Ohio for yielding me the time.

And I, too, rise today with heaviness in my heart but also with a deep sense of gratitude and respect for my colleague, my friend, STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES. Her passing is truly a tragic loss for the people of Ohio's 11th District, whom she loved so very much, and for all of the people who she stood up for across this country.

STEPHANIE was truly an historic figure in American politics. She achieved

many firsts and she blazed many trails in a way that only STEPHANIE could. She was the first African American and first female prosecutor in Cuyahoga County, Ohio; the first African American woman to sit on the Common Pleas bench in Ohio; the first African American woman to be elected to Congress from Ohio, and the first African American woman to serve on the House Ways and Means Committee, a job she truly loved.

STEPHANIE attacked her job as a Congresswoman with passion and a contagious enthusiasm on behalf of those she served. She was effective and determined. Her strength exceeded courage. She was fearless. She lived her life and represented her constituents giving it everything she had. She had no time for fear.

Her amazing spirit touched and brightened so many lives, and with every first that STEPHANIE achieved, with every rung of the ladder she climbed, STEPHANIE always reached back to help others following behind. From encouraging the young women and men in her office who interned, to inspiring the young people from her hometown of Cleveland, STEPHANIE was a force. And she loved her staff and spoke of them as family. STEPHANIE was not pretentious. She treated all people as they should be treated, with dignity and respect.

Mr. Speaker, when I first arrived in these hallowed Halls in January of 2007, I was very fortunate to have STEPHANIE here to help me. She was a colleague and a friend who I could turn to for advice not only on the many crucial issues that we face but also simply on how to navigate this body. And when I thanked her for helping me along, she would always wave a hand in the air and explain, ''Hey, we're sisters.'' STEPHANIE'S friendship and mentorship were vital to me, and I am grateful that she touched my life

STEPHANIE was honest and loyal. You could count on her word. She was the type of person who could lift up the spirits of those feeling down. She was willing to work with others for the good that was greater than just herself, but she was also tough and willing to fight as necessary to protect the rights of the people of this great country. Nowhere was this more evident than in the fight she led to ensure the integrity of our voting process. STEPHANIE also worked tirelessly to promote home ownership and to help keep families in their homes.

But with all of her achievements, nothing compared to that of the strong young man that STEPHANIE raised, her son, Mervyn. STEPHANIE'S face would beam when she talked about Mervyn. There could be no question beyond everything she gave in service, everything she accomplished, they all paled in comparison to how proud she was of Mervyn. She loved him and continues to love him beyond measure.

STEPHANIE also had a beautiful and strong sister who she loved and appreciated so deeply. When STEPHANIE spoke of her sister Barbara, it was clear how special Barbara was to her.

Mr. Speaker, I could go on and on about the life of this amazing woman. I am so honored to have known her and to have served alongside of her. STEPHANIE was more than my colleague; she was my friend, and we were sisters. I will miss her greatly.

My thoughts and prayers are with her son Mervyn, and her very special sister Barbara, and the rest of her family.

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express deep sadness on the sudden passing of our colleague in this House and a member of the Ohio delegation, Congresswoman STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES.

August was a busy month for us. We have participated in events in our districts and meetings in our offices. Many of us participated in our party's presidential conventions. Unfortunately, too many of these tasks and goals were cut short and cut short too early for our colleague. We grieve her loss here this evening.

Throughout our time together in this House, the members of the Ohio delegation have been a congenial group and not a partisan one. We regularly worked together to share common responsibilities and actions to improve and strengthen our State. STEPHANIE brought energy and enthusiasm to our delegation and to our work, and we will miss her terribly.

As you will hear throughout this evening's remarks by my colleagues, Congresswoman STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES is a Member who held many firsts in our delegation. And I won't repeat those because many Members will touch on it.

To me, Congresswoman STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES was my friendly, outgoing, and upbeat colleague. We often traveled back and forth together in the same plane from Ohio to Washington for our congressional session. I will miss her wonderful personality and the energy she brought to our delegation and to this House.

This morning, when I was getting ready to leave for the airport, I said to my wife, ''You know, I'm going to really miss Stephanie because we would always be on the plane together most the time, the same flight, and she was always so upbeat and she had the common expression, 'Well, how are you doing today? How are you doing today?' ''

Well, we did well together, but I will miss her energy and personality that she brought to the delegation and to this House. I worked with STEPHANIE—her district was not far from mine—and we had a common interest in furthering the medical facilities in Cleveland, Ohio, some of the best in the United States; and it was a pleasure always to work with her and to enjoy her boundless enthusiasm and good nature.

And certainly on behalf of my colleagues in the Ohio delegation, we express our sincere sympathy to her son, Mervyn Jones, and to her sister, Barbara Walker, as well as to her thousands of constituents and to her devoted staff.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair understands the gentlewoman from Ohio to have yielded half her time to the gentleman from Ohio.

And the gentleman from Ohio reserves the balance of his time.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call on the distinguished Member from Cleveland, the colleague of Congresswoman JONES, Congressman DENNIS KUCINICH.

Mr. KUCINICH. I thank the gentlelady.

When I look at this Chamber this evening, there are so many Members of Congress here, each who wants to pay tribute to her. I'm going to keep my remarks brief, not in any way reflecting the depth of grief that I feel over Stephanie's passing.

We shared not only districts—because my district is mostly on the West side of the Cuyahoga River and hers is mostly on the east side of the Cuyahoga River—but we shared political careers, having worked with each other for the better part of three decades. And the STEPHANIE that we saw here in the Congress, the one of the 100-megawatt smile, the boundless energy, the telling sense of humor, the challenging approach when you may not agree with her, that was the STEPHANIE that I knew for 30 years.

But we also shared a friendship about family. And she went through it in the last years of her life with the loss of loved ones close to her, her father, her husband. And when we would have major events in our lives, like we do with close friends—and she was a close friend to many of us—we would share many of these things. And there was a lot of sadness to share. But there was also a moment when, for me, I had one of the biggest things happen in my life, and STEPHANIE was the first person I wanted to share it with.

More than 3 years ago, I met a woman who walked into my office as part of a meeting for policy, and even though I had a very brief conversation with her, I knew something had happened at that moment. And I just knew at that moment that this was somebody I was going to marry, and I didn't even have a discussion with her about anything except for policy for more than about half a minute. And I ran down to the floor to tell my friend STEPHANIE, because that's the kind of friend she was. You would want to tell her when you thought something big was happening in your life.

And so I said, ''Stephanie, I met her.'' And she looked at me and her eyes widened, and she gave her big smile, and she went, ''Shut up!'' And she had that kind of way of assessing things brilliantly and quickly in a manner and a tone and a language that was STEPHANIE.

And she really brought the wisdom of a keen legal mind and melded it with a

street sense into this political persona that touched people all over this country and, indeed, in other countries as well. She had that magic.

Her presence is so powerful that I know I speak for other Members when I say that even at this moment, weeks later after her passing, we still can't believe it. That's how powerful a presence she was personally. And when she engaged you, you knew you were in a conversation and it was real.

When Members of Congress arrived to pay respects at the Bethany Church, we saw the sidewalks lined with her constituents. We saw a line to get into Bethany Church that was more than a block long. Hundreds of people waiting in line.

I had the chance to talk to some of them. You could see—you have to look into people's eyes, look at their faces, and you see the faces of people who are struggling with life, who are dealing with the kinds of problems that STEPHANIE came to Congress to address: trying to save their homes, trying to save their jobs, trying to keep their families together. And their eyes are searching today because they know they have lost a champion, and it puts such a great responsibility on all of us, a greater responsibility on all of us to uphold those things that she came to Congress for, the basic rights of people.

This was a loss for women who have strived for recognition in this body. This is a loss for African Americans who saw in her a champion, the first African American woman elected to Congress from the State of Ohio.

But what STEPHANIE did, her genius and her magic was she just broke all of the barriers. She went beyond gender and beyond race and emerged to a whole different political element. That's why she can't be replaced. And that's why, long after many of us have left this Chamber, people will still be talking about STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES.

STEPHANIE, we love you, and we will remember you.

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. HOBSON).

Mr. HOBSON. Mr. Speaker, it's been a tough term for the Ohio delegation. First we lost Paul Gillmor, and now we've lost STEPHANIE. Too early for both of them in their lives. But I think it's these times when people in the country need to know the friendships that happen in this House. We may differ politically on certain issues, but we don't differ when it comes to making friends and friendships here in this House.

STEPHANIE had that beautiful energy that you will hear about and heard about before about her that we will all remember. She never met a stranger. Wherever we traveled in the world, STEPHANIE always had that great smile on her face. Whenever we were in Cleveland together—I have a daughter who lives in Cleveland, and STEPHANIE would give me a ride when I would fly into Cleveland to my daughter's house. She would stop and talk to my grandkids. Even though she was in Dennis' district, she was still working that side of town, too, because STEPHANIE worked wherever she was.

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She is a loss to all of us. She worked on issues that transcends this body, these human issues, and the people in her district are not going to forget that, and they truly do have a loss.

We traveled together many times to view the troops, and I just came back yesterday from Korea. In Korea, I talked about STEPHANIE to one of the general officers, and he said, I remember her. When we were in Bosnia, you came there in Thanksgiving and how she related to the troops in her own special way and talked to these young people about what they were doing, what they're going to do in the future.

But the most important thing about STEPHANIE, STEPHANIE never forgot who she was. She was a friend to all of us, but she never forgot her district.

One time, I talked STEPHANIE into going on a trip with me to Italy, and she said, ''I can't go. It's our 25th wedding anniversary. Mervyn and I want to spend our 25th wedding anniversary together.'' And this was when you could do this. I don't even know if I want to tell this, but she's gone and I'm retiring. So maybe I can tell this story now without going to the Ethics Committee. But I said, ''Stephanie, we're going to give you a party in Venice. You tell Mervyn it's going to be a very romantic time and it isn't going to cost him a cent.'' Guess what. They went on the trip.

And even after Mervyn's tragic passing—and I was there with her then—she would recall the great time we had together. And I'm not going to miss her because she's going to be here with all of us, but who's going to miss her is Mervyn, Junior. He's lost not only his mother and his father but his grandparents in a very short period of time, and this is a young man. I hope his aunt can help him, and I hope all of us don't forget this young man and his life. And we're not going to forget STEPHANIE.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished chairman of the Ways and Means Committee from New York City, our beloved colleague, CHARLES RANGEL.

(Mr. RANGEL asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RANGEL. Thank you so much, Chairwoman KAPTUR, for giving me this courtesy and this opportunity.

I was a very long and dear friend of Louis Stokes. I loved him, I worked with him, and when he decided that he was going to retire, I did everything that I could to share with him how much he would be missed by his country and by this Congress. But when he had me to meet in Cleveland with STEPHANIE, I was convinced that—some of you may have met people that you know that it really wouldn't make any difference what they decided to do. Their intellect, their drive, their personality would make them successful, and especially for a woman and an African American woman in Ohio or any other part of the United States, to be a prosecutor, to be a judge and then to come to the Congress, it had to be extraordinary, the same way Harriet Beecher Stowe, Fannie Lou Hamer, people of extreme resilience.

And so from then, she said that she wanted to get on the Ways and Means Committee, and boy, the Ways and Means Committee has never been the same since she's joined with us. She would come to the meeting where we would be fighting and arguing and, with a smile, light it up. But that didn't prevent her from getting involved in the argument and many times on a different side of the Chair. But at the end of the day, I knew that once she was convinced that was the way the committee was going, you couldn't stop STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES.

I say in conclusion, one of the reasons that so many of you must like her, love her is because I don't remember that many complaints that she had about the Chair not responding to the needs of her constituents, especially when the housing market fell in Cleveland.

But so many of you that she brought to the chairman of this committee, that was not on the committee, because you had convinced her that it was important to your community, and she, as a person on that committee, thought we should look into it, and there was never but never a frivolous request. Every time she came she had done so much homework that I just know that the gap that she leaves in my heart and our committee will never be filled by anyone else.

I thank you for this opportunity of sharing.

Mr. REGULA. I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HAYES).

Mr. HAYES. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Ohio, the Ohio delegation, and the gentlelady Ms. KAPTUR for allowing me to be a part of this.

STEPHANIE was a special friend. I am terribly saddened by the untimely passing of STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES. She was someone who cared deeply about helping others, especially those who couldn't help themselves. TUBBS JONES was a wonderful philanthropist and friend. I will miss serving with her as cochair on the House Philanthropy Caucus.

Representative TUBBS JONES and I began our work in the House the same year together in 1998. I was honored last year to have the opportunity to partner with her to establish the Congressional Philanthropy Caucus, an initiative that she was very passionate about. Her tireless and tenacious advocacy for the philanthropic field and commitment to, and leadership was

very inspiring and helped to forge new relationships and partnerships between and among law-makers and grant-makers.

The Caucus was formed at the behest of the Council on Foundations, a Washington, D.C., area-based nonprofit association of more than 2,100 grant-making foundations and corporations. The Caucus aims to educate and inform law-makers about the field of philanthropy.

As a member of the House Ways and Means Committee, STEPHANIE stressed the importance of reestablishing charitable incentives that have expired, emphasizing the impact such tools have on giving in the United States and around the world. She was a strong believer that charitable incentives help grow charitable giving to populations in need across the country. Demonstrating her commitment to her charitable values, Representative TUBBS JONES was an original cosponsor of the Public Good IRA Rollover Act of 2007, H.R. 1419, which proposed to expand the IRA charitable rollover. That Act is especially significant to the philanthropic field because it proposes to allow distributions to donor-advised funds, supporting organizations, and private foundations to qualify as charitable giving tools.

In addition, when given the opportunity on the House floor, Representative TUBBS JONES continually advocated for philanthropy, encouraged our colleagues to join the Philanthropy Caucus, and sponsor legislation promoting charitable giving. She met with her foundation constituents just a few weeks ago to discuss their work and contributions to her home State.

Representative TUBBS JONES was a champion for the philanthropic sector and will be greatly missed for her contributions to the charitable giving field.

On behalf of the members of the Congressional Philanthropy Caucus, and the many grant-makers that STEPHANIE supported around the country, specifically Ohio foundations, we wish to offer our sincere condolences and to extend her family, son Mervyn, colleagues, and staff, our deepest sympathies for their loss.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Georgia (Mr. SCOTT).

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is indeed an honor to be able to stand in this House of Representatives and say a few words for my distinguished colleague, STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES.

You know, on everybody's tombstone there are three things. There's first the date you were born and then the date you die, and in between there is a dash. And the question we all must answer at some point is what do you do with the dash. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES did an amazing amount with her dash.

Born to hardworking, loving parents—Mary, who was a cook at Case Western University in Cleveland; her father, Andrew, was a sky cap—good, hardworking people, who gave love to STEPHANIE. She rose to become a prosecutor, a judge, a trial lawyer, all the way up to the Congress of the United States.

And I tell you, in between, Mr. Speaker, she learned how to play a mean game of Bid Whist, Mr. Speaker. But I will tell you, Mr. Speaker, she kept the faith, she finished her course, and she fought the good fight. And therefore, there is put up for STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES an extraordinary crown of righteousness that the Lord, the righteous Judge, appointed and has given to STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES, and we thank God for sending STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES our way.

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlelady from Ohio (Ms. PRYCE).

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding and thank the Members of the delegation for having this very important time to remember our colleague.

STEPHANIE was a force in our delegation, and she was also an inspiration to everybody here and everybody who knew her. Perhaps we'll never understand or totally accept the reasons that people are taken from us in such tragic and untimely ways; yet there is always some comfort found when we can look at a life and see the great purpose that dwelled therein. And STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES lived with such great purpose and made such a difference, and that will help those of us that she left behind.

The last time I talked to STEPHANIE was not unlike most of us right here, but it was not in this Chamber. It was in her outer office. It was the office right outside the door that is her car. And STEPHANIE was working in her outer office, and she was right by the door. And I passed there, and we were waiting for votes. I knocked on her window, and she said, ''Come on in, Deb,'' and I crawled in her office. I was glad to see it looked sort of like my car. There were papers everywhere. There were books. It was just like an office.

And we started not doing business but just chatting, like so often we would do when we would find a minute together. We talked of such great things in life as my daughter's hair. Now, for those of you who don't know, I have an adopted daughter who's African American, who was born in STEPHANIE's district. And STEPHANIE took an inordinate amount of interest in the lack of quality hair care that I provided to my daughter, and STEPHANIE was great about always giving me good advice for Mia, and she wanted to become a greater part of Mia's life.

We had plans to make that happen the next visit to Washington, and I'm sad especially for Mia that that won't happen because STEPHANIE is a wonderful mentor for so many people, women especially. I'm sorry that that relationship never took hold, but I will never forget the impact that she had on me.

What a wonderful, strong personality. What a contagious smile, and her laughter and her buoyancy held me up many times when I needed just that extra shoulder.

She had such purpose in her life, and that is her lasting legacy. We will all miss her, especially her family. There are so many that became part of her family. There are so many that she loved and touched in such an important, meaningful way. She will sorely be missed, Mr. Speaker.

I offer my deepest condolences to her family, to her son who will miss her most of all. She was loved by so many, as she so rightly should have been.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to STEPHANIE's colleague from the State of Ohio, Congressman ZACK SPACE.

Mr. SPACE. I thank the gentlelady.

I rise today to remember a dear friend and dedicated legislator, STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES. She was a tireless advocate for justice, a dedicated mother, and a terrific legislator and a fighter for the people of Ohio.

It will be very difficult for me to match the eloquence of someone like Chairman RANGEL, certainly the gentlelady from Toledo, the gentleman from Canton, or my friend Mr. KUCINICH from Cleveland. But DENNIS said something during his presentation that struck me as being extraordinarily accurate.

STEPHANIE did represent this magical, political persona that was meddled between her keen legal mind and her street sense. She had compassion, knowledge. She was just a great person and a great legislator. She was a trail blazer, as those from the Ohio delegation have pointed out, in many respects.

But something that many might not know is that STEPHANIE actually had an effect on the people in congressional district, which is, while sharing the same State of Ohio, a very long way from east Cleveland. STEPHANIE served as an inspiration for women in politics, as well as our African American community there as well. She fought for justice and equality at every turn in her career, and this was a tragic loss for the people of Congress and the people of Ohio.

Indeed, I still feel her presence here, and I suspect we will for quite some time. This has been a tragic loss for this body.

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Mr. REGULA. I yield to the gentlelady from Ohio (Mrs. SCHMIDT).

Mrs. SCHMIDT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay my respects to a great lady, STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES.

Just over 3 years ago, I first saw STEPHANIE in this very room. As I was sworn into office, she came over and greeted me with a great big smile and an enormous hug, welcoming me to this wonderful body. Although we

share different political views, STEPHANIE understood that friendship trumped politics. I felt fortunate to call her my friend.

When I went to Cleveland last week to pay my respects, I was welcomed by her wonderful family—her sister, Barbara; her nieces, her cousins, and her wonderful son, Mervyn.

I learned something about STEPHANIE I didn't know. I didn't realize that she was involved in a very famous case, a case that spurred not only a TV show but also a movie, ''The Fugitive.'' It was the Sam Shepard case. She was involved with that case, making sure justice was done.

I want to say thank you to the Lord for letting us have STEPHANIE as long as we did. We never know when the hour comes that he will come for us. I know that STEPHANIE was prepared for him because she was always prepared for her family and for her constituents, and she had that great big smile. I'm sure that it's there in heaven.

To Mervyn, to Barbara and to the rest of the family, you have my prayers. To the constituents of Cleveland, you have her heart.

May she rest in peace.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to yield a minute and a half to STEPHANIE's distinguished colleague from Ohio, our dear friend, Congressman CHARLES WILSON.

Mr. WILSON of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I'm sad to be here this evening, but I'm also proud that we can rise on this occasion to join my colleagues in paying tribute to the honor of STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES. It's right that we express the condolences of the House of Representatives. I feel like she was a dear friend to all of us, and I know that I loved her and that so many of my colleagues did.

It came as a terrible shock a week ago Tuesday when we found out that STEPHANIE died, but it's appropriate that we have this resolution we're doing this evening to appropriately honor a devoted American, and STEPHANIE was a devoted American.

Congresswoman STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES was a champion for the residents in the Greater Cleveland area. She was a tireless voice for our State of Ohio. She always greeted me with a big smile and, many times, with a hug. It was just the way she did and the way she treated people. A colleague of hers recently said that he felt that STEPHANIE treated people that way because it was almost as if God were watching. She was taken from us way too soon.

Mr. Speaker, her work was not finished. She is counting on us to carry on. My deepest sympathy goes out to her son, Mervyn, to her sister, Barbara, and to her extended family. She will be sorely missed by the Ohio congressional delegation, by all of Congress, and I will miss working with her.

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, we have no further requests for time.

Ms. KAPTUR. Does the gentleman yield?

Mr. REGULA. Yes, I yield.

Ms. KAPTUR. Would the gentleman be kind enough to yield us any remaining time he might have so we can complete the speakers on our side.

Mr. REGULA. Yes, we'd be happy to yield whatever time we have left to your side.

Ms. KAPTUR. I thank the gentleman very much.

Mr. Speaker, would you please tell me how much time we have remaining then?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from Ohio controls the remainder of the time, which is 25½ minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Thank you very much.

I would like then to yield 2 minutes to our fine colleague from the State of California, who was such a close associate and friend of STEPHANIE's, Congresswoman LOIS CAPPS.

Mrs. CAPPS. I thank my dear colleague from Ohio.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in sad support of this resolution to pay tribute to our colleague, the Honorable STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES.

As so many have said, STEPHANIE had the gift of making us all her friends and, for me and for others, her sisters.

As has been said, she was a tireless advocate on behalf of working families and civil rights long before she came to Congress, and she continued her devotion to these causes over the last decade. I was proud to work with her in the last few years against a proposal that would have undermined the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. Her leadership on this issue was exemplary of her commitment to protecting people against discrimination. I will cherish this opportunity to work with her.

She was also a wonderful and active member of the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues. She cochaired the task force on Women in the Judiciary with her colleague from Ohio and fellow former judge, DEBORAH PRYCE.

She also led efforts to raise awareness and to fund greater research into uterine fibroids. This is a disease that affects as many as three and four women over the course of their lifetimes. Yet it's rarely discussed in public. She had the courage to bring this otherwise taboo subject to the forefront in the quest to bring relief to millions of women who have and who will suffer from fibroids.

The people of Ohio and of the entire Congress have lost a true champion. For me, there was a personal bond with STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES. She lost her husband suddenly after she came to Congress, and I had lost mine recently, and so we had a bond, a sad one, but one that we both cherished. We made an agreement that we didn't need to talk. We just needed, when we saw each other, to give each other a hug, and I will cherish those hugs, and that bond still exists.

I send my condolences to her son and to her family members, and I hope they know that the grief is shared by all of us, and our dedication to upholding the causes which motivated and for which she showed such great leadership will inspire us to continue and, in each of our own ways, to make that legacy that was STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES' live on.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to yield 2 minutes to the Representative from California who was a close colleague of STEPHANIE's, Congresswoman SUSAN DAVIS.

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor not only one of my colleagues but a dear friend, the Honorable STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES.

As we all know, she served the 11th Congressional District of Ohio with dignity and pride, and she represented her district with compassion, always with compassion, fighting for justice and equality.

I was very fortunate because, when I arrived here in 2001, my office was right across the hall from STEPHANIE's, and so you can imagine how embraced I felt by her and by all of her staff, by all of the people who were so close to her, such a loyal group of people.

There have been many stories told this evening, and many more will be told of her accomplishments; there have been many tributes that people have paid to her, but in this very brief time, I just wanted to talk for a minute about how her influence goes far beyond the district that she represented because, for years, Representative TUBBS JONES had been a special guest speaker before a group of young people from San Diego, the Aaron Price Fellows. She always came to those meetings at my request, and was always so enthusiastic. She would just captivate this room of high schoolers, who come from very diverse backgrounds, with warmth and humor. She would weave her congressional experience with her personal stories to excite the whole group, and she would encourage their discussion. She'd love their questions and really would be so energized, energized in that room of young people every year that she spoke to them just as she did every time she spoke on this very floor. I think it says so much about STEPHANIE that she shared her time and a lot of that time with students far from her district.

So, today, we remember her as such an inspirational leader, inspirational for so many—from high school students, to her constituents, of course, and to all of us here—to her colleagues. I am proud to say that I will continue to be inspired by her as I serve in Congress, and I can just think her saying today, ''Hey, girlfriend.'' So I want to say to her ''Thanks, girlfriend. Thank you for everything.''

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I would like to yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentlelady from Chicago, Congresswoman JAN SCHAKOWSKY, who was a real soul sister to STEPHANIE.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, STEPHANIE and I were in the same class. We came in in 1998, and immediately bonded as friends and classmates. She and my husband became very good friends. We would joke about it that my husband, Bob, was her boyfriend, and at their last conversation, it ended with his saying, ''Love you, Stef,'' and her saying, ''Love you, Bob.'' I'm jealous of that because they had that moment where they actually said the word that I feel so much tonight, that I loved STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES.

STEPHANIE was a force of nature. She was a big woman and she filled a room. I can just picture her now. Can't you just picture her coming down and speaking from this podium right now and just filling the space with her presence, with her sense of justice, with her passion, and with, of course, her smile? STEPHANIE was fiercely loyal. She was a supporter of HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON's. Some of us were on the other side, but that didn't challenge our friendship.

Connie Schultz, who is a Pulitzer Prize winner for the Cleveland Plain Dealer said, ''Our friendship was forged by her to the bones understanding of what it means to be a woman, willing to stick your neck out for your beliefs.''

STEPHANIE was fearless and she was loved. I loved her. I love you, Stephanie.

Ms. KAPTUR. I would now like to yield time to the distinguished Congressman from North Dakota, Congressman EARL POMEROY, a friend of STEPHANIE's for many years.

Mr. POMEROY. I thank the gentlelady for yielding.

I doubt our departed sister, STEPHANIE, would ever have imagined the impact she had. In fact, the Cleveland Plain Dealer referenced her essential humility even when mentioning her personal electricity in this editorial of August 22:

''I have no illusions about myself,'' TUBBS JONES told the Plain Dealer reporter Fran Henry in 1995. ''It could all go up in a puff of smoke. I'll never lose sight of that.''

STEPHANIE's presence on Earth has come so tragically to an all too early end, but her achievements—rising from the daughter of a factory worker and skycap to the positions of judge, county prosecutor, five-term Member of Congress—have made a lasting impact at each and every step along the way, especially with the many, many lives she touched.

I was privileged to sit by her on the Ways and Means Committee. You could probably call us the odd couple—a reserved, middle-aged man from the most rural part of our country, teamed with the most energetic, charismatic, bombastic, thoroughly urban STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES.

Over the years, on our committee together, I came to fully understand just how deep and how genuine her passion for others was, especially for those less fortunate, for those needing help. We'd joke about taking turns keeping each other settled down even under considerable provocation sometimes in Ways and Means debate. My counsel of ''take it easy, Stephanie'' would be met in turn with ''now settle down, Earl.'' In one hearing on inexcusable Social Security delays, we both just lost it entirely. I'll never forget that hearing; it's one of my favorites.

One of the greatest compliments I've had in this Congress, in any Congress I've served in, was when she'd call me her country boyfriend. She had the most incredible way of making those she met feel better. In the place where smiles, laughter and deep compassion are never in sufficient supply, STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES will be deeply, deeply missed but never forgotten.

Ms. KAPTUR. I thank the gentleman for his remarks and presence this evening.

I would like to yield 2 minutes now to one of STEPHANIE's sisters here from the State of Texas, Congresswoman SHEILA JACKSON-LEE.

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. I thank you very much.

This is such a wonderful story that I'm listening to as we honor STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES, so I'm going to speak on some issues that showed her in her fullness and in her love of life.

□ 2015

And that was as a House basketball coach. She was that woman with a smile. She was a Good Samaritan. She was also like Ruth; if she was your friend, she was going to stick with you. She loved life, loved her family. How wonderful it was to be part of her family. And she allowed this Congress to be part of her family because everyone knew Mervyn, her husband; her son; her sisters; her mother and father, who I got a chance to know. But yet when she got on that basketball court and she was the coach, I tell you that was a winning smile, a winning coach, and a winning team.

And there was nothing more exciting than being at the 2008 House basketball team game. This was a game for charity. But you couldn't tell Coach STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES that she was out there for charity. She was out there to win, and I think it was the NBA championship, for she ran up and down that court. She gave the best coaching. She told the guys, who happened to be Members of Congress and others, what they could and could not do. And even though she wasn't the referee and she wasn't the penalizer, she'd penalize her team.

And what an exciting time to see in this year's 2008 winning basketball effort, Mervyn, her son, make the winning basketball shot. It was so exciting that those of us that were in the stands ran out onto the court, of course in violation, but we were able to get away with that. And I was so excited, in my short stature of 5′2½″, I asked the greatest coach that I knew that I work with her next year, and she gave me the greatest honor and said ''yes.'' That was STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES, the lover of life.

But yet as a prosecutor, one would think she would be hard nosed and she'd be running toward prosecution and incarceration. But she teamed up with her dear friend DANNY DAVIS, and they shed their light all around this campus, both the House and the Senate, to work on what we call the Second Chance bill.

So I rise today on behalf of the incarcerated whom STEPHANIE loved whom she gave an opportunity, through her work with DANNY DAVIS and those who cosponsored this legislation, to say to these individuals they could have a second chance.

May God allow her to rest in peace, but may her star shine continuously through us. We love her and we love her family.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I would like to place in the RECORD the names of the very able staff of Congresswoman STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES. This staff has endured great sadness, and they have tried to carry on with their leader being in spiritual guidance but not there personally.

And I would like to thank, from her district office, Betty Pinkney, her district director; Beverly Charles, her senior liaison; Theresa Lang Coaxum, her health liaison; Sharon Cole, business liaison; Saulette Reed, her office manager.

And here in Washington, Kimberley Alton, her legislative director; Lalla King Green, her scheduler; Eric Hammond, her staff assistant; Aaron Wasserman, her legislative correspondent; Darrell Doss, her tax counsel; Athena Abdullah, her health counsel; Nicole Y. Williams, her communications director; and Patrice Willoughby, dear Patrice, her chief of staff and counsel, who has tried to stand in STEPHANIE's place during these very difficult days.

And, finally, from the Committee on Standards, Dawn Kelly Mobley, the counsel to the chairwoman.

These are wonderful, wonderful staff people who have STEPHANIE's heart, and we want to do everything we can to help them through this very difficult time. And we thank them for their service to STEPHANIE and serving the people of the 11th District and the people of our country.

Also, Mr. Speaker, I would like to place in the RECORD before I call on our final speaker this story: There were many tributes paid to STEPHANIE at the service in Cleveland. One of the most moving speakers, the friends of STEPHANIE, heard Saturday from no politician or preacher but from a young 16 year old named Tiffany, a member of an all girls health careers class at Cleveland Martin Luther King Junior

High School that STEPHANIE took under her wing 2 years ago. Tiffany recalled JONES telling the girls ''This is the future. You are the future.'' And the Congresswoman took time from her political and legislative schedule to visit the class and take them places. She took them to church one Sunday, but Tiffany had to work that day. So STEPHANIE dropped by to the workplace with Tiffany's classmates in tow. STEPHANIE kept her eye on every one of them. ''We're family,'' Tiffany told her classmates, who stood in a show of unity with their peer. She said, ''We've got to stick together. We have got to carry on in her legacy. She was steward, protector, and advocate to us. I will miss her as a friend.''

STEPHANIE had friends of all ages. We thank her for her leadership and for the seeds that she planted in the new growth forest that is growing in Cleveland and growing across this country to which she devoted her life.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to call as our final speaker in this bereavement resolution STEPHANIE's very good friend from the State of Missouri, Congressman EMANUEL CLEAVER.

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, when Congresswoman TUBBS discovered that I had three sons who had gone to college on basketball scholarships, she asked if I would bring them here for the annual fund-raising basketball game with the Georgetown Law School faculty. None of them could come this year; so I was drafted by STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES in language that I would normally not use during a sermon. But I did show up and immediately became angry because she pulled me out of the game just because I could not make it down the court in a minute in the transition game. So I cheered for the remainder of the evening for our team that Congresswoman SHEILA JACKSON-LEE mentioned did win in overtime.

But the most significant moment for me came when we all saw the signs that the pages had made for us. They were cheering us on. And the pages sent me a statement that they asked if I would read on their behalf. And I quote:

''Ask any one of the pages from the spring 2008 class to list their favorite memories from the 5 months we spent working on the hill, an anecdote about Ms. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES will likely be included. For some of us it is the unwavering charisma shown when she was the Speaker pro tempore. For others it is the simple act of coming to say good-bye to us at our departure ceremony. For most of us, it is the night of the 2008 home court charity basketball game, where our chants cheering on the Hill's Angels team and the Coach TUBBS JONES rang 10 times louder than the formidable Georgetown students cheering section and led our team to a surprising victory.

That night and for the rest of the time we knew Ms. TUBBS JONES, we weren't just pages sitting in the back of the House. We experienced that night the true strength, pride, and enthusiasm of STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES, a strength rooted in her devotion to making things better, a pride in her job as a public servant evident every single day, and an unmatched enthusiasm for our service as pages. She was the type of woman you only dream of meeting at some point in your life and the friend we never expected to find in the halls of Congress last spring.

''Just as we will never forget our time as pages, we will never forget STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES.

''The spring 2008 page class.''

Mr. Speaker, STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES was my friend. We had the opportunity to spend time together, and I don't want to reminisce and say things that others have already said. Let me just say that I hate death. I hate it. And if I had an opportunity to erase it or kill it, I would. But death, unfortunately, is a part of life and we will all experience it. The issue is not death so much as it is life, and we are granted an unspecified period of time, and many of us deal with those moments with a kind of carelessness that certainly was not planned when we were given our time on this Earth.

STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES was exuberant. She lived her life. She lived it out to the fullest. And I can say that if you understand that life is not a time to just waste and then look at the time of STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES, you know she understood that. And I would say that death is not a cul-de-sac for some. It's not an end. Death is a beginning. And for STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES, it was a comma for a new beginning. She lived her life and she lived it with zest and zeal.

She pulled me in Kansas City on the dance floor in front of hundreds of people and made me dance. I have a photograph of that that I had been hiding that I am now going to bring out with pride because I think when she did that, she was also saying live your life and live it to the fullest. Never ever allow cobwebs to cover you. If you rest, you rust. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES never rusted.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, in concluding this first hour this evening in honor of our dear colleague STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES, let me just say that STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES was a true mother of this Republic. Let the record show that. Let the record comfort her son in years hence.

And I want to say to our dear, dear friend and colleague Congressman REGULA, whose district sort of held STEPHANIE's up on the southern side, I want to thank him so very much, the dean of the Republican side of the aisle, for being here throughout this evening and through the wonderful participation of her colleagues of various persuasions here on the floor. The friendships went beyond party, and I thank the gentleman for his participation.

Mr. REGULA. Well, I would just comment that to know STEPHANIE was to love her. She just had that ebullient personality that you couldn't resist.

I also want to comment on one other thing, and that is that thousands of people in East Cleveland, in her district, have better health care today than they would have without STEPHANIE. She focused on the health care assets of East Cleveland, some of the best in the Nation, and as a result, the people that she represented have a better chance to take advantage of the health care facilities. And that's a legacy of STEPHANIE that most people aren't aware of and yet touches the lives of literally thousands of people.

And I congratulate the gentlewoman from Ohio for having this Special Order tonight because STEPHANIE was special.

Ms. KAPTUR. Thank you, Congressman REGULA, and I want to thank all of our colleagues who have participated this evening. I can guarantee you that every word that is on the RECORD will come to comfort Mervyn and the Tubbs Jones family, their church family, her sisterhood, all the people of Cleveland, all the people who have known STEPHANIE across our Nation. I want to thank our colleagues for their generosity and for their good hearts.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to say that the Ohio delegation stands beside those from the Congressional Black Caucus, who will have the second hour this evening in remembrance of STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES. We thank them very much for doing this. I know how very much their words will mean not just today but in future years to those who love STEPHANIE always.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight deeply saddened by the passing of my friend and colleague, Congresswoman STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES.

Congresswoman TUBBS JONES was an extraordinary woman, wife, mother, and leader.

Congresswoman STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES made history by becoming the first African-American woman to be elected to Congress from her State of Ohio.

Throughout her career, Congresswoman TUBBS JONES demonstrated a serious commitment to her constituents and represented them well.

She dedicated her life to uplift and inspire those around her. Her dedication, strong will, and spirit gave hope to so many people.

Congresswoman TUBBS JONES and her work will never be forgotten as she lives in us all. She has left her mark in history, in Congress, and in our hearts.

I will deeply miss her and my thoughts and prayers are with her family.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, the untimely death of Republican STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES gives us pause. There was a great writer who once said that the death of one of us diminishes us all. As Stephanie's friends and colleagues in the U.S. Congress, we all feel a little lost and a little less because one of our most fearless champions is gone.

Those who are voiceless in America today, who have been left out and left behind, have lost a warrior, a fighter, a crusader who did what she could to defend the dignity of human kind. There was not anything shy about Stephanie.

She had the courage, the ability, and the desire to speak up and speak out, to fight for

what she believed was right, what was fair and just.

As a fellow member of the Ways and Means Committee, she was very concerned about using the tax code to help lift the burdens of the least among us. I always enjoyed it when she made a statement or questioned a witness. She was a brilliant judge and prosecutor, and that helped make her a gifted member of Congress.

STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES will be deeply missed by the Cleveland community, by the people of Ohio, by the citizens of America, by her family, friends, and all of her colleagues in the U.S. Congress. Peace be with you STEPHANIE, my friend. May God Almighty grant you eternal peace.

Mr. JEFFERSON. Mr. Speaker, I first met STEPHANIE TUBBS-JONES through her legendary predecessor, Representative Louis Stokes, who described her simply as ''full of life.' Indeed, she was. And, to have heard her impassioned speech denoting the short-comings of a housing bill the Congress recently passed, a speech made just before the Congress went on its August break, it as impossible to see her death foreshadowed. Her zeal for public service, her love for the members of Congress, and particularly of the CBC members, and her commitment to people who needed a hand up from government, defined her life here.

In a larger sense she was a devoted family person. She lost both her parents during her service here, and, I having also lost my mother and father over my years here, gave us the opportunity for quiet reflection on what our parents had meant to us, and helped to deepen our friendship.

She was devoted to the memory of her husband, Mervyn, who died just a few years ago. When I chaired the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, I urged her to join the board, which she did. From that point, she launched the Mervyn Jones Golf Classic which has raised millions in scholarship funds for worthy and needy college students. She was awfully proud of her son Mervyn II, who often came to the gym to play basketball with us ''old jocks'' and often schooled us with his basketball skills.

Her service on the Ways and Means Committee with me over several years gave me insight into her caring heart for health care and human resource issues but also into her competence as an infighter in the legislative process. She made her points, stood her ground and quite often carried her position. She sought me out after Hurricane Katrina hit my district and my State, offering advice and real help. STEPHANIE identified with human suffering everywhere and wanted to do something about it.

I was stunned and saddened by her sudden and unexpected death as were we all. And it was the hardest thing not to take the plane ride to Cleveland to attend her funeral and memorial service. It was only after the sage and stern advice from my Chairwoman CAROLYN CHEEKS-KILPATRICK that I reluctantly canceled my trip to Cleveland to attend to the issues back at home with Hurricane Gustav bearing down on our people. I know I was well covered by the members who did attend and part of me will always regret not being there. But, looking at it from another vantage point—not having fully seen her in death—my memories of her will only be those of her in life—not just in life but ''full of life'' as Lou Stokes described her.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to mourn the loss of my friend and colleague STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES.

STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES was a kind and caring friend, a hard-working and diligent colleague, and a committed representative. She was also a trailblazer—she was the first African-American and the first female prosecutor in Cuyahoga County, Ohio, the first African-American woman to be elected to serve Ohio in the House of Representatives, and the first African-American woman to serve on the powerful House Ways and Means Committee.

STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES was an inspiration to me and to others who aspire to represent their constituents with passion, dedication, and integrity. A champion of voting rights, she stood up for those who lacked a voice to ensure that they are not denied the most fundamental right of our democracy—the right to vote.

In her role as Chair of the House Ethics Committee, she led the House of Representatives in ensuring that Members of Congress live up to high standards. She understood that increasing Americans' confidence in their government requires honest and ethical behavior by their leaders.

All those who loved STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES, including her son Melvyn Leroy Jones II, and her sister Barbara Walker, are in my thoughts and prayers.

As we mourn the passing of this intelligent, hard-working, and caring representative, we celebrate her accomplishments. We are reminded that despite the tragedy of her passing, her life was a blessing for her colleagues, her friends, her family, her constituents, and so many who needed a champion.

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues in expressing great sympathy on the sudden passing of STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES.

STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES was a pioneer her entire professional career: She was the first African-American and the first female prosecutor in Cuyahoga County, Ohio; the first African-American woman to sit on the Common Pleas bench in Ohio; the first African-American woman to be elected to Congress from Ohio; and the first African-American woman to serve on the House Ways and Means Committee.

As a first term member of Congress, my service with STEPHANIE was too short, but I will fondly remember her bright smile and vibrant personality. Her leadership and passion will be sorely missed.

I would like to extend my deepest condolences to STEPHANIE's son, Mervyn Leroy Jones II, and her sister, Barbara Walker.

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today joining my colleagues in tribute, sharing kind words and memories of our colleague and dear friend Congresswoman STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES.

I was deeply saddened when I heard the news of her death. My sincerest thoughts and prayers go out to her son Mervyn, to all her family, and to her friends and supporters during this difficult time. '

STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES was an inspiration and a tireless advocate for her constituents. She was a fighter. A strong woman of conviction and intelligence, whose values and experience guided her advocacy and fearlessness.

STEPHANIE broke molds, she broke glass ceilings, and then swept away the stereotypes. STEPHANIE was never one to be absorbed into the folds of a monochrome following. She was outspoken and proactive, bold in demeanor and action. Her always bright and powerful attire spoke to her outgoing personality, which never shied away from a challenge and approached every day with enthusiasm and confidence. Her skill in crafting intelligent and responsible legislation shows that she viewed the world through this diverse spectrum of color, dismissing the notion that solutions to complex problems can come from a world of simply black and white.

Justice and inclusion were at the heart of her work. In her 10 years in Congress and her lifetime of service she always put justice, opportunity, and equality atop all other pursuits. STEPHANIE did not come from a life of privilege simply to serve the privileged. She came from a working class community and put her heart and soul into lifting up that community with every step of the ladder she climbed.

I remember how highly coveted she was by the then members of the Ways and Means committee, when joining the powerful committee soon after her election. My husband Bob served on the then committee and recognized in her character the genuine desire to serve her Nation, her constituents, and those whose voices had yet to be fully heard. Her experience as a prosecutor and judge gave her arguments tenacity and her decisions finality.

STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES effectively represented her Cleveland district for over a decade. Yet she never dismissed the acknowledgment that her success as a groundbreaking figure touched many outside her district's boundaries. Her work looked beyond district lines and party lines to affect, inspire, and speak for those in need of justice and advocacy.

My heart goes out to her loved ones. I know that she will be greatly missed by everyone who knew her. Her impact will continue to be felt, not only in her Cleveland district and the U.S. House of Representatives, but by the many individuals who benefited from her service.

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with great sadness to mourn the passing of my good friend and colleague, STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES.

While serving with STEPHANIE on the Ways and Means Committee, and more closely on the Health Subcommittee, I experienced firsthand what a fierce and effective advocate she was in Congress. She was an uncompromising champion for health care as a right for everyone. Her constant effort highlighting the disparities in our health care system and her tireless work on behalf of End-Stage Renal Disease patients made her an outstanding representative. She is, in a word, irreplaceable.

Her spirited advocacy and commitment to justice and fairness were accompanied by warmth and strong loyalty. Those who worked closely with her were privileged to see both her intense passion and joy for her work.

I extend my sincerest condolences to her son Mervyn and her sister Barbara, and the many women and men who counted her among their family and friends. As a colleague and friend, I am honored to have served beside her. She will be sorely missed.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of our dear friend, Congresswoman STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES. Since her arrival here nearly 10 years ago as the first African-American woman elected to Congress by Ohio, she was a tireless advocate for the poor and our Nation's working families. Despite the tremendous personal losses she suffered, including the tragic loss of her sister, her parents, and her husband Mervyn of 26 years, she never wavered in her commitment to the people of Ohio.

STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES will be remembered as a role model, an ardent and bold voice for progressive causes, and a champion for the rights of the disenfranchised. She will be a tough act to follow. Her remarkable passion and bravery continue to be an inspiration to us all, and we will all truly miss her presence in this Chamber.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the previous question is ordered.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the resolution.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 2030

COMMUNICATION FROM THE HONORABLE JOHN A. BOEHNER, REPUBLICAN LEADER

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Honorable John A. Boehner, Republican Leader:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
July 27, 2008.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER PELOSI: Pursuant to Section 4(a) of the Commission on the Abolition of the Transatlantic Slave Trade Act (P.L. 110–183), I am pleased to appoint Mr. Donald Murphy of Cincinnati, Ohio to the Commission on the Abolition of the Transatlantic Slave Trade.

Mr. Murphy has expressed interest in serving in this capacity and I am pleased to fulfill his request.

Sincerely,

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Republican Leader.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Chief Administrative Officer of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, August 1, 2008.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: This is to notify you formally, pursuant to Rule VIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, that I have been served with a grand jury subpoena, issued by the United States District Court for the District of Columbia, for the production of documents.

After consultation with the Office of General Counsel, I will make the determinations required by Rule VIII.

Sincerely,

DANIEL P. BEARD.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. WOOLSEY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. MORAN of Kansas addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DEFAZIO addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. POE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

SUNSET MEMORIAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FRANKS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, I stand once again before this House with yet another Sunset Memorial.

It is September 8, 2008 in the land of the free and the home of the brave, and before the sun sets today in America, almost 4,000 more defenseless unborn children were killed by abortion on demand. That's just today, Mr. Speaker. That's more than the number of innocent lives lost on September 11 in this country, only it happens every day.

It has now been exactly 13,013 days since the tragedy called Roe v. Wade was first handed down. Since then, the very foundation of this Nation has been stained by the blood of almost 50 million of its own children. Some of them, Mr. Speaker, cried and screamed as they died, but because it was amniotic fluid passing over the vocal cords instead of air, we couldn't hear them.

All of them had at least four things in common. First, they were each just little babies who had done nothing wrong to anyone, and each one of them died a nameless and lonely death. And each one of their mothers, whether she realizes it or not, will never be quite the same. And all the gifts that these children might have brought to humanity are now lost forever. Yet even in the glare of such tragedy, this generation still clings to a blind, invincible ignorance while history repeats itself and our own silent genocide mercilessly annihilates the most helpless of all victims, those yet unborn.

Mr. Speaker, perhaps it's time for those of us in this Chamber to remind ourselves of why we are really all here. Thomas Jefferson said, "The care of human life and its happiness and not its destruction is the chief and only object of good government." The phrase in the 14th Amendment capsulizes our entire Constitution. It says, "No State shall deprive any person of life, liberty or property without due process of law." Mr. Speaker, protecting the lives of our innocent citizens and their constitutional rights is why we are all here.

The bedrock foundation of this Republic is the clarion declaration of the self-evident truth that all human beings are created equal and endowed by their Creator with the unalienable rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Every conflict and battle our Nation has ever faced can be traced to our commitment to this core, self-evident truth.

It has made us the beacon of hope for the entire world. Mr. Speaker, it is who we are.

And yet today another day has passed, and we in this body have failed again to honor that foundational commitment. We have failed our sworn oath and our God-given responsibility as we broke faith with nearly 4,000 more innocent American babies who died today without the protection we should have given them.

So Mr. Speaker, let me conclude this Sunset Memorial in the hope that perhaps someone new who heard it tonight will finally embrace the truth that abortion really does kill little babies; that it hurts mothers in ways that we can never express; and that 13,013 days spent killing nearly 50 million unborn children in America is enough; and that it is time that we stood up together again, and remembered that we are the same America that rejected human slavery and marched into Europe to arrest the Nazi Holocaust; and we are still courageous and compassionate enough to find a better way for mothers and their unborn babies than abortion on demand.

Mr. Speaker, as we consider the plight of unborn America tonight, may we each remind ourselves that our own days in this sunshine of life are also numbered and that all too soon each one of us will walk from these Chambers for the very last time.

And if it should be that this Congress is allowed to convene on yet another day to come, may that be the day when we finally hear the cries of innocent unborn children. May that be the day when we find the humanity, the courage, and the will to embrace together our human and our constitutional duty to protect these, the least of our tiny, little American brothers and sisters from this murderous scourge upon our Nation called abortion on demand.

It is September 8, 2008, 13,013 days since Roe versus Wade first stained the foundation of this Nation with the blood of its own children; this in the land of the free and the home of the brave.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. DAVIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

DRILLING IN ANWR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. KELLER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. KELLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about one of the central issues of our time, and that is whether or not we should drill for oil in Alaska in an area known as ANWR.

I have just returned from a 4-day trip to ANWR to do a fact-finding mission to see this area firsthand. Those in our country who are for drilling in the ANWR section of Alaska say that there's a large amount of oil there, that it can be drilled in an environmentally friendly manner, and that the Alaskan people want it. Those who are against drilling in ANWR say there's only a trivial amount of oil there, it will hurt the pristine wilderness, and it will hurt the wildlife in that area, particularly polar bears and caribou.

Well, to answer those questions for myself, I went there. I just want to walk through a couple of them. First, let's talk about the amount of oil in the ANWR area. Having been there and talked with the experts, I can tell you that there is 10.4 billion barrels of oil in ANWR, according to the U.S. Geological Survey and the U.S. Department of Interior. That 10.4 billion barrels of oil is enough oil to provide my home State of Florida with all of its petroleum needs for 29 years. It's enough to provide 1 million barrels of oil a day, every day, for the next 30 years.

The next issue comes up, Well, this will hurt the pristine wilderness area. Well, I traveled to ANWR, and you can see this map. This is the entire ANWR area. The only village in ANWR is called Kaktovik. I stood right there in the Arctic Ocean looking down at ANWR with the head elected leader, Mr. Fenton Rexford. As I looked out, all I saw was a flat, barren tundra.

I asked Mr. Rexford, Where are the trees? He said, there are no trees within 100 miles of this area that would be drilled. The area is not a pristine wilderness. It looks more like the moon than it does the rain forest.

The next issue becomes, Well, this will hurt wildlife. We hear from those who have concerns particularly about caribou and polar bears. I saw both on my trip in visiting various parts of Alaska. There are 5,000 polar bears approximately in Alaska, and 800,000 caribou. Caribou are by far the most numerous of the large mammals in Alaska.

Are we concerned about diminishing numbers? No. Both the numbers of polar bears and caribou have increased every year since the last three decades. In fact, we know that they can coexist because right next to ANWR is an area called Prudhoe Bay, the single largest oil field in the United States.

When oil started to be taken out of Prudhoe Bay in the mid seventies, there were 3,000 caribou in that area. Today, there are over 30,000 caribou. The numbers have increased tenfold.

So the bottom line from my fact-finding mission to Alaska is this. There is a significant amount of oil there. Over 10 billion barrels. The Alaskans do want it, over 70 percent Statewide, and 90 percent of those who live along the ANWR coastal plain. This can be done without harm to the wilderness. There's not a tree within 100 miles. And 99.9 percent of ANWR would be off-limits to the drilling. It can be done without harm to wildlife, either polar bears or caribou. And we can have it all. We can have responsible, environmentally friendly drilling that reduces our dependence on foreign oil.

I made a promise to the Eskimo tribal leaders when I was there in Kaktovik, a small town with 300 folks, that I would come back and tell their story as objectively as I could. They said so few Members of Congress have ever visited there and they would like to just get the truth out for both sides. I hope today, by laying out as best I can my factual findings, I have honored their request. I urge folks to look at this issue objectively, as I have, and try to reach a fair conclusion.

CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. KILPATRICK) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. KILPATRICK. For the Members who have sat all night as we pay special homage to our friend, colleague, and very special woman, Congresswoman STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the Special Order for Congresswoman STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

Ms. KILPATRICK. I'd like to yield to the former chairman, my predecessor of the Congressional Black Caucus, Congressman MEL WATT.

Mr. WATT. I thank the gentlelady for convening this Special Order for us to pay tribute to our friend and colleague, STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES.

In the midst of all our sadness I think the one thing that keeps occurring over and over and over again is wonderful, uplifting, fun stories and memories of STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES. In fact, I was privileged to share a whole sequence of fun, funny, uplifting experiences with STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES, and I concur with my colleague, EMANUEL CLEAVER, who made a comment earlier that this life did not cheat our friend STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES. She lived and enjoyed every single minute of it. Even when she was working, she was having fun. So I suspect you're going to hear from this group that is coming for this Special Order more stories about our experiences with her because they were all a series of fun experiences.

Let me start with this experience. Probably 3 weeks before STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES' death, 7:30 a.m. in the morning the phone rings at my residence in Charlotte, North Carolina, and on the other end is STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES saying, Mel, I got into your city last night at about 10 o'clock in the morning. I was on my way from Memphis, Tennessee, where I had been campaigning for a person who was running for Congress, and I was on my way to give a speech in Cincinnati, Ohio, and there was bad weather in Cincinnati, Ohio, and I ended up spending the night at a motel in Charlotte, North Carolina, and I don't have any clothes and I am supposed to be giving a speech in Cincinnati later today. What can you do for me?

I said, Well, STEPHANIE, no problem. I will just have somebody pick you up, take you to the shopping center. You can do your shopping, buy a whole new wardrobe. So she went to all this excuse to go shopping. We will hook you up.

So that very morning, as soon as the stores opened in Charlotte, one of my staff members had STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES at the mall and she did her shopping and we got her to the airport by 11:30 that morning to catch her flight to Cincinnati. She went to Cincinnati and gave her speech.

Now I missed the opportunity to see the outfits—not one, but outfits—that STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES purchased that morning. She promised me she was going to show me the special outfit that she purchased, and I never got the opportunity to see it.

But as those kinds of stories that make STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES a real person to us, not just a colleague in Congress, but a friend, a peer, a confidante, a person that you knew that if she ever made a commitment to you, would be there come heck or high water. I am cleaning it up a little bit.

□ 2045

She was our friend, a delightful, wonderful person, always with a smile. She

never got cheated in this life, because she lived every moment of it.

I thank my colleague for yielding me time. I know there are so many other of my colleagues here to pay tribute. I could go on and on and on, but I won't. I thank you for doing this. My condolences to Barbara and Mervyn and the entire Stephanie Tubbs Jones family.

Ms. KILPATRICK. Thank you very much.

Sister Sister, that is who she was to me. And to Mervyn too, and Barbara and the rest of the family, it has been said, this night is for you. She lives in this Chamber, and she always will.

I yield new now to a former U.S. Ambassador to Micronesia, the Congresswoman from California, Congresswoman DIANE WATSON.

Ms. WATSON. Thank you so much, Madam Chairman, and thank you, Mr. Speaker. I had some prepared remarks, but I think the intimate stories really speak to who she was and how we felt about who she was.

After the untimely passing of our colleague Juanita Millender-McDonald, STEPHANIE called and she says, ''Hey girl, I am coming out there to spend some time. I just want to be in Juanita's space.''

So she came out, and I picked her up. And representing Hollywood, I took her with me that weekend, and she met Ben Vereen and she met other celebrities, and she was so thrilled. She said to me, ''I'm coming out again, girl. I'm coming out again.''

After we had our AKA Boule several weeks ago here and we had our pink and green, she came in the last I saw her in her red. And she came strutting down this aisle, and she said, ''See, I got my red on. We are getting ready to have our Boule too.'' I said, ''Well, your red is just a deeper pink.'' We laughed. And that was the last time I saw her.

STEPHANIE was that kind of person, who, as everyone has described her as being, she lived life to the fullest. She was a fighter with a tremendous presence. She stood up for tens of thousands who could not stand up for themselves, and she fought for justice, equality and opportunity for every American. In her home State of Ohio and in her beloved city of Cleveland, she led the fight for election reform to assure that every American's vote was counted and was valued.

STEPHANIE was also loved and respected by her colleagues here on Capitol Hill, where in relatively short order she was appointed the first, among her many firsts, African American woman to the prestigious Ways and Means Committee. She also served as chairwoman of the Committee on Ethics and made great strides to work across the aisle in a nonpartisan manner.

I admired her enthusiasm for public service, her integrity, her warmth and her keen intellect. I extend to the family my condolences, to her friends and to all of her colleagues. Her presence will be missed. But I know she is in this assemblage at this moment. Her shoes will be hard to fill, but, STEPHANIE, we feel the surge of energy as we speak of you this evening.

Thank you, Madam Chairman.

Ms. KILPATRICK. I thank the gentlewoman from California.

I yield now to a young man from Newark, New Jersey, chairperson of our African Globalism Committee, the gentleman from Newark, Congressman DONALD PAYNE.

(Mr. PAYNE asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Chairman, the Chair of our Congressional Black Caucus who has done such an outstanding job, it is really a great loss. We have this untimely loss of our wonderful friend and colleague, STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES. A void has been left in the lives of all of those of us who had the privilege of knowing this remarkable, vibrant and accomplished woman. It is a loss shared by her family, her many friends, her Ohio constituents, and all of those around our great Nation who looked to her as a champion of justice, a person who was an advocate for the everyday people.

A former county prosecutor, a judge on the municipal court, she went to break glass ceiling after glass ceiling, with her election as the first African American woman to be elected to Congress from Ohio. She tore down barriers here in the House of Representatives when she successfully sought a seat on the Ways and Means Committee, and those walls came down. She was like at Jericho. When she blew that trumpet, the walls just came tumbling down. She was just so full of energy.

In the little time that she was on the Ways and Means Committee, her reputation for fairness was so great that she was selected as Chair of the Ethics Committee. To chair the House Ethics Committee, you have to be the fairest person among that body. It is a tough, tough position. So, once again she was called to duty. It is really not an office you seek, it is just something that is bestowed upon you, and when you are asked, you have to take it.

She was a pioneer who forged ahead, not just for herself, because she knew that she was opening doors for others. As Cochair of the Caribbean Caucus, I had the pleasure of traveling with STEPHANIE. We would go to the Caribbean, and she was a great traveling companion. She had a lot of interest in global issues. She was interested in understanding other cultures. She was interested in those people in nations less fortunate than ours.

She was enthusiastic about promoting international trade. She wanted to have economic development to address the problems of poverty and hunger around the world. She wanted to bring more educational opportunities to regions in the Caribbean and other places that we traveled.

Even though she was a diligent public servant, STEPHANIE always found time to laugh and enjoy life. A terrific sports fan, she was unrivaled in her enthusiasm for her hometown teams, the Cleveland Browns, the Cleveland Cavaliers, and she even cheered the Cleveland Indians, even though they had not won a World Series since 1948 and she would complain about that.

She was just so proud of Mervyn II. She loved to sail. My brother is a sailor, and they would talk about just getting out. The only water I like is when I take my shower every day, and that is about it. But she loved to sail, and she just knew all about it, and her sister Barbara right there paid attention.

I remember her proud father. He was elderly and he was so dignified. One time we were staying on the same floor at the CBC's hotel where we were, and his tie came loose. He was walking so proud, and I said, could I just fix it for you? I just felt good just trying to do something. And he was just so proud. I know how my grandfather was, the dignified black men who had to endure so much. But when they walked, they walked proud and they walked straight as an arrow, and that is how he was.

She was just great. She was my pal. She was my traveling companion. It just hard to find words for STEPHANIE, full of life, full of energy. I didn't smoke, but I used to tell her she needed to slow down on that smoking. But we did have some times together. I won't get into that. We don't want to get into too many details.

But she was good at everything. She did a great job with that tennis and golf tournament every Wednesday at the Congressional Black Caucus lunch. She would say, you have got to come. You have got to support it, scholarships for children.

It is hard to be in Congress without STEPHANIE there, but we are going to have to remember her. She was my pal.

With the untimely loss of our wonderful friend and colleague, STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES, a void has been left in the lives of all those who had the privilege of knowing this remarkable, vibrant, and accomplished woman. It is a loss shared by her family, her many friends, her Ohio constituents, and all those around our great nation who looked to her as a champion of justice and also an advocate for their everyday concerns.

A former county prosecutor and judge of the Cleveland Municipal Court, she went on to break another glass ceiling with her election as the first African American woman elected to Congress from Ohio. She tore down a barrier here in the House of Representatives when she successfully sought a seat on the Ways and Means Committee, which had no African American woman member at the time. It was a measure of her reputation for fairness that she was selected to serve as Chair of the House Ethics Committee.

She was a pioneer who forged ahead not just for herself, but because she knew that she was opening doors for others who would benefit from her groundbreaking steps.

As Co-Chair of the Caribbean Caucus, I had the pleasure of traveling with STEPHANIE

TUBBS JONES, and what a great traveling companion she was. She had a strong interest in global issues, in understanding other cultures, and in improving the lives of those in nations less fortunate than ours. She was enthusiastic about promoting international trade and economic development; in addressing the problems of poverty and hunger; and she wanted to bring more educational opportunities to regions where such opportunities were severely lacking.

Even though she was a diligent public servant, STEPHANIE always found time to laugh and to enjoy life. A terrific sports fan, she was unrivaled in her enthusiasm for her teams, the Cleveland Browns, the Cleveland Cavaliers, and she even cheered on the Cleveland Indians, even though they had not won the World Series since 1948—a year before she was born.

She was also very proud of her son, Mervyn II, and she loved spending time with her sister, Barbara Walker. I recall the care and attention she paid to her elderly father; it was touching to see the bond between them when they were together.

STEPHANIE lived life out loud. Her dazzling smile, her passion for causes, and her devotion to her family made her a remarkable person to know.

Her home town newspaper, the Cleveland Plain Dealer, summed it up well when they wrote that she was "tough, exuberant, passionate . . . a woman from modest means who rose to national prominence."

Our thoughts and prayers remain with her family as we mourn the loss of STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES and celebrate her amazing life and legacy.

Ms. KILPATRICK. Thank you, Congressman.

You know, you have heard it said tonight that she was a friend and a leader and intelligent and you could count on her when she gave you her word. We all felt that. And I think as Congressman PAYNE said, she is in this Chamber, and she will be in this Chamber, and it is our responsibility to carry her spirit and her dedication to building a new America for all of God's people.

The caucus has received many letters and congratulations, condolences and expressions of love for Congresswoman STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES. At this I would like to put some of them in the RECORD, from the South African Embassy, from the Embassy of Turkey, from the Black Women Lawyers' Association of Greater Chicago, and from the Embassy of Colombia. The list goes on and on, and we will be putting them in all week long. To you, Sister Sister, you live, and you always will.

EMBASSY OF TURKEY,
Washington, DC, August 21, 2008.

Hon. CAROLYN KILPATRICK,
Chairwoman, Congressional Black Caucus, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRWOMAN KILPATRICK, I learned with profound sadness and regret the passing of Congresswoman Stephanie Tubbs Jones, Chairwoman of the House Committee on Standards of Official Conduct and a valuable member of the Congressional Black Caucus.

Chairwoman Jones took great personal interest in Turkey and was dedicated to upholding the strong relations, friendship, strategic partnership and alliance between our two great nations. We will always feel her great loss in our hearts.

On this note, I would like to extend our deepest condolences and sympathies to the members of the Congressional Black Caucus.

Sincerely yours,

NABI SENSOY,
Ambassador.

SOUTH AFRICAN EMBASSY,
Washington, DC, August 22, 2008.

Hon. CAROLYN C. KILPATRICK,
Chairwoman, Congressional Black Caucus, Rayburn Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM CHAIRWOMAN, it was with sadness that I learned of the sudden and untimely passing of Congresswoman Stephanie Tubbs Jones. A spirited Representative from the great state of Ohio, Ms. Tubbs Jones stood up proudly for what she believed in, and her infectious zest for life, her optimism and her service to others, are all the qualities that she brought to the U.S. House of Representatives, and to all that had the pleasure of knowing her, and she will be sorely missed. On behalf of the Republic of South Africa, I hereby wish to convey our sincere condolences to the family, friends, constituents, colleagues and especially to you our friends in the Congressional Black Caucus, and you remain in our thoughts throughout this very difficult time.

Yours sincerely,

WELILE NHLAPO,
Ambassador.

BLACK WOMEN LAWYER'S ASSOCIATION OF GREATER CHICAGO, INC.,
Chicago, Illinois, August 21, 2008.

Re death of the Honorable Congresswoman Stephanie Tubbs Jones.

Hon. CAROLYN CHEEKS KILPATRICK,
Chairman, Congressional Black Caucus, Rayburn Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSWOMAN KILPATRICK: The Black Women Lawyers' Association of Greater Chicago wishes to honor the late Congresswoman Stephanie Tubbs Jones for her numerous accomplishments and achievements in her role as a member of the Ohio Congressional Delegation, an African-American lawyer, and an activist.

As the Chairman of the esteemed Congressional Black Caucus, we respectfully ask that you place the enclosed resolution into the Congressional Record.

Should you have any questions about our bar association, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully,

MARY A. MELCHOR,
President, Black Women Lawyers' Association of Greater Chicago.

Enclosure.

A RESOLUTION FOR U.S. CONGRESSWOMAN STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES (OH–11)

"For I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time has come for my departure. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing." II Timothy 4:6–8

In commemoration of the Life of U.S. Congresswoman Stephanie Tubbs Jones (OH–11) from the members of the Black Women Lawyers' Association of Greater Chicago, Inc.:

Whereas, it is with deepest regret that we are compelled to mourn the passing of U.S. Congresswoman Stephanie Tubbs Jones on August 20, 2008, the first African-American woman elected to the United States House of Representatives from Ohio; and

Whereas, Congresswoman Jones was a lifelong resident of the 11th District of Ohio, which encompasses most of the East Side of Cleveland and parts of the West Side of Cleveland and includes parts of 22 suburbs; and

Whereas, Congresswoman Jones was in her fifth term in office and a strong advocate for many issues, including championing wealth building and economic development, access and delivery of health care, and quality education for all; and

Whereas, Congresswoman Jones chaired the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct (Ethics), served on the powerful Ways and Means Committee, and was an active member of numerous Congressional Caucuses, including the Congressional Black Caucus; and

Whereas, Congresswoman Jones introduced several pieces of legislation including, the Uterine Fibroids Research and Education Act to increase funding for research on uterine fibroids and provide enhanced public education about this condition; the Predatory Mortgage Lending Practices Reduction Act, which would require certification of mortgage brokers and enhance penalties for predatory loans, and the Campus Fire Prevention Act, which would provide money to equip college dorms, fraternities, and sorority houses with fire suppression devices; and

Whereas, Congresswoman Jones introduced the "Count Every Vote" Act of 2005, which seeks to provide an all-encompassing solution to a broad range of voting irregularities that occurred during the 2004 presidential election, and was an original co-sponsor of multiple significant pieces of legislation, including healthcare for low and middle-income families and community re-entry for exfelons; and

Whereas, Congresswoman Jones made a number of historic achievements in her distinguished career as a public servant, including serving as the first African-American and the first female Cuyahoga County, Ohio Prosecutor, the first African-American woman to sit on the Common Pleas bench in the State of Ohio, and a Municipal Court Judge in the City of Cleveland; and

Whereas, Congresswoman Jones received numerous honors throughout her lifetime, including the National Bible Association Capitol Hill Distinguished Leadership Award, the Human Rights Campaign of Cleveland Equality Award, the Backbone Campaign's Backbone Award, and the Carib News Multi-National Business Conference Marcus Garvey Award; and

Whereas, Congresswoman Jones was a graduate of Cleveland Public Schools; received her undergraduate degree in Social Work from Case Western Reserve University in 1971; received her Juris Doctorate from Case Western Reserve University School of Law in 1974; and received honorary doctorates from David N. Myers University, Notre Dame College and Central State University; and

Whereas, Congresswoman Jones was an active member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Incorporated and served on its national Social Action Committee; and was a lifelong member and member of the Board Trustees of Bethany Baptist Church in Cleveland, Ohio; and

Whereas, Congresswoman Jones was married to Mervyn L. Jones, Sr., deceased (2003), for 27 years and is the proud mother of Mervyn Leroy Jones, II.

Be it therefore resolved, that we, the members of the Black Women Lawyers' Association of Greater Chicago, Inc., pause on this day with abiding sympathy to support the family of Congresswoman Jones;

Be it further resolved, that we offer our admiration, respect, and support of the legacy of Congresswoman Jones and give recognition for the many "firsts" that she achieved

as an African-American woman, lawyer, and legislator and an outspoken champion of justice for her Congressional District, the State of Ohio, and the nation;

Be it finally resolved that a copy of this resolution shall be given to the family of Congresswoman Stephanie Tubbs Jones; and a copy shall be presented to the Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, Nancy Pelosi, and the U.S. Congressional Black Caucus at the Democratic National Convention which will take place in Denver, Colorado from August 25, 2008 through August 28, 2008; and a copy shall also be placed in the archives of the Black Women Lawyers' Association of Greater Chicago, Inc.

Respectfully submitted, this 21st day of August, 2008 by the membership of Black Women Lawyers' Association of Greater Chicago, Inc., by Mary A. Melchor, President.

EMBASSY OF COLOMBIA,
Washington, DC, August 21, 2008.

Hon. CAROLYN C. KILPATRICK,
Chairwoman of the Congressional Black Caucus, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRWOMAN KILPATRICK, I would like to extend my most heart-felt condolences for the passing of Congresswoman Stephanie Tubbs Jones to you and the members of the CBC.

During my time in Washington, I had several opportunities to meet with Congresswoman Tubbs Jones, and was fortunate to have had the chance to be with her during her visit to Colombia. Her high spirit, sharp mind and positive outlook left a lasting impression, and she will be missed.

Her son, Mervyn Jones, her family, her staff and her colleagues remain in our prayers.

Sincerely,

CAROLINA BARCO,
Ambassador.

Ms. KILPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I would like to yield the balance of my time to a young man who has taken this House by storm. He chairs our Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, one of Congresswoman TUBBS JONES' sons, also a member of the Ways and Means Committee. I yield the balance of my time to Congressman KENDRICK MEEK.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Florida will control the remainder of the time.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Thank you so very much, Madam Chairman.

I would like to thank my leader and colleague from the great city of Detroit, Ms. KILPATRICK, for yielding the balance of the time. We will continue to go down the list I have been given here, Mr. Speaker, as we continue to honor our fallen colleague.

Next on this list I have Congressman DANNY DAVIS from the great State of Illinois, a very good friend of the Congresswoman, STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES.

(Mr. DAVIS of Illinois asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join with my colleagues as we come this evening to pay tribute to our colleague, STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES. I am pleased to follow so many of my distinguished colleagues, because they have said so much until there isn't much to say. But the interesting thing is that with STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES, you never run out of things to say, because she was so much and meant so much to so many.

It is interesting that when you knew STEPHANIE, you knew her whole family. You just didn't know her, you knew her sister; you knew her father; you knew her mother; you knew Mervyn; you knew her husband, Mervyn the first; you knew Mervyn the second; you knew nieces and nephews; you knew friends; and you almost got to know the whole of Cleveland if you knew STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES.

STEPHANIE, as many people have already indicated, had a great legal mind. Prior to coming to Congress, she served as both a prosecutor and a judge. And the interesting thing about prosecution is that you are generally trying to make sure that the law is upheld, and that once people commit infractions, that they pay a price. Of course, that is what prosecutors often do.

Well, STEPHANIE had another interest in the law, and she wanted to make sure that the law also had a sense of justice. And even though she was a prosecutor, brother KENDRICK, even though she was a prosecutor, she was a champion for those who had committed crimes, who had been convicted of crimes, and was one of the staunchest supporters of something called the Second Chance Act.

□ 2100

That is a bill which simply says that once individuals have fallen, that they also need to be lifted up; that once they have had problems, they need to be reclaimed; and, once they had committed crimes for which they may have been punished, they also needed to be redeemed. And so it was very pleasant for me to work with STEPHANIE on the Second Chance legislation.

She befriended people from all walks of life. It didn't matter if they were Democrats or Republicans, or they had been prosecuted.

As a matter of fact, when I think of her, I often think of the poet Homer, who talked about the kind of house that he wanted to live in, and I think STEPHANIE was an embodiment of that kind of house. And when he said,

''Let me live in my house by the side of the road, where the race of men go by. Men who are good, men who are bad, wise, foolish. But then, so am I. So why would I sit in the scorner's seat or hurl the cynic's ban? But let me live in my house by the side of the road and be a friend to man.''

STEPHANIE was indeed a friend to mankind, to humankind.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. I thank you so much, Congressman DAVIS. And she was very proud of the fact that she was able to work with you on the Second Chance Act, and was there when the bill was signed.

I want to call on my very good friend and STEPHANIE's good friend, I call her my Brooklyn Congresswoman, Congresswoman YVETTE CLARKE from the great State of New York.

Ms. CLARKE. To my colleague and very good friend, KENDRICK MEEK, I want to thank you for picking up the mantle. I know that STEPHANIE is watching us and is a part of all that is taking place.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of the distinguished woman from Ohio, and I still can't believe that she has transitioned. I have taken the Congresswoman's passing somewhat personally. You have heard many of the Members speak about their relationship with her and the pet names or nicknames that she had for them. Well, mine was Baby Girl.

My sister, friend, mentor, Representative STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES, to the Representative of the 11th Congressional District of Ohio, Cleveland, Ohio, from the 11th Congressional District of New York, Brooklyn, New York, I love you.

STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES was the consummate public servant. As a new Member-elect to the 110th session of Congress, one of the very first persons to embrace me on the Hill was STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES. She opened her office, her office staff to helping me to adjust to Washington, to select my staff, and to share with me what her transition had been as she reflected back on becoming a member here in Congress 10 years previously.

I had the privilege to have been mentored by her, and the one thing I can say is that she was one determined diva. We danced together, we shopped together, we drove together. Three things that I know that she loved to do, dance, shop, and drive. As a matter of fact, she shared with me the fact that if I loved to drive, then I have got to put my staff under reins and get me a car and do my thing, because that is what she had to do.

She worked hard, she played hard, she loved hard. She was proud to represent the people of Cleveland, and she loved her family. She simply adored her son and wanted the very best for him in this life, Mervyn, Jr. She was an inspiration in my life. She loved her country, and she fought for our people every day with an abiding commitment to their struggles.

When STEPHANIE entered any venue, the chemistry changed, and the atmosphere immediately acknowledged her presence. Her history, a trailblazer, a fighter for women's rights, women's health, civil rights, civil liberties, Congresswoman STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES was always on the move for justice and equality. And I learned so much from this woman, and I just feel privileged to have had her as my mentor.

She dedicated much of her life in service to others. She has bequeathed to us a legacy and an imperative for me to do the same. To Mervyn, Jr., to Barbara, to the Tubbs Jones family, to her constituents in Ohio, to her staff in Ohio, to her staff here in Washington, may the love of God be a comfort to you in this time of our bereavement.

Bon voyage, my sweet sister. See you in that great getting-up morning. Fare thee well.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Thank you so very much, Congresswoman. And I know that Ms. TUBBS JONES meant so much to you.

I would like to call on another good friend and new friend, but a colleague of Congresswoman STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES, Ms. DONNA EDWARDS from the Fourth District of Maryland, who posted her condolences statement on the 21st of this month, Mr. Speaker, the passing of Ms. TUBBS JONES.

Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, and Mr. Chairman, I am really grateful to be here this evening to speak of my new colleague, STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES.

When I was first elected to Congress just a few weeks ago, one of the first calls that I received was from STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES. And when I came here to this floor to be sworn in to the United States Congress as the first African-American woman to represent our great State of Maryland, it was STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES who greeted me and said, ''Hello, girlfriend. I am a first, too.'' And I won't forget that. And she knew, not asking me about my office or how I was planning to settle in, but she said to me, ''You have a man-child.'' And I have said, ''Yes, I do.'' And to me, that was a mark not just of a colleague and of a politician, but it was a mark of a woman. And I understood from her as a mother what it meant to be a mother to a man-child.

The next question she asked me was whether I planned to play basketball, because she knew that I had coached my son in basketball. I am not really quite sure how she knew that, but she did. And so she immediately said to me that not only did I have to play basketball, but I also had to learn how to golf. And so I am going to take that as her marching orders as I serve in the United States Congress, and try to serve in her memory, not just as a great woman, as a great politician, and as a great sportswoman.

And I had the privilege of admiring STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES not in the United States Congress but outside and from afar, and the great privilege just prior to coming to serve in this body of speaking at an event with her in the spring. And she lit up the room. And very recently someone in my congressional district asked me, ''Did you know Stephanie Tubbs Jones?'' And however one knows a person, what I could say is one of my favorite words in the English language is ebullient. And STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES was ebullient.

Thank you.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Thank you so very much for that very kind and moving dedication to Congresswoman TUBBS JONES.

One of my good friends from California, LAURA RICHARDSON, who has taken this Congress by storm and has worked very well in the 37th Congressional District of California, Mr. Speaker, it is very unique having women that have come to Congress because, as you know, the Congressional Black Caucus has been hit hard this particular Congress with losing three women of our caucus in this 110th Congress alone. And all of them played a very substantial role.

This next speaker is, I wouldn't call a replacement, but an addition to that greatness as we continue to march on to allow good representation from all over the country here, Congresswoman LAURA RICHARDSON.

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, Mr. MEEK, thank you for yielding at this time.

It is interesting, from Florida, you brought up that we as members of the Congressional Black Caucus have lost three great women in this session. And as I came in as a new Member really learning from Congresswoman Juanita Millender-McDonald who I had worked for, when I came into this body, I came into a family. And that was something that Congresswoman STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES taught us; that coming to Congress wasn't about a group, it wasn't just about legislation, it was about people who were committed to working together to make our communities better. That is why we came here.

And I'll never forget when I stood in this very spot to share my comments of what it was that I hoped to do on behalf of my community, and I knew that Ms. TUBBS JONES was really hurting because she missed her colleague, Ms. Juanita Millender-McDonald. But in that same hand, she knew enough to know that, as I stood there, she was willing to embrace me. She was willing to help me. And she wanted to make sure that I had everything that Ms. McDonald had and then some. So I will never forget as I spoke and I turned, and, yes, she was one of those first big smiles that I saw, and she said, ''Hey, girl. How are you?'' As she would always tell us.

And Ms. TUBBS JONES, what I wanted to share with her family and with all of us today is just a couple things. One, what I know of Congresswoman STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES is that she was always ready. And I think that is a good lesson, not only for us as colleagues, but as young people coming forward, being ready to seize the opportunity, being ready to speak up and to stand up, and not to hesitate at all.

Another thing that always stood out for me with her was just her knowledge. You heard a lot of people tonight talk about the fact of her law background and all of that. But it was so much that was in her head, so much of what she wanted to take of what she had learned to really change America as we see it today.

And that brings me to my third point about sports, and people have talked about that. Yes, I think we are going to have a big basketball team next year, and I am sure we will work hard to win in her honor. But I want to talk about two other sports that were so special to her.

One, taking her son to the Super Bowl. That was something that she valued and she treasured. And I would challenge all of us CBC members that we need to make sure that he goes next year and the years forward with us and our families.

Number two, her love for golf. We had in honor of her husband, who had also served our caucus so well, we had named the spouse's program after him, and I am sure next year we are going to have to add her name to it.

But also, I want to talk about another sport, and that is just being in the gym. You know, Congresswoman BARBARA LEE, they were gym partners, and I just happened to be the beneficiary of being the third person there. And when you hear people talk about the fervor and how vigorously she approached everything, it wasn't just here at work. It was her on the treadmill, it was her on the Stepmaster. It was her getting ready to come in here and do work. She was always about working hard and really benefiting in any way that she could to help somebody else.

And the last two things I want to talk about is, one, her commitment to youth. If you would come on this floor, it was not uncommon that Congresswoman STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES would pull you aside and say, ''Girl, I've got somebody I want to you to meet.'' And if it wasn't a page from her local area, if it wasn't a young intern who she was in the process of hiring, her commitment to young people was second to none. And I have got to tell you, as being a relatively young Member of Congress, it is critical that we take on that mantle. It was something that she knew and she understood more than most, and that was, the development that we do for our future young people is really showing wisdom for the future.

And, lastly, I want to say our travels that we had on behalf of Senator CLINTON. I had an opportunity to go; Congresswoman STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES was her cochair for her national campaign, and we had an opportunity to travel to South Carolina, to Ohio, to Nevada. I didn't go to Puerto Rico as some did, but she went all over the place. But in honor of the sisterhood of the traveling pantsuits, I want to say that Congresswoman STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES, when I had an opportunity to go to Ohio, because she was also working in so many other States, her folks loved her.

□ 2115

Her folks still love her. And it was out of that respect that they had for her that anyone who came as her guest, they were so well-treated. And my time that I had a chance to spend in Ohio, and to all the young elected officials that she mentored and she helped, being a part of those 8–12 months that

we had an opportunity to work, there was no one who ever wearied in her drive. There was no one who ever hesitated. There was no one who worked harder to make sure that Americans really understood the value of what we have in our elected officials.

And so, as I close, I just want to say, my time that I had with Congresswoman STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES was to know her love, was to know how sincere she was, and lastly, she was unwavering when she committed herself to you.

We love you and we love the family. Thank you very much.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Thank you so very much, Congresswoman.

Mr. Speaker, I am just going to yield time for my good friend and a good friend of my mother's, Congresswoman Carrie Meek, MARCY KAPTUR, who is the Dean of women here in the House, longest serving woman on the Appropriations Committee, and also Dean of the Ohio delegation that held an hour prior to this one as we dedicated a resolution and condolences of the House to STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES.

And as she sat here listening to the stories and testimonials of members of the Congressional Black Caucus of how we remember STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES, I turned around and I said, MARCY, do you have anything else that you would like to share with the House? And she said, I want to talk about the red dress. So I want to hear this too. I yield to Ms. KAPTUR.

Ms. KAPTUR. I thank the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MEEK). And your mother certainly had a man child too. And we love Carrie Meek, Congresswoman Meek. I miss her very much, and she must be very, very proud of you. I am certain of that.

We have shared so many memories this evening, and there are very serious ones that I will end with. But I have to say that I can still see STEPHANIE sitting in the Speaker's chair in the reddest of red suits, and she just beamed. And she loved that chair, and she loved that gavel, and she used it. You could hear it ring against the walls when she would hit that gavel down.

And I did not know that she was not the only member of a sisterhood that wore those red dresses. It wasn't until her service in Cleveland that I saw an entire street from side to side covered with women in red dresses. STEPHANIE had many acquaintances and many friends. And I know that those red outfits gave her strength, and it certainly brightened this Chamber.

I remember her scarves with the fringes. I don't know where STEPHANIE got all those, but they certainly added a flourish here, and they helped to cheer us up and to add to the full smile, ear to ear, that greeted every person that she ever met.

Now, some of us knew about her cheers. There were many cheers, sports cheers, political cheers, Democratic cheers. She had a chant and a rhyme and a rhythm about her, and she had a presence, and she took those cheers forward. I know one of those cheers, one of the more recent ones with a rhyme was H-I-L-L-A-R-Y. I know that that was one of the latest cheers.

She had a great devotion to youth, to the younger women who are serving in this Chamber, three of whom we just heard from, Congresswoman RICHARDSON, Congresswoman EDWARDS, and Congresswoman CLARKE. And it almost seems somewhat providential that as we lost three women from the Congressional Black Caucus, we have three younger women on the floor tonight. That says something right there. And I have no doubt STEPHANIE is watching over making sure that the numbers even get better.

I think that her path breaking efforts in so many ways put her in the footsteps of Sojourner Truth; particularly, I am woman, I can do anything. I am woman, I can do anything. I know STEPHANIE believed that to her very core. Her zest for life and her indomitable spirit surround us, surround her son, surround her sister, surround all of her friends, her church friends in Ohio, all of those who came to know her, appreciate her.

And I know that Congressman Louis Stokes, her predecessor, feels this loss particularly deeply. And I recall with great affection his service here. And as the years go on, it is amazing the events that we witness and that we endure.

And in STEPHANIE's memory, I want to thank Congressman MEEK for holding this special hour on behalf of the Congressional Black Caucus and allowing me to add a few words to the eloquence that has been spoken this evening in memory of our beloved friend. And I yield back the time you have kindly given me.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Thank you so very much. And MARCY, I just want to thank you for being a good friend of STEPHANIE's, and continuing to carry the flag here in the House.

I would like to bring on another Member, a great Member of Congress, and she is a good, good sister of STEPHANIE's, was a good friend and traveled to Cleveland in between STEPHANIE's departure and her homegoing service to be with STEPHANIE's family. And we know her as Congresswoman SHEILA JACKSON-LEE. And she was another fighter here in Congress that sleeps with her fists balled up. And STEPHANIE and her were sisters as it relates to that. So my good friend from the great State of Texas, SHEILA JACKSON-LEE.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. I feel like family has gathered here on the floor, and I thank my good and distinguished friend. We are like family. And his mother, and as he has come here, and the extended family relationship.

And so, even as I spoke on the bereavement resolution, I wanted to come and be part of the Congressional Black Caucus special order because I could feel the warmth and spirit just continue to flow through. And I hope the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD doesn't mind us talking about spirit flowing through.

I want to acknowledge her staff that is staying here till the end that are in the gallery there, and they are like family as well. And we know that STEPHANIE would say she loved her staff, both in Washington and in Cleveland.

Certainly, I think the most poignant moment of the going home service was my friend and brother, the Honorable KENDRICK MEEK, and Congressman RYAN, having stood together, stoically, strongly, and specially to talk about Congresswoman STEPHANIE Tubbs Jones and, as well, as they did so, you could feel in that huge, huge Cleveland Convention Center, everyone just pouring love toward them. And I think it drew Mervyn, her son, out of his seat to go up on the stage and to see the most powerful embrace that one could ever see. It will be lasting. I think it will go down in the annals of her record, when you pull her up and you look at this celebration, this homegoing service, you will note that there was this kind of experience, this moving experience. And I want to thank my distinguished Member of Congress from Florida, Congressman MEEK, for just pouring his heart out during that service. I think all of us just paused for a moment to see the largeness and the bigness of our relationship with STEPHANIE.

So I wanted to come because I didn't get a chance to just mention more extensively, someone who allowed you to know most of her family members during her time here in Congress. And the goodness is, I think we should celebrate that her family members lived, her mom and dad lived to see her become a Member of Congress. Her husband, of which, someone mentioned they had celebrated 25 years together or more, lived to see her in the United States Congress and enjoyed being part of her commitment to the Congressional Black Caucus, with the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation. They were a couple. They were a pair.

In fact, I am envious and dream of the fact that I used to hear the stories about the yachting that they did together as a couple, and always said one day I would have the time to go. But just to think about how she used her life experiences of joy and large living to touch everyone's life.

When we talked about airlines, when we talked about the troubles airlines were having, I remember her talking after 9/11. She would always get in there that her dad was a skycap. When they were talking about salaries or talking about working conditions at the airlines, she had an affinity because she would get in there that her dad was a skycap, and she was proud of that.

And I want everybody to know, since we live in this kind of multi-cultural society, that being a skycap was a big, big deal for an African American and an African American man. It was a

middle class, it was a working job that had benefits, but it was an important responsibility. I know that because my uncle was a skycap. So that was an important, if you will, connection for her dad who supported this family.

And of course, her mom and her sisters, and the sister who I had a chance, as Congressman MEEK mentioned, I had a chance to visit Barbara and Mervyn when I went to visit them at home.

There were friends, and I know that I will get in trouble, but I know that the Mayor of Warrensville I believe is the name, Mayor Fudge, a dear friend and a part of the Delta family. But I know the guy that she calls Joe Hewitt; never a single name, just calling him Joe Hewitt, larger than life, someone that she cared about; he cared about her. We had a chance to fellowship with their family.

So I wanted to just come and say that, as we talk about sisterhood, it is really real. And as we talk about traveling with her, it is really real. As we talk about being larger than life, it is really real as well.

And I want to close simply by just adding to what my good friend, MARCY KAPTUR from Cleveland said, as I looked at the three Congresspersons, one from Maryland, California and New York, three beautiful young women. And we lost Congresswoman Julia Carson, Juanita Millender-McDonald, and now STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES, all mentors. And look at the legacy that they have left.

Look at the legacy of STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES, who I call a great patriot, a great American, because she could fight you for her love for America. She would not take a back seat. Whether or not she was talking about predatory lending or whether she was talking about health care that did not occur in her community around the Nation, or those incarcerated persons who were treated unfairly and didn't get a second chance, she still loved America.

So I want to leave us with the words of Sojourner Truth. And it was when she was sitting in the back of the room, and it was during the abolitionist movement, suffragette movement. And it was crowded, and she saw they saw her hand raise up, and the person called on sir, or indicated that she was a man. And Sojourner Truth stood up and said, ain't I a woman? I born 13 children into slavery. Ain't I a woman?

To STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES, there will be no doubt that she was a woman's woman and a leader's leader.

And finally, in closing, if I can read from Philippians Chapter 4, verse 8: Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report, if there be any virtue, if there be any praise, think on these things.''

Let us think on the life of STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES, and let us, in all of our imperfections, and we have them, embellish those things in ourselves. And as the Congressional Black Caucus, let us live on, and the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, of which my distinguished colleague is the Chair, let her spirit live on as we do her work and do the work of the Lord.

I rise today with a conflict of emotions to recognize Congresswoman STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES. I stand with a heavy heart enriched and gladdened that I had the opportunity of knowing and working with such a beacon of light here in Congress.

Before heading to the funeral I was reminded of the words of, Mother Teresa, ''There is a light in this world, a healing spirit—more powerful than any darkness we may encounter. We sometimes lose sight of this force, when there is suffering, and too much pain. Then suddenly, the spirit will emerge through the lives of ordinary people who hear a call and answer in extraordinary ways.''

That is why although I rise with a heavy heart at the loss of a colleague and friend, I stand with a realization and gratefulness for all that Congresswoman STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES was able to do for her family, for her constituents, and for her country in her brief time here on this earth. I also believe that Congresswoman TUBBS JONES is in a better place and is looking down on us with that contagious smile and generous nature that made us all love working with her.

As Women's Caucus and Congressional Black Caucus members, the Congresswoman and I spent a lot of time working together and talking about our lives, our unique work, and the issues facing our nation.

HISTORY

I had the opportunity to get to know this great woman and learn that she was born in Cleveland, Ohio, where she graduated from the city's public schools, later earning degrees from Case Western Reserve University, the Flora Stone Mather College, and Case Western Reserve University School of Law.

I knew that she was a proud member of Delta Sigma Theta; and even more proud to have been married to the love of her life, Mervyn L. Jones, Sr., for over 27 years until his passing in 2003. Together she and Mervyn had one son; Mervyn Leroy Jones, Jr., who was the light of her life.

Like me, STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES was a lawyer who had been a local judge. She served on the Cleveland Municipal Court in 1981, and later on the Court of Common Pleas of Cuyahoga County before becoming the Representative for the 11th District of Ohio.

She was selected to be the Chairwoman of the House Ethics Committee to watch over the standards of ethical conduct for members of the House. She also served on the powerful House Ways and Means Committee where she fought for economic development and financial opportunities for all. She was loved by her district, and was routinely reelected against nominal opposition.

STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES spent 58 years on this earth and she was a blessing and her memory will always be a treasure. She was loved beyond words, and will be missed beyond measure by all that knew her.

Over the last few months, Congresswoman TUBBS JONES and I travelled across the country together. She was always focused on doing the ''right thing''. She understood that in this unique work of ours we serve the people, but we must also answer to our conscience. Doing the ''right thing'' in this job is not always an easy task—but she did it day in and day out as she worked to help the people of Ohio, Americans across this great Nation, and our men and women overseas.

She was an outstanding example of what it means to be leader. She epitomized service before self. Indeed, as a society, we must do all we can do to build upon the strength of service to help strengthen the fabric of the Nation. I offer the TUBBS-JONES family encouragement in their time of bereavement by saying, ''Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.'' Her work on Earth is complete. We join the Lord in saying, well done, thou good and faithful servant. She was a fighter for issues that affect the least among us and in all the years she was in Congress—she never forgot that. Now let us not forget her.

CONCLUSION

The Bible states in Philippians chapter 4 verse 8: ''Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.''

Let us remember Congresswoman STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES, a public servant, a colleague—a friend.

[From the New York Times, Aug. 21, 2008]

STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES, LAWMAKER, DIES AT 58

(By Dennis Hevesi)

Stephanie Tubbs Jones, the first African-American woman elected to the House of Representatives from Ohio and a leader in the fight against predatory lending practices, died Wednesday. She was 58.

The cause was a ruptured brain aneurysm that Ms. Tubbs Jones suffered Tuesday, Eileen Sheil, a spokeswoman for the Cleveland Clinic, which owns the Huron Hospital in East Cleveland where the congresswoman died, told The Associated Press.

Ms. Tubbs Jones, a Democrat, was in her fifth term as representative of the 11th Congressional District, which includes most of the east side of Cleveland. Two years ago, she was re-elected with 83 percent of the vote. Before her first election to Congress, in 1998, she had been the chief prosecutor for Cuyahoga County in Ohio.

Considered a liberal, Ms. Tubbs Jones was a co-sponsor of legislative efforts to broaden health care coverage for low- and middle-income people and of programs supporting the re-entry of convicts into their communities. She was also the author of legislation requiring certification for mortgage brokers and stiffer penalties for predatory loans.

In June, Ms. Tubbs Jones voted against emergency supplemental financing for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

''I feel it important that we have a plan for a timely redeployment of our troops from Iraq and Afghanistan before we continue funding what has become a seemingly endless war,'' she said at the time.

When Congress officially ratified President Bush's re-election in January 2005, Ms. Tubbs Jones joined Senator Barbara Boxer, Democrat of California, in initiating a rare challenge to what has historically been a polite formal ceremony. They were objecting to accepting Ohio's 20 electoral votes for Mr. Bush, citing voting irregularities in the state.

Instead of holding a courteous joint session to certify the election, lawmakers were forced to retreat to their separate chambers for two hours of debate. In the end, the House voted 267 to 31 against the challenge; in the Senate, the vote was 74 to 1.

Stephanie Tubbs was born in Cleveland on Sept. 10, 1949. She graduated from Case Western Reserve University in 1971 and received her law degree there three years later.

From 1976 to 1979, she was an assistant Cuyahoga County prosecutor. In 1981, she won election as a Cleveland Municipal Court judge, and 10 years later she was appointed chief prosecutor.

As chief prosecutor, Ms. Tubbs Jones was at the center of a controversy in 1998 when she refused to reopen an investigation into the 1954 murder of the wife of Dr. Sam Sheppard, dismissing new DNA evidence that Dr. Sheppard's supporters said would have exonerated him.

The case had received nationwide coverage in the 1950s. Dr. Sheppard spent 10 years in prison before the Supreme Court ruled that his trial had been prejudiced by publicity. He was acquitted at a second trial, in 1966, and died in 1970. With the new evidence, Dr. Sheppard's son was seeking to collect damages on behalf of his father. Ms. Tubbs Jones argued that the new DNA results would be inadmissible because the samples were too old.

Ms. Tubbs Jones's husband of 27 years, Mervyn L. Jones Sr., died in 2003. She is survived by her son, Mervyn II.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Thank you so very much, Congresswoman. And it is a very kind tribute and kind words given to our colleague.

Mr. Speaker, I just want to take the remainder of our time just to speak a few minutes on reflection of my friend and colleague, Congresswoman STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES. I can say that there has been several days of reflection and testimony to her life and her presence here in this Chamber.

I can also share with the House, Mr. Speaker, that this tribute will continue on Wednesday. The Speaker has called a memorial service of the House and of the Congress in Statuary Hall at 11 a.m., so those Members of the House or staff and friends can come and reflect and hear further stories of STEPHANIE and her contributions to this great country.

□ 2130

The Congressional Black Caucus Foundation will host a reception for all in the Rayburn room afterwards, which we will post pictures of STEPHANIE and the contributions that she's not only made to this country but also to young people who are walking the Halls of Congress. She spearheaded efforts within the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation to provide internships and fellowships for so many students who ordinarily wouldn't have the opportunity to do it working along with our Congressional Black Caucus spouses.

I came to the Chamber today with mixed feelings. It was a special kind of warmness that hit me when I walked into the Chamber because so many times we would have the chance to talk and laugh and talk about things that took place either over the weekend or over the break. And ''Stephanie Hall,'' like leader Boehner talked about a little earlier today, her office is right down the hall from my office, and we served on the Ways and Means Committee together. So it's almost like not only Congresswoman TUBBS JONES, but her staff and my staff, it was almost like having a good neighbor, someone you can go get a cup of sugar from. Someone you can go sit down and hold common goals with.

And we all know—and you heard a lot of folks saying you're going to miss her because she was one of those individuals that you assumed was just going to pop up at any moment. I was talking with my wife when we attended her home-going service in Ohio, and she said, ''It just seems like STEPHANIE's going to walk up behind us and say, 'Hey, what's going on,' '' because that was the kind of unique person that she was.

I think during this whole time as I continue to reflect and really live deep in the spirit of how good God is, here in the present to have served with someone like STEPHANIE, to have folks on both sides of the aisle, to have people who know what it means to punch in and punch out every day when they go to work, those that wake up early to catch the bus to go to work, those that are cleaning hotel rooms, those that are driving the carts at Cleveland Airport. There are so many times that STEPHANIE would talk to them and make them feel like real people. All of them, including what we may call the ''blue shirts'' here in the Capitol building, those that work here, those that clean, those uniforms, the police officers, everyone knew STEPHANIE for being the person that will treat them the same way they would treat a Member of Congress or a President or a leader of a country or what have you.

I say all of that to say that the best conversation that I keep going back to, and I spoke of this at her memorial service, was a conversation that I had with my mother about STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES.

STEPHANIE was a member of our family. Period. Dot. And she would travel to south Florida and would do things together with my mother, and they had a relationship prior to my arrival because they were both Delta sisters. And it took me, Mr. Speaker, a while, because my mother and I really work hard to talk every day. And I was holding off from calling her because I said I know if I call her, we're going to get in the middle of this conversation about STEPHANIE. And sure enough, we did.

And my mother, who I consider the person in my family that's closest to the cross—that's not in the way of saying that she's about to pass on, but she's very spiritual—and a woman who has traveled a similar route as STEPHANIE has traveled in her time. We were talking, and all of a sudden she just rained down on the phone and said, ''Kendrick, she had an appointment with the Maker.'' And that has provided more comfort to me, and I believe to others, of saying that why would she have to have such an untimely death. Well, it's not up to us to say what is timely and what is untimely. That's something that's already planned from birth.

And just looking at her trail and her track as we continue to reflect on her light, that God would allow her to play a national role in the primary election and to be judged by others and cherished by certain individuals and to be known nationally and internationally for her presence in the primary election, this Presidential election. And then after the primary is over, be the person, serve as the instrument to bring those that were the two that were running for office against one another together in a special way. And to be able to work on behalf of Senator OBAMA, to have that opportunity before her death to be able to bring them together at her homegoing service is beyond coincidental.

So we have to really look at every day, cherish every day as though it's our last day to serve.

STEPHANIE spent a number of days, a number of hours hugging those that may have had some doubt about her judgment and her actions, but that's the kind of person because she had this uniqueness that very few may have.

So I close with this, Mr. Speaker, because I almost feel like a visiting Baptist preacher. If I had time, I would really be able to get into the deepness of STEPHANIE's presence, and it will always be here in this Chamber. I'm glad she lived life in the way she lived it because so many times those that pass and they move on, they say, ''Goodness. I wish they would have had the opportunity to do this, this, and this,'' and I can't say that about STEPHANIE because she did it all.

She held all of us up. She will continue to hold all of us up, and as long as I'm a Member in this Congress and a Member of the Ways and Means Committee and serving in the leadership position, she will be someone I will never ever forget because she called TIM RYAN and I—you know, we know about Mervyn—but we were her congressional sons. She would put it this way, ''TIM is my white son and KENDRICK is my black congressional son.'' And TIM could not be here tonight, but I know he will be here in the future.

And I want the Members to know that she loved this body. And we will forever, ever remember her, and we will continue to have this great celebration of life for the next coming days.

Mr. Speaker, with that, I want to not only thank our chair, Congresswoman KILPATRICK, who serves as the Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, but all Members of Congress that have come forth this evening to share words of comfort with the family and the country for such a loss of a great leader, a great hero, and someone that has been an icebreaker for so many people.

My love and all of our love and our condolences go out to the family and her staff, which was her extended family, here in Congress and back in Cleveland, and to the hundreds of constituents that wrapped the streets to pay their appreciation to STEPHANIE.

And may her spirit live long in the Halls of Congress.

I yield back the balance of my time.

ENERGY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. GINGREY) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I thank you.

We're going to spend our hour tonight on behalf of the minority party talking about energy, once again. This is the most pressing concern, I think, of our Nation right now in these tough economic times.

But before I get started, I want to join with my colleagues, my Democratic colleagues, and pay tribute, Mr. Speaker, to STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES, the gentlewoman from Ohio. I guess you can say that everything's been said that needs to be said, but not everybody has had an opportunity to say it. I can't improve upon the kind words that we've heard here over the last hour in regard to her life and what a great person she was.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to mention one thing that I thought about a lot after hearing of her untimely and sad passing. She is the second member, Mr. Speaker, of the Ohio delegation to die in office during this 110th Congress. The first was a member on our side of the aisle—again, very loved and respected—Paul Gillmor. Just like Ms. JONES, like Representative JONES, as bipartisan whenever he could be, as she was.

And I went to his funeral in Columbus, Ohio, the great capital of Ohio. And the eulogies that were offered on behalf of Representative Gillmor, the very first one, Mr. Speaker, was offered by Representative STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES. And it was very touching, very loving. You know, it's a sad thing, of course, her passing. But God has His plan, and we have our plans, but His plan takes precedent over everything we do.

But she was a great Member of this body, and I join my colleagues in expressing my sincere sympathy to the family.

Mr. Speaker, we are here finally back in session after a long 5-week absence, the so-called August recess. And, Mr. Speaker, I think you and all of my colleagues know that many Republican Members—we asked our Democratic colleagues to join us on this floor during the recess—in fact I think some 134 Republican Members—that's not 100 percent on our side, but it's getting darn close to 80, 85 percent—Members came back, some several days, took a break away from their families, from their constituents in this traditional August recess to come back here and say, you know, we really should not be at home. We should not be in our districts no matter how important the work there is. It's very important. Certainly, there is some politicking going on during election season.

But I think, Mr. Speaker, most of my constituents told me, and I'm sure every Member of this body, that you need to get back up there and do the people's work. We're suffering, we're struggling with these high gas prices; our kids are going to be going back to school in a couple of weeks and the school bus is probably not going to be running, and it's a safety issue. And some school districts across the country are talking about cutting back to a 4-day school week. It's one thing for a 4-day work week, but a 4-day school week for our youngsters . . .

So we were talking about that every day. Every day we had anywhere from 5 to 15 Republican Members in this Chamber.

Now, the lights were dim, the air-conditioning was either too cold or it was too hot, the C–SPAN cameras were not running. These microphones—I'm hoarse today Mr. Speaker, because of straining my voice during that time. But it was an absolute wonderful experience.

All of the people that were visiting the Nation's Capitol, their Capitol, the people's House, during that time, during those 5 weeks, we asked them if they wanted to come and have a unique opportunity to sit in our seats right here in this Chamber. Rarely do they get the chance to do that. It's not like sitting in the gallery. To actually come down and sit in the seats where the Members sit and debate and vote.

And this Chamber was virtually full many of those days, a lot of times three-fourths full, half full. But untold numbers of American citizens had an opportunity. And they were not just Republicans, Mr. Speaker. They were Democrats, they were independents, they were voters. They were people that enjoyed listening to this discussion about the crisis that we're in and what, at least on our side of the aisle, we felt need to be done.

We talked at length about the American Energy Act, the bill that was introduced by minority leader JOHN BOEHNER of the great State of Ohio. Leader BOEHNER introduced the American Energy Act probably 2½ months ago, in fact. And it languished wherever it went to, probably the Energy and Commerce Committee, and never saw the light of day. And that bill, Mr. Speaker, is the all-of-the-above Energy Act. Yes, the cornerstone of the bill is to drill, to drill here in the United States or off of its Outer Continental Shelf, to drill now so that we lower these gas prices and get some relief to the great people of this country who are struggling so much right now economically. And yet the bill never had an opportunity to see the light of day.

I have got a number of posters, Mr. Speaker, that I want to refer to, and I'm going to put that on the easel here for a minute so my colleagues can join with me in understanding some of the issues.

□ 2145

Well, the first poster says, ''Nancy Pelosi, we're here and where are you?'' Well guess what, my colleagues. She's back. She's back. But it took 5 weeks to get her back, and during the time that we were begging her to come back and call this Congress into a special session, she had the power to do that.

Madam Speaker was out, among other things, promoting her new book, ''Know Your Power.'' I'm sure Madam Speaker was referring to the power of a woman, and I think that's a good thing. I have three daughters and four grand-daughters, and I hope one day that they will have an opportunity to achieve what Madam Speaker's achieved. They obviously won't be the first female Speaker in the history of this country because she has that title now, but know her power, the power to convene the Congress and pass legislation. She, and only she, could do that, and yet she refused to come back even for a few days, even maybe for a week. She would still, as would the rest of us, have 4 weeks to work in our districts or go on vacation or whatever during that August recess.

The ironic thing, Mr. Speaker, about this is Ms. PELOSI said in the elections of 2006—gee, it's been almost 2 years ago when the Democratic Party was the minority party. She said that, you know, this do-nothing Congress, these do-nothing Republicans, we need to replace them, and among other things, of course, she said that bills should generally come to the floor under a procedure that allows open, full and fair debate, consisting of a full amendment process that grants the minority the right to offer its alternatives, including a substitute. Now, that is a direct quote by Speaker PELOSI back in 2006.

Well, she has already pretty much said that any energy bill, Mr. Speaker, that comes to the floor is going to be basically with a closed rule. We, in the minority, are not going to have an opportunity to amend, and it's not going to look anything like the American Energy Act, the All-of-the-Above Act, which allows not just drilling here, drilling now, but it includes so many other things that we'll speak about during this hour.

But before I go on, I wanted to take the opportunity—two of my colleagues, Mr. Speaker, and I hope maybe some others will join us later in the hour, but the first colleague is the gentleman from Florida, and he should know a lot, a lot indeed, about the Outer Continental Shelf and what is being done and what's not being done. I yield at this time to my colleague from Florida, the honorable RIC KELLER.

Mr. KELLER of Florida. I thank the gentleman from Georgia for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I have just returned from a 4-day trip to Alaska. I went there on a fact-finding trip to learn more about what is becoming one of the central issues of our time, and that is, whether or not we should drill in the portion of Alaska known as ANWR, particularly the section called 10–02.

Before venturing off on this trip, I listened to folks on both sides. Those who were for the drilling said that there's a large amount of oil there, that exploration can take place in an environmentally friendly way, and that the Alaskan people themselves want it.

Those who were against drilling there said there's only a trivial amount of oil there, this will hurt the pristine wilderness, and it will endanger wildlife, particularly caribou and polar bears.

Well, after spending 4 days on a fact-finding mission, I'm prepared to relay to you what I saw in response to these three key issues. First, what is the amount of oil there? Second, will it hurt the pristine wilderness? And third, will it hurt the wildlife?

I can tell you from my trip to ANWR and the Northern Slope and talking with experts in and out of the government that there is approximately 10.4 billion barrels of oil in ANWR, according to the U.S. Department of the Interior and U.S. Geological Survey. How much is 10.4 billion barrels of oil? It is enough oil to provide all of my home State of Florida's needs for 29 years. 10.4 billion barrels of oil is enough to provide 1 million barrels a day every day for the next 30 years. It is the single largest source of untapped oil of any location in the entire United States.

If I can show you a chart, Mr. Speaker, to give you an analogy of why we have some comfort that that's true, you see this is the State of Alaska, ANWR in the upper left. It's about the size of South Carolina, about 19 million acres. Drilling would be limited to a real tiny area up here—this is called the 10–02 ANWR coastal plain area—to a section of only 2,000 acres, just about the size of the red dot here. So literally 99.99 percent of ANWR would not have drilling, and I told you there's roughly 10.4 billion barrels in this 2,000-acre area.

Next door to it you will see a sign says Prudhoe Bay Oil Field. This is the single largest oil field in the United States. It has 15 billion barrels of oil. They have already extracted 12 billion, and there are 3 billion remaining. Now, when you go up there like I did and you compare the two areas, they look roughly the same.

Why is there drilling at Prudhoe Bay and not in ANWR? It's simple. This area is owned by the State of Alaska. They want the drilling and they allow it. This area is owned by the Federal Government. It has not yet been allowed.

What's significant also is you see a line here, it says TAPS. That's the Trans-Alaska Pipeline. What's so key about extracting this large quantity of oil is you have an 800-mile pipeline that takes the oil all the way down to the southern tip of Alaska to a city called Valdez. There it is picked up by tankers and taken to refineries in the lower 48 States and from the refineries turned into gasoline and shipped to your local retail gasoline dealer where you purchase the gasoline.

So we have a huge amount of oil. We have a pipeline infrastructure ready to move it. The only question is whether we will.

That brings us to the next issue. Will it hurt the wilderness? As I already said, 99.99 percent of the wilderness will be off limits, if you call it wilderness. But I happened to go to all of these areas, but this little town right here, Kaktovik, is the only village in ANWR, and I stood there at the edge of Kaktovik looking through this 10–02 coastal plain area with the leader from that small Eskimo tribe, a man named Felton Rexford.

I looked out and I'll show you what I saw. I saw a flat, frozen, barren tundra. As the camera looks at that picture, folks may look at it and say, well, what am I looking at? I don't see any trees. I can't see any wilderness. That's exactly what I saw as I stood there, and I said to the elected leader from the Eskimo tribe: Where are the trees in the area that we're talking about drilling? And he said, Congressman, there's not a tree within 100 miles. Not a tree within 100 miles.

So much for the beautiful wilderness that we hear about in so many of the photos that are seen. I can tell you those photos aren't the area that we're talking about drilling.

Well, the next issue becomes: What about the wildlife? We don't want to hurt the caribou and the polar bears that live in Alaska. I saw both on my trip to Alaska. Alaska has 800,000 caribou, the most numerous large animals anywhere in Alaska, and 5,000 polar bears. I can tell you, in the last three decades, every single year the population of polar bears has increased. Every single year the population of caribou has increased.

In fact, I mentioned to you that the biggest oil field is called Prudhoe Bay next to the ANWR area, and I toured Prudhoe Bay. And as I toured there—here we are—I saw some caribou right there among the oil fields. And I talked to the wildlife experts who were with us. I said, Is that unusual? They said, Not at all. Back in the 1970s when oil was discovered here in Prudhoe Bay and they started drilling, there were 3,000 caribou in that area. Today, there are over 30,000. The caribou population has increased tenfold.

And so to wrap up, Mr. Speaker, what I learned in summary is that there is a significant amount of oil there, 10.4 billion barrels. I learned that the Alaskans want it: 70 percent of the Alaskans statewide, 90 percent of those who live in the ANWR area. I learned that we can do this without having any harm to the wilderness or to the wildlife and that we can have it all done with responsible, environmentally friendly drilling that reduces our dependence on foreign oil.

I have great respect for all four of the individuals running for President on the national tickets, Republicans and Democrats, but having been to Alaska and spent 4 days with the world leading experts on this issue, I can tell you that in my humble opinion Governor Sarah Palin knows more about this issue than all three men combined. I'm excited with the energy she brings to this debate and the knowledge she has about drilling because she knows these issues cold. And I hope in this Presidential election, whether you're a Republican or Democrat, listen to what this lady says because she's been saying what I learned over the past 4 days. There's very few of us that get to see it in person.

So, with that, let me thank the gentleman from Georgia so much for yielding his time to me.

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I really appreciate the gentleman from Florida being with us tonight, and I thank him for that very intelligent discussion of ANWR and some of the statistics that he presented to us.

Mr. Speaker, the 1.5 million barrels a day that Representative KELLER was talking about is not an insignificant amount of oil, and if you add that to 2.5 million barrels a day that we could be getting from the Outer Continental Shelf and another 2.5 million barrels a day that we could be extracting from the shale out in the Midwest, those five Rocky Mountain States, you would have a doubling of the amount of domestic production of oil. We would go from 7 million barrels a day to about 14 million barrels a day, and of course, you know, right now we're importing 60 percent of what we use. So his discussion is very pertinent and very timely.

Mr. Speaker, at the outset, I was talking about what our current Speaker, Ms. PELOSI, some of the quotes that she made back in 2006, and I want to share in this poster a few more with you. She said then, This leadership team will create the most honest, most open and most ethical Congress in history. Now, Speaker NANCY PELOSI said that November 16, 2006.

This is now, a recent quote. When we asked for an opportunity to have regular order on an energy bill coming through the Energy and Commerce Committee, a bill that was marked up by both Democrats and Republicans, majority and minority, and that would go through the amendment process and that maybe even some amendments submitted to the Rules Committee would be made in order so that we could have a fair and open discussion, when she was questioned about that, when reference to a quote back in 2006, Ms. PELOSI said, and this is a quote, I'm not giving the gavel to them. They will have to use their imagination as to

how they can get a vote. Speaker PELOSI said that on August 3, 2008. I guess kind of like she's using her imagination to lower energy prices.

And I think my next colleague who is going to speak will talk a little bit about the imagination and what her plan happens to be, but I'll show a couple of more slides before I yield to the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) who has been such a strong advocate on this issue.

This is another quote from Ms. PELOSI. This call for drilling in areas that are protected—in other words, the Outer Continental Shelf and ANWR that the gentleman from Florida was just talking about—this call for drilling in areas that are protected is a hoax. It is an absolute hoax on the part of the Republicans and this administration.

Another quote from Speaker PELOSI, If you don't agree with that, my colleagues, just call (202) 224–3121 and voice your concern about a quote like that.

□ 2200

But listen to this. Look at this quote that Ms. PELOSI, our distinguished Speaker, gave on one of the national news networks a week or so ago when she was asked: ''Why not drill? Why not open up these areas?'' After all, the United States owns this source of fossil fuel, both natural gas and petroleum. Her quote then was: ''I'm trying to save the planet.'' I think she actually banged the table and repeated it. ''I'm trying to save the planet.''

Well, so is this guy Carl Pope, executive director of the Sierra Club. His quote was: ''We're better off without cheap oil. We're better off without cheap gas.''

So what they want to do is save the planet, but I fear, Mr. Speaker, that in the process they'll be destroying this country.

With that, I am going to yield to my distinguished colleague from North Carolina, a champion who has been back on this floor for most of the August recess, not just for a day or two. In fact, she led the Republicans on several occasions, and she does such a great job. At this time, I'm honored to yield to the gentlewoman from North Carolina, VIRGINIA FOXX.

Ms. FOXX. Well, thank you, Mr. GINGREY. Thank you, Congressman GINGREY, for your leadership on this hour tonight as well as for your help earlier this year in August for what we were doing in calling to the attention of the American people those who are creating this problem with the high gas prices. I want to add some comments to my colleague from Florida's comments about drilling in ANWR.

I had the great opportunity to go to Alaska in 2005. I'd been there once before just purely as a tourist, but I went as a Member of Congress in 2005. I also saw Prudhoe Bay. I also saw Valdez. I also flew over ANWR. I want to add my comments and support to the things that he has said.

When the ANWR was set aside, the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge—I think it was in the early 70s—it was specific in the bill that some of that land would be set aside for oil drilling because people knew then that there was oil there and that it should be drilled for, but since that time, the Democrats have time and time and time again stopped us from drilling there. A bill passed in 1995—it passed both Houses—to allow drilling in ANWR, and President Clinton vetoed it. Since then, many, many times we have brought up votes, and the Democrats have consistently voted against drilling there.

He is absolutely right. The ANWR area is nothing but a frozen desert. Where we would be drilling is a frozen desert. It looks gray like that picture he showed. We saw it from the air. It looks exactly like that. It is akin to the deserts of Saudi Arabia, but it happens to be a frozen desert.

You know, the Lord gave us all of the resources, I believe, in this world that we need, but they just don't always look like they're the resources that we need, and sometimes they're tied up in unusual places, but the way I've described it to my colleagues and to my constituents is the way that I have heard it described as to the area that we would drill in ANWR, the 2000 acres: A postage stamp is to a football field as those 2000 acres are to the State of Alaska. It's a minuscule part of the State of Alaska, and it would do no harm.

Also, there is one thing that my colleague Mr. KELLER didn't mention. He did show a wonderful map of how close the pipeline is now to that area. We're told that, in 18 months, we could have oil flowing from ANWR into the Alaska pipeline. In fact, it's going to be necessary to keep oil flowing into that pipeline or the pipeline is going to have to be shut down. So the Democrats continue to say it's going to take 10 years. It will only take 10 years if they and their trial lawyer friends and their radical environmentalist friends continue to bring lawsuits. What takes so long for us to create the energy that we need in this country are the lawsuits that keep getting filed. We could do this. We could be getting gas from the Outer Continental Shelf, I understand, in 3 years if we don't have to continually fight lawsuits to get this energy.

During the period of time when we were debating this in August—when the cameras were turned off, when the lights were turned off, when the mikes were turned off—I said that we have a choice to make here in the Congress. We are either going to be pro-American energy or anti-American energy. The Republicans in this Congress are pro-American energy. There is no reason why this country cannot be completely energy independent. Now, today, we've emphasized drilling.

By the way, let me make one other comment about the drilling in Alaska that nobody has made. I saw this again when I was there. You know, when you see the pictures of ANWR again, you see caribou grazing in a meadow with daisies blooming. That's, again, not the area that we would be drilling in. There are no caribou. There are living things there, I'm sure, in that frozen wasteland but not anything that you can see.

The other things that you see are these oil rigs like you see in Texas, these things that go up and down, and they're not very attractive armaments or implements, but when we saw the oil wells in Alaska, for the life of me, you couldn't have known that those were oil wells. They are simple boxes, maybe a little bit taller than I am, and they have valves on them. They look sort of like oxygen tanks with some valves on them, but they're not unattractive at all. They're in little boxes that sort of look like cabanas. We saw a whole row of about, I'd say, 100 or 150 of them. You would have no idea. They might be refrigerators for all one knows, but they're not unattractive at all.

Again, the radical environmentalists want us to think that we're going to be assaulted visually and that the environment is going to be assaulted by our drilling in ANWR. They want us to do nothing. I think the comment by the gentleman from the Sierra Club is very typical of what they feel. They don't want us to have cheap gas because they don't want us to use the good resources that the Lord gave us.

Mr. GINGREY. Would the gentlelady yield for just one comment on that before you continue?

Ms. FOXX. Sure.

Mr. GINGREY. Representative FOXX, you requoted what the gentleman from the Sierra Club said. Again, he said, ''We're better off without cheap gas.''

Also, I want to point out, Mr. Speaker, that the leader of the Senate, the Senate majority leader, Senator Harry Reid of Nevada, said fossil fuel is poison, that fossil fuel is poison and that we need to completely rid ourselves of that by, I think, the year 2012. So I just wanted to point that out.

I yield back to the gentlewoman.

Ms. FOXX. Well, I thank my colleague from Georgia for mentioning that because I wanted to also mention that Republicans have consistently said we're for all of the above. We're not just for drilling in ANWR, just for drilling in the Outer Continental Shelf. We want all of the alternatives. We want to be energy independent. We certainly believe in advancing solar, wind, hydro, and whatever other sources there are out there. Most of us believe that, in a short period of time, we'll be completely independent of many fossil fuels. We have coal that we could be using, clean-burning coal. We're the Saudi Arabia of coal.

The interesting thing about the fact that the Democrats don't want us to drill is that they say they want alternatives, but they don't fund alternatives. Our bill that would allow for

drilling would take the money that the Federal Government would get from those leases, and it would use that money to develop alternatives. While they've authorized programs for alternatives, they haven't funded them. So they're being very disingenuous when they say they want alternatives, because they are not allowing us to have alternatives because they're not funding them. It's a program that, I think, deserves the emperor's new clothes' award.

Mr. GINGREY. In reclaiming my time just for a second before yielding back to the gentlewoman from North Carolina, what she is talking about, Mr. Speaker, is an energy trust fund that could be, as she pointed out, obtained from royalties that the Federal Government gets from the oil companies—Big Oil, the Democrats use that pejorative constantly—but they would have to pay significant royalties to the Federal Government, which, as Ms. FOXX pointed out, would be put in a trust fund to have grants for research and development for alternative sources such as wind and solar and other things.

I'll continue to yield to the gentlewoman.

Ms. FOXX. Well, again, I appreciate that help with what I was saying because it reminds me of another point that I want to make, and that is, by not allowing this new exploration, we are ensuring that Big Oil will stay in control of the issues. When new areas are opened up, it opens up the opportunities for smaller oil companies and for new entrepreneurs to get involved in the business.

So the best thing that could happen to the ''big oil companies,'' those people who the Democrats demonize constantly, is for us not to open up new areas for drilling, because they have such a lock on the existing areas, and so they are helping, unwittingly perhaps, the existing oil companies to stay big by decreasing the competition for them.

Now let's talk a little bit about what is the Democrats' plan. They say no, no, no, no, no to all of the things which we have proposed which we believe the American people want. We know that from the surveys. Our hope in coming back here for this session is that the American people will have put a lot of pressure on our Democratic colleagues in saying to them: ''You must tell the Speaker that she needs to bring up a bill for a vote, and that's all we're asking for. We want a clean up or down vote.''

Now, I had said this many of the times that I was here during August. One day in July, before we went on recess and when the Republicans were talking about this—we'd been talking about this all of this year that we needed to do something to increase the supply and bring down the price of gasoline—somebody asked one of Speaker PELOSI's aides: ''Well, what is your plan for bringing down the price of gasoline?'' The answer was: ''Drive small cars and wait for the wind.''

Well, this is how somebody has characterized this. This is the Democrats' energy plan: drive small cars and wait for the wind. Well, most people in this country can't trade their big cars for small cars. They need their big cars. They have families, and they need to transport them or they have so much invested in those cars already, and they're not wealthy people like our Speaker is. They are people who are working hard for a living, and they can't do that.

Well, I have likened this to when the French people told the Queen of France that the people had no bread. She said, ''Let them eat cake.'' Well, that's, I think, what the Democrats are saying to the American people. Let them eat cake. Whereas, the Republicans are saying we have alternatives. Let's vote on those alternatives. Yes, I think this deals with some of the quotes that Mr. GINGREY was talking about, that Congressman GINGREY from Georgia was talking about a few minutes ago.

We did get promises. In fact, the Speaker promised in 2006 that the Democrats had a commonsense plan for bringing down the price of gasoline. That was when the price of gasoline was around $2. Now it's almost $4. They've done nothing about it. This is what one of their Members said: ''We sort of stretched the truth, and people ate it up.'' This was stated by Representative PAUL KANJORSKI, a Democrat from Pennsylvania, on the Democrats' campaign promises. They made those promises.

Now, what have Republicans done? Thirty-five times the Democrats have voted down Rules Committee Republican-offered solutions to lower your gas prices and to address America's urgent energy needs. The Speaker said we'll have to use our imagination for ways that we can get a vote. Well, ladies and gentlemen, we have used every opportunity presented to us in this Congress to force a vote on providing American-made energy.

□ 2215

And every time the Democrats have stifled that.

We're not asking for a lot. We are asking for an up-or-down vote. Now, we have it broken down. We are not asking you to take our word for it. We have it broken down. Eleven times they voted ''no'' to consider amendments that would lower the average price of regular unleaded gasoline; four times to lower the price of gasoline and diesel by increasing our domestic fuel supply; six times they voted ''no'' to address alternative fuels; and fourteen times to address additional energy solutions provided by the American Energy Act, No More Excuses Energy Act, Coal-Liquid Fuel Act, Deep Ocean Resources Energy Act, Boutique Fuel Reduction Act, and the American Energy Independence and Price Reduction Act.

Republicans continue to try, and we are going to continue to bring up these issues every day that the Congress is in session and when we go out of session. But we do need the American people to help on this. We're going to bring it up. But if you live in the district of a Democrat who has not yet said he or she will vote ''yes'' for additional energy, then you need to be calling the House of Representatives and you need to be calling the Speaker's office to let them know. But it's better to call your Member of Congress and ask that Member to tell them.

Now, here's the other energy plan presented by their nominee for President. Our nominee for President, Senator MCCAIN, has said he wants to increase American-made energy. Senator OBAMA's plan is check your tires and get them inflated properly and that's the solution to the American energy needs. That's just not going to cut it, Senator OBAMA. I'm sorry. We have got to increase supply.

Americans have been doing a wonderful job of conserving. And, again, I want to make it very clear Republicans believe in all of the above. We support conservation, but we support alternatives such as solar, wind, hydro, every other alternative that there is out there. We are willing to do that. But we know we cannot do this without increasing supply. And I simply think that we need to ask the Democrats are you pro-American energy or are you anti-American energy? If you're not interested in increasing the supply that we have within our borders, then you're anti-American energy. That is being anti-American people because it's the average working person, the retired people, young people who are being hurt by the high price of gasoline. And I think that that approach is the approach of people who are totally out of touch with the real world, and I am very disappointed in that.

I am going to yield back to my colleague now, Mr. GINGREY, from the great State of Georgia.

Mr. GINGREY. I want to thank again the gentlewoman from North Carolina, who did a wonderful job, I think, of explaining what has not been going on in this body.

And I think it's important for the American people to understand something. When the Democratic minority back in the 2006 election cycle, Mr. Speaker, when they were campaigning—this is campaign season now; so 2 years ago they were in the minority and talked about the ''do-nothing,'' ''do-nothing'' Republican majority and made statements such as, well, they are only here 3 days a week, only here in Washington doing the people's business, passing laws that need to be passed, these Republicans, these ''lazy'' Republicans was the characterization, Mr. Speaker, of the then Republican majority. They are only up here 3 days a week, not doing anything, not doing the people's work, and when we get the majority, we promise to do the people's work. And indeed, Mr. Speaker, you weren't here at that particular time,

but the statement was we will go to a 5-day work week like everybody else across America, and, indeed, some people work 6 and 7 days a week and they have two jobs, not one. So this idea of coming and doing the people's work, that sounded good to me. I liked that.

Now, keep in mind what has happened since the Democrats have gained the majority. The people gave them that confidence, gave them that trust and said okay, that sounds good to us, and they gained the majority. Well, what have they done? Well, let me just say that we are now back in session here in September, the second week in September. And we are going to be here, including today, and this day is almost gone, it's 10:30 at night—Mr. Speaker, we are going to be here 15 days. Now, we are going to be here 15 days. Maybe it will turn out to be 12 or 10. But the Democratic majority says that we are going to be 15 days, 5 days this week, 5 days next week, and 5 days the following week. Ladies and gentlemen, that's 15 days out of 5 months.

Remember now, the whole month of August and the first week in September, we were on recess, and the Democratic majority, Mr. Speaker, has already emphatically said that we want our Members to go home and be in their districts and campaign for reelection or whatever and we are not coming back until the next Congress, until the 111th Congress in January after the new President is inaugurated. I mean it's just unbelievable.

Now think about it. Mr. Speaker, if the American public were watching our proceedings tonight and they heard what I'm saying to my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, 15 days in 5 months, that's deplorable. If that's what we are going to do, if that's what we have resorted to in this Congress, then this ought to be a part-time job. This shouldn't be a full-time job. That's fine with me. If you want to make it a part-time job, I will go back home and start delivering babies again 6 months out of the year.

But let me just use a word that I think most of my colleagues understand: This is the height of mendacity. This is the height of hypocrisy to make that kind of promise and then not deliver to the American people. Ms. FOXX talked about it, Representative FOXX, Representative KELLER.

And Representative KELLER is still with us, and I would be happy to yield to him for further thoughts or comments that he may have on this issue. We only have about 10 minutes left, but let me yield back to my friend from Florida.

Mr. KELLER of Florida. I thank my friend for yielding. I would just take a couple minutes.

Mr. Speaker, you may be surprised to learn, as I was when I went there, that there is not a tree within 100 miles of where we are drilling and that the animals peacefully co-exist and, in fact, have done well. You may wonder why am I hearing this for the first time? Let me explain something to you.

This is the only village in all of ANWR, called Kaktovik. And when I sat there with the leader of the village, Mr. Felton Rexford, who lived there his whole life, and I would say he's in his mid- to late 60s, he was so kind to me. And as I sit there in 30 degree weather in the hottest month, in the middle of August, he told me I was one of the few people that ever bothered to visit there, that they were surprised. Hardly anyone has ever been there. It's 30 degrees in the hottest month. It's 30 below in the winter. They just got running water there in the year 2000. Only 300 Eskimos live there. They have a doctor that visits their town one time a year. There are no roads in and out of the village. They have to travel by snowmobile, and they live off of whales. So when you hear about this being a pristine wilderness area that's going to hurt the wildlife, you're hearing it from people that have never been there and have a vested interest in telling you that because they are probably trying to raise money for some fringe group.

And I made a promise to Mr. Felton Rexford that when I would get back to Congress, I don't know if I would sway anybody but I would come to the floor of Congress and tell the truth. And the truth is these are the most environmentally conscious people in the country that I have ever met, and they think it can be done in an environmentally friendly way and they support it. And the area there looks like the surface of the moon and not a rainforest, and we can have it all.

So I wanted to honor that, Mr. GINGREY, and I appreciate your giving me the chance to speak tonight on this very key issue.

Mr. GINGREY. I thank my colleague and friend from Florida.

As I was saying, of course, Mr. Speaker, 15 days in the last 5 months, and you look at the schedule for this week, and there is unbelievably nothing, nothing on the agenda that has anything to do with energy.

We are going to have two bills, one I guess on Thursday and one on Friday or maybe Wednesday and Thursday. One of them is the No Child Left Inside Act of 2008 to reauthorize the National Environmental Education Act to help improve the quality of environmental education for primary and secondary school students. And then if you think that one's important, H.R. 3667, the Missisquoi and Trout Rivers Wild and Scenic River Study Act of 2008, authorizes $300,000 for a study of a segment of the Missisquoi River in Vermont for potential designation as Wild and Scenic. Not only does H.R. 3667 not create more American energy, but it might actually prevent future energy exploration along the river like the siting of a liquefied natural gas plant as an example.

And the other 2 days we are doing nothing but suspension bills, and those suspension bills are the ones that you have to have a two-thirds vote. There is little opposition to those bills, and yet they are given 20 minutes of debate on each side, 40 minutes on each of these suspension bills to make it look like we're doing something up here.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I will say that the Democratic majority has done some things since they took control. In January, 2007, when the price of regular gasoline was $2.22, that date we congratulated the U.S. Santa Barbara soccer team. And then on September 5, when the price of regular had gone to $2.84, that was National Passport Month. February 6, 2008, when the price of regular had gone to $3.03, we were commending the Houston Dynamo soccer team. Then on May 14, 2008, the price of regular $3.77, that was National Train Day. Then on May 20, 2008, regular gasoline $3.84 a gallon, that was Great Cats and Rare Canids Act. Really important. On June 10, 2008, the price of regular $4.09 a gallon, the International Year of Sanitation bill. Really important. And then last but not least, June 17, 2008, when the price of regular had gotten up to $4.14, that was the Monkey Safety Act day. We were doing some things all right. We were really working hard up here.

Well, look, the bottom line is this: We have a bill. The Republicans have a bill. We have a comprehensive bill. Yes, the cornerstone is ''Drill Here, Drill Now.'' But this is the all-of-the-above approach to energy independence, and that's what we have to have, not only for our domestic needs but for the security of this Nation. And I commend our nominee for President, JOHN MCCAIN, and our nominee for Vice President, Sarah Palin, because they understand we need to drill on the Outer Continental Shelf. And we will have a Vice President who is from an energy State and understands the importance of those resources that we own.

So, Mr. Speaker, we want to do things in a bipartisan way. And in closing, I know we are getting very close to that hour, but in closing let me just say this: We can work together. We can work together. I know I spent a lot of time up here railing tonight against Speaker PELOSI, but I respect her. She is the Speaker of this House not just for the Democrats but also for the Republicans. We respect her. We respect the chairman of the Energy and Commerce Committee, the distinguished Mr. JOHN DINGELL from Michigan.

□ 2230

He knows about this country and its needs. Why can't we get together, Mr. DINGELL and Mr. BARTON, and let's have a bill that is comprehensive, a little give and take on both sides of the aisle, because it's for the American people, and let's worry more about them than the next election. The next election, Mr. Speaker, will take care of itself. Let the people judge on that.

I am going to tell you, when you go back home I am hearing from my constituents, and I know everybody in this House Chamber is hearing from their

constituents. We can do it. It's time. It's time to do it, and it's time to do it now.

I think it would be unconscionable if we go home 3 weeks from now and we have not done this. I am willing to stay. I am willing to stay, and 134, maybe even 194 Republicans, and hopefully some good, rock solid Democrats will stay with us this time until we get an energy bill done in a comprehensive, bipartisan way.

CORRECTION TO THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD OF WEDNESDAY, JULY 30, 2008, AT PAGE H 7517

PROVIDING FOR AN ADJOURNMENT OR RECESS OF THE TWO HOUSES

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I send to the desk a privileged concurrent resolution and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the concurrent resolution, as follows:

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That, in consonance with section 132(a) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946, when the House adjourns on the legislative day of Thursday, July 31, 2008, Friday, August 1, 2008, or Saturday, August 2, 2008, on a motion offered pursuant to this concurrent resolution by its Majority Leader or his designee, it stand adjourned until 2 p.m. on Monday, September 8, 2008, or until the time of any reassembly pursuant to section 2 of this concurrent resolution, whichever occurs first; and that when the Senate recesses or adjourns on any day from Friday, August 1, 2008, through Friday, September 5, 2008, on a motion offered pursuant to this concurrent resolution by its Majority Leader or his designee, it stand recessed or adjourned until noon on Monday, September 8, 2008, or such other time on that day as may be specified in the motion to recess or adjourn, or until the time of any reassembly pursuant to section 2 of this concurrent resolution, whichever occurs first.

SEC. 2. The Speaker of the House and the Majority Leader of the Senate, or their respective designees, acting jointly after consultation with the Minority Leader of the House and the Minority Leader of the Senate, shall notify the Members of the House and the Senate, respectively, to reassemble at such place and time as they may designate if, in their opinion, the public interest shall warrant it.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for August 1 on account of death in family.

Mr. CONYERS (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today on account of personal business.

Mr. ELLISON (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today on account of business in district.

Ms. KILPATRICK (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for August 1 on account of personal business.

Mr. LEVIN (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for August 1, today and the balance of the week.

Mr. MCNULTY (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today and until 4 p.m. on September 10.

Mr. KIRK (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today on account of business in the district.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Ms. KAPTUR) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DEFAZIO, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. REGULA) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. MORAN of Kansas, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. POE, for 5 minutes, today, September 9, 10, 11, 12, and 15.

Mr. JONES of North Carolina, for 5 minutes, today, September 9, 10, 11, 12, and 15.

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, for 5 minutes, today, September 9, 10, 11, and 12.

Mr. WELDON of Florida, for 5 minutes, September 10.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana, for 5 minutes, today, September 9, 10, 11, and 12.

Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky, for 5 minutes, today and September 11.

Mr. KELLER of Florida, for 5 minutes, today.

SENATE BILLS REFERRED

Bills of the Senate of the following titles were taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 2507. An act to address the digital television transition in border states; the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

S. 3241. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1717 Orange Avenue in Fort Pierce, Florida, as the ''CeeCee Ross Lyles Post Office Building''; the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

S.J. Res. 45. Joint resolution expressing the consent and approval of Congress to an interstate compact regarding water resources in the Great Lakes—St. Lawrence River Basin; the Committee on the Judiciary.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Ms. Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled bills of the House of the following titles, which were thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 2245. An act to designate the Department of Veterans' Affairs outpatient clinic in Wenatchee, Washington, as the Elwood 'Bud' Link Department of Veterans' Affairs Outpatient Clinic.

H.R. 4040. An act to establish consumer product safety standards and other safety requirements for children's products and to reauthorize and modernize the Consumer Product Safety Commission.

H.R. 4137. An act to amend and extend the Higher Education Act of 1965, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4210. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 401 Washington Avenue in Weldon, North Carolina, as the ''Dock M. Brown Post Office Building''.

H.R. 4918. An act to name the Department of Veterans Affairs medical center in Miami, Florida, as the ''Bruce W. Carter Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center''.

H.R. 5477. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 120 South Del Mar Avenue in San Gabriel, California, as the ''Chi Mui Post Office Building''.

H.R. 5483. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 10449 White Granite Drive in Oakton, Virginia, as the ''Private First Class David H. Sharrett II Post Office Building''.

H.R. 5631. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1155 Seminole Trail in Charlottesville, Virginia as the ''Corporal Bradley T. Arms Post Office Building''.

H.R. 6061. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 219 East Main Street in West Frankfort, Illinois,, as the ''Kenneth James Gray Post Office Building''.

H.R. 6085. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 42222 RAncho Las Palmas Drive in Rancho Mirage, California, as the ''Gerald R. Ford Post Office Building''.

H.R. 6150. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 14500 Loraine Avenue in Cleveland, Ohio, as the ''John P. Gallagher Post Office Building''.

H.R. 6340. An act to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 300 Quarropas Street in White Plain, New York, as the ''Charles L. Brieant, Jr., Federal Building and United States Courthouse''.

H.R. 6432. An act to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetics Act to revise and extend the animal drug user fee program, to establish a program of fees relating to generic new animal drugs, to make certain technical corrections to the Food and Drug Administration Amendments Act of 2007, and for other purposes.

H.R. 6580. An act to ensure the fair treatment of a member of the Armed Forces who is discharged from the Armed Forces, at the request of the member, pursuant to the Department of Defense permitting the early discharge of a member who is the only surviving child in a family in which the father or mother, or one or more siblings, served in the Armed Forces and, because of hazards incident to such service, was killed, died as a result of wounds, accident, or disease, is in a captured or missing in action status, or is permanently disabled, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the dollar limitation on contributions to funeral trust, and for other purposes.

SENATE ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

The Speaker announced her signature to enrolled bills of the Senate of the following titles:

S. 3294. An act to provide for the continued performance of the functions of the United States Parole Commission.

S. 3295. An act to amend title 35, United States Code, and the Trademark Act of 1946 to provide that the Secretary of Commerce, in consultation with the Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office,

shall appoint administrative patent judges and administrative trademark judges, and for other purposes.

S. 3370. An act to resolve pending claims against Libya by United States nationals, and for other purposes.

BILLS PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk of the House reports that on August 6, 2008 she presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bills.

H.R. 2245. To designate the Department of Veterans Affairs outpatient clinic in Wenatchee, Washington, as the Elwood ''Bud'' Link Department of Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic.

H.R. 4040. To establish consumer product safety standards and other safety requirements for children's products and to reauthorize and modernize the Consumer Product Safety Commission.

H.R. 4137. To amend and extend the Higher Education Act of 1965, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4210. To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 401 Washington Avenue in Weldon, North Carolina, as the ''Dock M. Brown Post Office Building''.

H.R. 4918. To name the Department of Veterans Affairs medical center in Miami, Florida, as the ''Bruce W. Carter Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center''.

H.R. 5477. To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 120 South Del Mar Avenue in San Gabriel, California, as the ''Chi Mui Post Office Building''.

H.R. 5483. To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 10449 White Granite Drive in Oakton, Virginia, as the ''Private First Class David H. Sharrett II Post Office Building''.

H.R. 5631. To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1155 Seminole Trail in Charlottesville, Virginia, as the ''Corporal Bradley T. Arms Post Office Building''.

H.R. 6061. To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 219 East Main Street in West Frankfort, Illinois, as the ''Kenneth James Gray Post Office Building''.

H.R. 6085. To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 42222 Rancho Las Palmas Drive in Rancho Mirage, California, as the ''Gerald R. Ford Post Office Building''.

H.R. 6150. To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 14500 Lorain Avenue in Cleveland, Ohio, as the ''John P. Gallagher Post Office Building''.

H.R. 6340. To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 300 Quarropas Street in White Plains, New York, as the ''Charles L. Brieant, Jr., Federal Building and United States Courthouse''.

H.R. 6432. To amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to revise and extend the animal drug user fee program, and for other purposes.

Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk of the House also reports that on August 25, 2008 she presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bill.

H.R. 6580. To ensure the fair treatment of a member of the Armed Forces who is discharged from the Armed Forces, at the request of the member, pursuant to the Department of Defense policy permitted the early discharge of a member who is the only surviving child in a family in which the father or mother, or one or more siblings, served in the Armed Forces and, because of hazards incident to such service, was killed, died as a result of wounds, accident, or disease, is in a captured or missing in action status, or is permanently disabled, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the dollar limitation on contributions to funeral trusts, and for other purposes.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 32 minutes p.m.), under its previous order and pursuant to House Resolution 1415, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, September 9, 2008, at 10:30 a.m., for morning-hour debate, as a further mark of respect to the memory of the late Honorable STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

8076. A letter from the Administrator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Almonds Grown in California; Order Amending Marketing Order No. 981 [Docket No. AO-214-A7; AMS-FV-07-0050; FV07-981-1] received August 20, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

8077. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting a request for FY 2009 budget amendments for the Departments of Agriculture, Commerce, Education, Health and Human Services, Homeland Security, the Interior, Labor, and State, as well as the Environmental Protection Agency; (H. Doc. No. 110-141); to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed.

8078. A letter from the Under Secretary of Defense, Department of Defense, transmitting nine Selected Acquisition Reports (SARs) for the quarter ending June 30, 2008 pursuant to section 2432, Title 10 United States Code; to the Committee on Armed Services.

8079. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the 39th report pursuant to Section 3204(f) of the FY 2000 Emergency Supplemental Act; to the Committee on Armed Services.

8080. A letter from the Chief Counsel, FEMA, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Final Flood Elevation Determinations — received August 19, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

8081. A letter from the Chief Counsel, FEMA, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Changes in Flood Elevation Determinations [Docket No. FEMA-B-7793] received August 8, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

8082. A letter from the Deputy Director for Operations, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's final rule — Benefits Payable in Terminated Single-Employer Plans; Allocation of Assets in Single-Employer Plans; Interest Assumptions for Valuing and Paying Benefits — received August 8, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and Labor.

8083. A letter from the Deputy Director for Operations, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's final rule — Benefits Payable in Terminated Single-Employer Plans; Allocation of Assets in Single-Employer Plans; Interest Assumptions for Valuing and Paying Benefits — received August 8, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and Labor.

8084. A letter from the Vice Admiral, USN Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting reports in accordance with Sections 36(a) and 26(b) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

8085. A letter from the Vice Admiral, USN Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting a report submitted in accordance with Section 36(a) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

8086. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule — Authorization to Impose License Requirements for Exports or Reexports to Entities Acting Contrary to the National Security or Foreign Policy Interests of the United States. [Docket No. 0612243150-8535-02] (RIN: 0694-AD82) received August 19, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

8087. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the report on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE) compliance; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

8088. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 17-472, ''Taxation Without Representation Federal Tax Pay-Out Message Board Installation Act of 2008,'' pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

8089. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 17-474, ''Closing of a Public Alley in Square 700, S.O. 07-9626, Act of 2008,'' pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

8090. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 17-475, ''Tenant Opportunity to Purchase Notification Amendment Act of 2008,'' pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

8091. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 17-476, ''Injured Fire Fighter Relief Amendment Act of 2008,'' pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

8092. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 17-477, ''Student Voter Registration Amendment Act of 2008,'' pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

8093. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 17-478, ''Abatement of Nuisance Properties and Tenant Receivership Temporary Amendment Act of 2008,'' pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

8094. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a

copy of D.C. ACT 17-479, ''Director of the Office of Public Education Facilities Modernization Allen Lew Compensation System Change and Pay Schedule Temporary Amendment Act of 2008,'' pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

8095. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 17-480, ''Recreation Enterprise Fund Temporary Amendment Act of 2008,'' pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

8096. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 17-481, ''Tingey Street, S.E. Right-of-Way Temporary Amendment Act of 2008,'' pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

8097. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 17-482, ''Expanding Opportunities for Street Vending Around the Baseball Stadium Clarifying Temporary Amendment Act of 2008,'' pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

8098. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 17-484, ''Adams Morgan Taxicab Zone Temporary Amendment Act of 2008,'' pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

8099. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 17-483, ''Heat Wave Safety Temporary Amendment Act of 2008,'' pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

8100. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 17-485, ''Workforce Housing Production Program Temporary Amendment Act of 2008,'' pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

8101. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 17-486, ''Special Events Swimming Exception Temporary Amendment Act of 2008,'' pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

8102. A letter from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting the Office's final rule — COMPETITIVE AREA [RIN: 3206-AL64] received August 20, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

8103. A letter from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting the Office's final rule — Prevailing Rate Systems; North American Industry Classification System Based Federal Wage System Wage Area [RIN: 3206-AL45] received August 20, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

8104. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting the Office's final rule — Critical Position Pay Authority (RIN: 3206-AK87) received August 26, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

8105. A letter from the Acting Chief, Regulatory Affairs Bureau of Land Management, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Recreation and Public Purposes Act; Solid Waste Disposal [WO-350-08 1430 PN-24 1A] (RIN: 1004-AE03) received August 26, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

8106. A letter from the Acting Director Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Ocean Perch in the Western Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No. 071106671-8010-02] (RIN: 0648-XJ19) received August 8, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

8107. A letter from the Acting Director Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Off Alaska; Pacific Ocean Perch in the West Yakutat District of the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No. 071106671-8010-02] (RIN: 0648-XJ17) received August 8, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

8108. A letter from the Acting Director Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pelagic Shelf Rockfish in the West Yakutat District of the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No. 071106671-8010-02] (RIN: 0648-XJ16) received August 8, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

8109. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transporation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Viking Air Limited Models DHC-2 Mk.I, DHC-2 Mk.II, and DHC-3 Airplanes [Docket No. FAA-2008-0444; Directorate Identifier 2008-CE-024-AD; Amendment 39-15555; AD 2008-12-12] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received August 19, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8110. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Cessna Aircraft Company Models 208 and 208B Airplanes [Docket No. FAA-2008-0331; Directorate Identifier 2008 CE-2009-AD; Amendment 39-15569; AD 2008-13-06] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received August 19, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8111. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Viking Air Limited Model DHC-2 Series Airplanes [Docket No. FAA-2008-0393 Directorate Identifier 2008-CE-011-AD; Amendment 39-15533; AD 2008-11-11] (RIN: 212-AA64) received August 19, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8112. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Lockheed Model L-1011 Series Airplanes [Docket No. FAA-2008-0637; Directorate Identifier 2008-NM-078-AD; Amendment 39-15561; AD 2008-12-17] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received August 19, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8113. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Dassault Model Falcon 2000EX Airplanes and Model Falcon 900EX Airplanes [Docket No. FAA-2008-0364; Directorate Identifier 2006-NM-281-AD; Amendment 39-15562; AD 2008-12-18] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received August 19, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8114. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; M7 Aerospace LP SA226 and SA227 Series Airplanes [Docket No. FAA-2008-0313; Directorate Identifier 2007-CE-095-AD; Amendment 39-15560; AD 2008-12-16] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received August 19, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8115. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; GENERAL AVIA Costruzioni Aeronatiche Models F22B, F22C, and F22R Airplanes [Docket No. FAA-2008-0423 Directorate Identifier 2008-CE-010-AD; Amendment 39-15556; AD 2008-12-13] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received August 19, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8116. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Viking Air Limited Model DHC-2 Series Airplanes [Docket No. FAA-2008-0393 Directorate Identifier 2008-CE-011-AD; Amendment 39-15533; AD 2008-11-11] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received August 19, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8117. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Agusta S.p.A. Model A109E, A109S, and A119 Helicopters [Docket No. FAA-2008-0630; Directorate Identifier 2008-SW-19-AD; Amendment 39-15554; AD 2008-12-11] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received August 19, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8118. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Sandel Avionics Incorporated Model ST3400 Terrain Awareness Warning System/Radio Magnetic Indicator (TAWS/RMI) Units Approved Under Technical Standard Order(s) C113, C151a, or C151b,; Installed on Various Small and Transport Category Airplanes [Docket No. FAA-2007-0290; Directorate Identifier 2007-NM-250-AD; Amendment 39-15557; AD 2006-16-18 R1] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received August 19, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8119. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Boeing Model 737-600, -700, -700C, -800, and -900 Series Airplanes [Docket No. FAA-2007-29333; Directorate Identifier 2007-NM-141-AD; Amendment 39-15547; AD 2008-12-04] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received August 19, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8120. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; MORAVAN a.s. Model Z-143L Airplanes [Docket No. FAA-2008-0426 Directorate Identifier 2008-CE-016-AD; Amendment 39-15549; AD 2008-12-06] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received August 19, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8121. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier Model CL-600-2C10 (Regional Jet Series 700, 701, & 702) and CL-600-2D24 (Regional Jet Series 900) Airplanes [Docket No. FAA-2008-0300; Directorate Identifier 2008-NM-019-AD; Amendment 39-15552; AD 2008-12-09] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received August 19, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8122. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting

the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Empresa Brasileira de Aeronautica S.A. (EMBRAER) Model EMB-135BJ and EMB-145XR Airplanes [Docket No. FAA-2008-0292; Directorate Identifier 2007-NM-286-AD; Amendment 39-15550; AD 2008-12-07] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received August 19, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8123. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Revision of Legal Descriptions of Multiple Federal Airways in the Vicinity of Farmington, NM [Docket No. FAA-2008-0186; Airspace Docket No. 08-ANM-2] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received August 22, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8124. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Area Navigation (RNAV) and Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No. FAA-2002-14002; Amdt. Nos. 1-57, 91-296, 97-1336, 121-333, 125-52, 129-42, 135-110] (RIN: 2120-AH77) received August 22, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8125. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Recording of Major Repairs and Major Alterations — received August 22, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8126. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Implementing the Maintenance Provisions of Bilateral Agreements [Docket No.: FAA-2004-17683] (RIN: 2120-AI19) received August 22, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8127. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Fees for Certification Services and Approvals Performed Outside the United States [Docket No.: FAA-2007-27043; Amendment Nos. 61-116, 63-35, 65-49, 187-4] (RIN: 2120-AI77) received August 22, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8128. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of Class E5 Airspace; Prairie Du Sac, WI. [Docket No. FAA-2007-28778; Airspace Docket No. 07-AGL-6] received August 22, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8129. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of Class E Airspace; Emporium, PA [Docket No. FAA-2007-0275; Airspace Docket No. 07-AEA-15] received August 22, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8130. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of Class E Airspace; Emporium, PA [Docket No. FAA-2007-0275; Airspace Docket No. 07-AEA-15] received August 22, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8131. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Modification of Class E Airspace; Phillipsburg, KS [Docket No. FAA-2006-25943; Airspace Docket No. 06-ACE-13] received August 22, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8132. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No. 30600; Amdt. No 3262] received August 22, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8133. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Short Brothers Model SD3-60 Airplanes Equipped with an Auxiliary Fuel Tank System Installed in Accordance with Supplemental Type Certificate SA00404AT [Docket No. FAA-2008-0135; Directorate Identifier 2007-NM-345-AD; Amendment 39-15551; AD 2008-12-08] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received August 19, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8134. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Various Transport Category Airplanes Equipped with Auxiliary Fuel Tanks Installed in Accordance with Certain Supplemental Type Certificates [Docket No. FAA-2007-0089; Directorate Identifier 2007-NM-117-AD; Amendment 39-15546; AD 2008-12-03] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received August 19, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8135. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Air Tractor, Inc. AT-200, AT-300, AT-400, AT-500, AT-600, and AT-800 Series Airplanes [Docket No. FAA-2008-0247; Directorate Identifier 2008-CE-003-AD; Amendment 39-15540; AD 2008-11-17] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received August 19, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8136. A letter from the Disabled American Veterans, transmitting the 2008 National Convention Proceedings of the Disabled American Veterans, pursuant to 36 U.S.C. 90i and 44 U.S.C. 1332; (H. Doc. No. 110-142); to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs and ordered to be printed.

8137. A letter from the Program Manager, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's Major final rule — Child Support Enforcement Program; Medical Support (RIN: 0970-AC22) received August 26, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

8138. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — IRC 965 Dividend Repatriation Audit Guidelines [LMSB-4-0808-043] received August 28, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

8139. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Qualified Forestry Conservation Bonds [Notice 2008-70] received August 28, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

8140. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Section 1274. — Determination of Issue Price in the Case of Certain Debt Instruments Issued for Property (Also Sections 42, 280G, 382, 412, 467, 468, 482, 483, 642, 807, 846, 1288, 7520, 7872.) (Rev. Rul. 2008-46) received August 20, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

8141. A letter from the Program Manager, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's ''Major'' final rule — Medicare and Medicaid Programs; Fire Safety Requirements for Long Term Care Facilities, Automatic Sprinkler Systems [CMS-3191-F] (RIN: 0938-AN79) received August 11, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); jointly to the Committees on Ways and Means and Energy and Commerce.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. RAHALL: Committee on Natural Resources. Supplemental report on H.R. 3667. A bill to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate a segment of the Missisquoi and Trout Rivers in the State of Vermont for study for potential addition to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System (Rept. 110–668 Pt. 2).

Mr. OBERSTAR: Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. S. 2837. An act to designate the United States courthouse located at 225 Cadman Plaza East, Brooklyn, New York, as the ''Theodore Roosevelt United States Courthouse'' (Rept. 110–823). Referred to the House Calendar.

Mr. OBERSTAR: Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. S. 2403. An act to designate the new Federal Courthouse, located in the 700 block of East Broad Street, Richmond, Virginia, as the ''Spottswood W. Robinson III and Robert R. Merhige, Jr. Federal Courthouse''; with amendments (Rept. 110–824). Referred to the House Calendar.

Mr. CONYERS: Committee on the Judiciary. H.R. 6064. A bill to encourage, enhance, and integrate Silver Alert plans throughout the United States; with an amendment (Rept. 110–825). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. CONYERS: Committee on the Judiciary. H.R. 5243. A bill for the relief of Kumi Iizuka-Barcena (Rept. 110–826). Referred to the Private Calendar.

Mr. CONYERS: Committee on the Judiciary. H.R. 2575. A bill for the relief of Mikael Adrian Christopher Figueroa Alvarez (Rept. 110–827). Referred to the Private Calendar.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi: Committee on Homeland Security. H.R. 5743. A bill to provide the Secretary of Homeland Security with the authority to procure real property and accept in-kind donations (Rept. 110–828). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi: Committee on Homeland Security. H.R. 263. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Homeland Security to establish a program to award grants to institutions of higher education for the establishment or expansion of cybersecurity professional development programs, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 110–829, Pt. 1). Ordered to be printed.

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania: Committee on House Administration. House Resolution 1207. Resolution directing the Chief Administrative Officer of the House of Representatives to provide individuals whose pay is disbursed by the Chief Administrative Officer by electronic funds transfer with the option of receiving receipts of pay and withholdings electronically; with an amendment (Rept. 110–830). Referred to the House Calendar.

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania: Committee on House Administration. H.R. 6475. A bill to establish the Daniel Webster Congressional Clerkship Program (Rept. 110–831). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. FILNER (for himself and Mr. BUYER):

H.R. 6832. A bill to authorize major medical facility projects and major medical facility leases for the Department of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2009, to extend certain authorities of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mrs. BIGGERT:

H.R. 6833. A bill to amend title I of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to provide church pension plans the opportunity to offer automatic enrollment into the plans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Ms. DELAURO (for herself, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut, Mr. COURTNEY, and Mr. SHAYS):

H.R. 6834. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4 South Main Street in Wallingford, Connecticut, as the ''CWO Richard R. Lee Post Office Building''; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. HALL of New York:

H.R. 6835. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code to provide for an increased mileage rate for charitable deductions; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. MCCOTTER:

H.R. 6836. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 140 Merriman Road in Garden City, Michigan, as the ''John J. Shivnen Post Office Building''; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. PORTER:

H.R. 6837. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 7925 West Russell Road in Las Vegas, Nevada, as the ''Private First Class Irving Joseph Schwartz Post Office Building''; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. SCOTT of Virginia (for himself and Mr. GOHMERT):

H.R. 6838. A bill to establish and operate a National Center for Campus Public Safety; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SIMPSON:

H.R. 6839. A bill to designate a previously unnamed peak in the Sawtooth Wilderness of the Sawtooth National Forest in the State of Idaho as ''Mount Ernie Day''; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. POE:

H. Res. 1414. A resolution congratulating the United States Olympians of the 2008 Beijing Olympics; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Ms. KAPTUR:

H. Res. 1415. A resolution expressing the condolences of the House of Representatives on the death of the Honorable Stephanie Tubbs Jones, a Representative of the State of Ohio; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. BOUSTANY:

H. Res. 1416. A resolution honoring Dr. Michael DeBakey for his lifetime of accomplishments; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut:

H. Res. 1417. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that all public elementary schools and public secondary schools should display a copy of the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and the Bill of Rights; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. SARBANES (for himself, Mr. HOYER, Mr. GILCHREST, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland, Ms. NORTON, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. TOWNS, Mrs. MALONEY of New York, Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota, Ms. WATSON, Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. HOLDEN, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. POE, Mr. DOYLE, Mr. HODES, Mr. CARSON, Mr. SPACE, Mr. ARCURI, Mr. COHEN, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. SHAYS, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. FARR, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. DREIER, Mr. HASTINGS of Washington, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Ms. CASTOR, Mr. WELCH of Vermont, Mr. CARDOZA, Ms. SUTTON, Ms. MATSUI, Ms. CLARKE, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. BISHOP of New York, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Mr. HARE, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. SIRES, Mr. WEXLER, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. SESTAK, Mr. PATRICK MURPHY of Pennsylvania, and Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California):

H. Res. 1418. A resolution congratulating Michael Phelps, 2008 Beijing Summer Olympics champion swimmer, on winning 8 gold medals in the Games of the XXIX Olympiad and becoming one of the most highly decorated athletes in Olympic history; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

PRIVATE BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 3 of rule XII, private bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mrs. MUSGRAVE:

H.R. 6840. A bill for the relief of Arsen Mkrtchyan, Hrach Mkrtchyan, and Elmira Poghosyan; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. TANCREDO:

H.R. 6841. A bill for the relief of Thomas J. Sherlock; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 145: Mr. SHAYS.
H.R. 343: Mrs. GILLIBRAND.
H.R. 368: Ms. ESHOO.
H.R. 405: Mr. ABERCROMBIE.
H.R. 411: Mr. CRENSHAW.
H.R. 549: Mr. HOEKSTRA.
H.R. 618: Mr. MARCHANT.
H.R. 619: Mr. WEINER.
H.R. 758: Mr. SARBANES.
H.R. 769: Mr. ADERHOLT.
H.R. 820: Mr. PAYNE.
H.R. 940: Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas.
H.R. 971: Mr. CUMMINGS and Mr. BROWN of South Carolina.
H.R. 1063: Mr. MORAN of Kansas.
H.R. 1078: Mr. LYNCH.
H.R. 1110: Mr. ADERHOLT.
H.R. 1153: Mr. MCHUGH.
H.R. 1178: Mr. ALTMIRE.
H.R. 1223: Mr. ROSS and Mr. CUELLAR.
H.R. 1228: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.
H.R. 1279: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. STARK, and Mr. DOGGETT.
H.R. 1280: Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. KENNEDY, and Mr. WELCH of Vermont.
H.R. 1295: Mr. MCHENRY.
H.R. 1322: Ms. SHEA-PORTER.
H.R. 1554: Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas.
H.R. 1588: Mr. FILNER.
H.R. 1590: Mr. MEEKS of New York.
H.R. 1621: Mr. KUCINICH.
H.R. 1650: Mr. MELANCON and Mr. BRALEY of Iowa.
H.R. 1653: Mr. SIRES.
H.R. 1673: Mr. BAIRD.
H.R. 1738: Mr. MORAN of Kansas and Ms. KAPTUR.
H.R. 1776: Mr. BOUCHER.
H.R. 1903: Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas.
H.R. 1983: Mr. STARK.
H.R. 2047: Mr. LIPINSKI.
H.R. 2092: Ms. BALDWIN and Mr. HINCHEY.
H.R. 2169: Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Ms. WATSON, and Ms. RICHARDSON.
H.R. 2236: Mr. LEVIN.
H.R. 2241: Mr. ABERCROMBIE.
H.R. 2275: Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas.
H.R. 2371: Mr. KILDEE.
H.R. 2472: Mr. KAGEN and Mr. COURTNEY.
H.R. 2514: Mr. MAHONEY of Florida.
H.R. 2567: Mr. STEARNS.
H.R. 2606: Mr. FARR, Mr. BOSWELL, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. HALL of New York, Mr. JONES of North Carolina, and Mr. KILDEE.
H.R. 2691: Mr. MORAN of Kansas.
H.R. 2694: Mr. BOUCHER.
H.R. 2713: Mrs. MUSGRAVE.
H.R. 2994: Mr. LOEBSACK, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, and Mr. SESTAK.
H.R. 3035: Mrs. MUSGRAVE, Mr. SPRATT, Mr. SHUSTER, and Mr. BISHOP of New York.
H.R. 3051: Mr. HARE.
H.R. 3089: Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey.
H.R. 3186: Mr. GOODLATTE.
H.R. 3187: Mr. COURTNEY and Mr. BRALEY of Iowa.
H.R. 3202: Mr. CARSON.
H.R. 3326: Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. BRALEY of Iowa, Mr. WEXLER, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. OLVER, Mr. WELCH of Vermont, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. FILNER, Mr. BACA, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Ms. HARMAN, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. ROTHMAN, and Ms. WOOLSEY.
H.R. 3334: Mr. RAMSTAD and Mr. PAYNE.
H.R. 3407: Mr. CUMMINGS.
H.R. 3439: Mr. ELLISON.
H.R. 3622: Mr. DONNELLY.
H.R. 3652: Ms. DELAURO and Mr. KENNEDY.
H.R. 3689: Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts.
H.R. 3737: Mr. HOLT, Mr. HARE, and Ms. BALDWIN.
H.R. 3820: Mr. HAYES.
H.R. 3874: Mr. HAYES and Mr. HILL.
H.R. 3961: Mr. MICHAUD.
H.R. 4048: Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. JEFFERSON, Mr. CONYERS, and Ms. KILPATRICK.
H.R. 4088: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey and Mr. CAZAYOUX.
H.R. 4138: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey.
H.R. 4236: Mr. PALLONE, Mr. STARK, and Ms. VELÁZQUEZ.
H.R. 4329: Mr. HINCHEY and Mr. DEFAZIO.
H.R. 4335: Mr. BISHOP of New York.
H.R. 4613: Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky.
H.R. 4838: Mr. MICHAUD.
H.R. 4899: Ms. BORDALLO and Mr. PAYNE.
H.R. 4930: Mr. BUTTERFIELD and Mr. PETRI.
H.R. 4987: Mrs. SCHMIDT.
H.R. 4992: Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas.
H.R. 4993: Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas.
H.R. 5087: Mr. FOSTER.
H.R. 5161: Mr. STARK and Ms. BORDALLO.
H.R. 5167: Mr. GOODE.
H.R. 5268: Mr. SCOTT of Georgia, Ms. KILPATRICK, Mr. RODRIGUEZ, Mr. BACA, Mr. GORDON, and Ms. HIRONO.
H.R. 5404: Ms. SHEA-PORTER.
H.R. 5426: Mr. BUTTERFIELD.
H.R. 5441: Mr. KLEIN of Florida.
H.R. 5447: Mr. WEXLER.
H.R. 5450: Mr. WHITFIELD of Kentucky.
H.R. 5461: Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN.

H.R. 5546: Mr. STUPAK.
H.R. 5580: Ms. DELAURO.
H.R. 5595: Mr. MAHONEY of Florida and Mr. MICHAUD.
H.R. 5660: Mr. LYNCH.
H.R. 5672: Mr. MAHONEY of Florida.
H.R. 5698: Mr. FILNER and Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.
H.R. 5714: Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. BISHOP of New York, Mr. MILLER of North Carolina, Mr. POE, Mr. BERRY, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. ISSA, Mr. KLINE of Minnesota, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. WELLER, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mrs. EMERSON, Mrs. BACHMANN, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. KAGEN, and Mr. TOWNS.
H.R. 5756: Ms. RICHARDSON.
H.R. 5762: Ms. LEE.
H.R. 5772: Mr. MCGOVERN.
H.R. 5784: Mr. GOHMERT.
H.R. 5793: Mr. DENT, Mr. PAYNE, Ms. FOXX, Mr. KUHL of New York, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Ms. PRYCE of Ohio, Mr. HASTINGS of Washington, Mr. MCHENRY, Mr. RODRIGUEZ, Mrs. MUSGRAVE, Mr. WAMP, Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky, Mr. SAXTON, and Mrs. DRAKE.
H.R. 5814: Mr. SHAYS, Mr. MCCOTTER, and Mr. ISRAEL.
H.R. 5823: Mr. REYES, Mr. LOEBSACK, Mr. SPACE, Mr. YOUNG of Florida, Mr. KILDEE, and Mr. FATTAH.
H.R. 5833: Ms. DELAURO.
H.R. 5852: Mr. PAYNE and Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California.
H.R. 5854: Mr. MILLER of North Carolina, Mr. HAYES, Mr. BROWN of South Carolina, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. BACA, Mr. PLATTS, Mr. MCCAUL of Texas, and Mr. OBERSTAR.
H.R. 5873: Mr. HINCHEY and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
H.R. 5936: Mr. LATHAM and Mr. COSTELLO.
H.R. 5950: Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida and Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota.
H.R. 5971: Mr. WILSON of South Carolina.
H.R. 5977: Mr. HUNTER.
H.R. 5979: Mr. MCGOVERN and Mr. HINCHEY.
H.R. 6066: Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. PAYNE, and Mr. SNYDER.
H.R. 6088: Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota.
H.R. 6104: Mr. BISHOP of New York, Mr. MOORE of Kansas, Ms. BORDALLO, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Ms. GIFFORDS, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. CARSON, Mr. JEFFERSON, Mr. DOYLE, Mr. KENNEDY, and Mr. MILLER of North Carolina.
H.R. 6108: Mr. TIAHRT.
H.R. 6122: Mr. ROTHMAN.
H.R. 6153: Mr. HARE.
H.R. 6185: Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina.
H.R. 6274: Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina.
H.R. 6278: Mr. HINCHEY.
H.R. 6282: Mr. KIND and Mr. CALVERT.
H.R. 6293: Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas.
H.R. 6375: Mr. TOWNS, Mr. KIND, and Ms. BALDWIN.
H.R. 6379: Mr. BOREN.
H.R. 6385: Mr. REICHERT.
H.R. 6387: Mr. SHUSTER and Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia.
H.R. 6403: Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas.
H.R. 6434: Mr. DOGGETT.
H.R. 6453: Mr. MCHENRY.
H.R. 6458: Mr. BLUMENAUER and Mr. GRIJALVA.
H.R. 6460: Mr. MCHUGH and Mr. RYAN of Ohio.
H.R. 6462: Mr. BOREN, Mr. LUCAS, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. WALZ of Minnesota, and Mr. WU.
H.R. 6477: Ms. CLARKE.
H.R. 6485: Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. YOUNG of Florida, Mr. Foster, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. KENNEDY, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, and Mrs. TAUSCHER.
H.R. 6518: Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota and Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 6528: Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California.
H.R. 6559: Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia.
H.R. 6566: Mr. HASTINGS of Washington, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. SHADEGG, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida, Mr. CRENSHAW, and Mr. YOUNG of Alaska.
H.R. 6567: Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. LATHAM, Mr. GOODE, Mr. WOLF, and Mr. GORDON.
H.R. 6568: Mr. GORDON, Mr. BAIRD, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. PLATTS, Mr. OLVER, Mr. MCNULTY, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, and Mr. MARSHALL.
H.R. 6577: Mr. KUHL of New York.
H.R. 6594: Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. WEXLER, Mr. SIRES, Mr. ROTHMAN, Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. KUHL of New York, Mr. WALSH of New York, Mr. LOBIONDO, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. CHANDLER, Mr. HARE, Ms. BERKLEY, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. CARSON, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. DOYLE, Mr. ARCURI, Mr. HALL of New York, Mr. FILNER, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. BACA, Mr. WALZ of Minnesota, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. PASCRELL, Ms. SUTTON, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Ms. LEE, and Ms. DELAURO.
H.R. 6597: Mr. GONZALEZ, Mr. COHEN, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. SERRANO, and Mr. REYES.
H.R. 6598: Mr. COHEN, Mr. ALLEN, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Mr. WAXMAN, Mrs. SCHMIDT, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. GILCHREST, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. SERRANO, Mrs. TAUSCHER, Mr. PLATTS, Mr. WEXLER, Mr. KUCINICH, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. YOUNG of Florida, Mr. KIRK, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. STARK, Ms. TSONGAS, Mr. TOWNS, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. BROWN of South Carolina, Mr. DOYLE, and Mr. MCNULTY.
H.R. 6620: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia and Mr. TIERNEY.
H.R. 6630: Mr. GORDON, Mr. BERRY, Mr. MCHUGH, Mr. SALI, and Mr. CALVERT.
H.R. 6643: Mr. STARK, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. TIERNEY, Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota, and Ms. LEE.
H.R. 6680: Mr. BERMAN, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, and Ms. BALDWIN.
H.R. 6687: Mr. SPACE and Ms. GIFFORDS.
H.R. 6691: Mr. BROUN of Georgia, Mr. KUHL of New York, Mr. LATTA, Mr. POE, Mr. AKIN, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. DAVID DAVIS of Tennessee, Mr. WHITFIELD of Kentucky, Mr. MCCAUL of Texas, Mr. MORAN of Kansas, Mr. SHUSTER, Mr. GINGREY, Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky, Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky, Mr. KLINE of Minnesota, Mr. REYNOLDS, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. TIAHRT, Mr. CULBERSON, Mr. BACHUS, Mr. JONES of North Carolina, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. WILSON of Ohio, Mr. BACA, Mr. COSTELLO, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mrs. BACHMANN; and Mr. GOODE.
H.R. 6695: Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut and Mr. BARTON of Texas.
H.R. 6701: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. OLVER, Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA, Mr. GORDON of Tennessee, Mr. HOYER, Mr. ETHERIDGE, Mr. BRALEY of Iowa, Mr. MCINTYRE, Mr. POMEROY, Mr. WEINER, Mr. RODRIGUEZ, Mr. WU, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. HINCHEY, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Mr. DOYLE, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. KANJORSKI, Mr. HOLDEN, Mr. SALAZAR, Mr. OBERSTAR, Mr. CARDOZA, Ms. SPEIER, and Mr. SKELTON.
H.R. 6728: Mr. HASTINGS of Florida.
H.R. 6733: Mr. COSTELLO.
H.R. 6742: Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia.
H.R. 6772: Mr. BILIRAKIS, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida, Mr. STEARNS, Mr. BOYD of Florida, Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida, Mr. MACK, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. WEXLER, Ms. CASTOR, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. KLEIN of Florida, Mr. MICA, Mr. PUTNAM, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida, Mr. FEENEY, Mr. KELLER of Florida, Mr. MEEK of Florida, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. YOUNG of Florida, and Mr. WELDON of Florida.
H.R. 6798: Mr. KUHL of New York and Mr. MICHAUD.
H.R. 6826: Mr. OLVER and Mr. GORDON of Tennessee.
H. Con. Res. 81: Mr. DOOLITTLE and Mr. YOUNG of Florida.
H. Con. Res. 194: Mrs. MYRICK.
H. Con. Res. 223: Mr. WAMP, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, and Ms. HIRONO.
H. Con. Res. 333: Mr. PORTER.
H. Con. Res. 362: Mr. HALL of New York, Mr. FATTAH, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. CHANDLER, Ms. DEGETTE, Ms. TSONGAS, Ms. BORDALLO, and Ms. RICHARDSON.
H. Con. Res. 388: Ms. GRANGER and Mr. MICHAUD.
H. Con. Res. 393: Mr. RAMSTAD, Mr. STARK, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. ALTMIRE, Ms. BERKLEY, Mr. PORTER, Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, Mr. PLATTS, Mr. GORDON of Tennessee, Mr. MCNULTY, Mr. FILNER, and Ms. WATSON.
H. Con. Res. 400: Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. CUMMINGS, Ms. MATSUI, and Ms. BERKLEY.
H. Res. 271: Mr. FRANKS of Arizona and Mr. BISHOP of New York.
H. Res. 389: Mr. DELAHUNT and Mr. SERRANO.
H. Res. 758: Mr. WAMP.
H. Res. 888: Mr. WELDON of Florida.
H. Res. 1000: Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. MELANCON, Mr. HILL, Mr. CAPUANO, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. TERRY, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. BOUCHER, Mr. INSLEE, Mr. FILNER, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. MATHESON, and Mr. ROSS.
H. Res. 1042: Mr. CAMP of Michigan, Mr. ROTHMAN, Mr. WALZ of Minnesota, Mr. RODRIGUEZ, and Mr. SHAYS.
H. Res. 1064: Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. UPTON, Mr. EHLERS, Mr. FARR, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, and Ms. KILPATRICK.
H. Res. 1200: Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. ETHERIDGE, Mr. ORTIZ, Mr. HAYES, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. HILL, and Mr. TURNER.
H. Res. 1222: Mr. COOPER.
H. Res. 1227: Mrs. TAUSCHER, Mr. DOGGETT, Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, Mr. SHAYS, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, and Mr. CAPUANO.
H. Res. 1319: Mr. WAMP and Mr. WAXMAN.
H. Res. 1338: Mr. BERMAN.
H. Res. 1352: Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida, Mrs. EMERSON, and Mr. BISHOP of New York.
H. Res. 1377: Ms. LEE, Mr. CROWLEY, and Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California.
H. Res. 1379: Mr. HONDA, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. INSLEE, Mr. STARK, Mr. FILNER, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. MCGOVERN, and Mr. HINCHEY.
H. Res. 1383: Mr. FORTUÑO.
H. Res. 1390: Mr. MAHONEY of Florida, Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California, Mr. CHANDLER, and Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin.
H. Res. 1392: Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. RAMSTAD, Mr. KILDEE, and Mr. KNOLLENBERG.
H. Res. 1395: Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California.
H. Res. 1402: Mr. ROTHMAN.

CONGRESSIONAL EARMARKS, LIMITED TAX BENEFITS, OR LIMITED TARIFF BENEFITS

Under clause 9 of rule XXI, lists or statements on congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits were submitted as follows:

The amendment to be offered by Representative GEORGE MILLER of California or a designee to H.R. 3036, the No Child Left Inside Act of 2008, does not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9(d), 9(e), or 9(f) of Rule XXI.

DELETIONS OF SPONSORS FROM PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were deleted from public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 1619: Mr. COHEN.

H. Con. Res. 362: Mr. LEWIS of Georgia.

United States of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 110th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 154 WASHINGTON, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2008 No. 141

Senate

The Senate met at 3 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JIM WEBB, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Virginia.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal Spirit, our hope for years to come, thank You for bringing us together again. Lord, we have missed each other and the separation from friends and peers has generated good memories. Our time apart often reminds us that we need each other and that we best honor You by striving to become models of unity. Lord, we thank You for the opportunities this recess provided for family time and fellowship, for relaxation and rest, for productive contacts and service. Now, as we begin anew the hard work of implementing decisions and solving problems, give our lawmakers and their staff members patience, endurance, energy, and wisdom.

We pray in Your sovereign Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable JIM WEBB led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, September 8, 2008.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable JIM WEBB, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Virginia, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mr. WEBB thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I had the good fortune last month to go to Afghanistan. It was, of course, tremendously educational. We had the opportunity—a number of five Senators, Democrats and Republicans—to visit with our allies in Kurdistan and Kazakhstan. It was a good trip. Then, of course, we completed our trip by going to look—which I had not done—at medical facilities in Germany. All of the troops who are injured or hurt in any way in Iraq or Afghanistan go through that facility. So it was a good trip.

It made it very apparent to me that we should do everything within our power to pass the Defense authorization bill because 7 years after 9/11, we all recognize that our No. 1 enemy, Osama bin Laden, is still free, and al-Qaida has rebuilt its safe haven, it appears, in Pakistan. The central front of the war on terror, we have learned, cannot be won in Iraq. Yet that is where our troops are located. Our treasure and our strategic focus remains in Iraq, but it should be other places. That is why it is so critical to pass a Defense authorization bill that not only supports our troops and our families but also takes a step toward a smarter war on terror.

The Defense authorization bill gives the troops a much needed pay raise of almost 4 percent. It also renews a number of special pay increases provided to troops who fill high-skilled areas that were so undermanned. We all know because of what has happened with the Bush and now McCain efforts, troops are in Iraq and our resources are in Iraq. Afghanistan has seen a surge in violence and suicide attacks are up. We have more coalition forces being killed in Afghanistan than in Iraq, roadside bombings have increased, and opium production is up with Afghanistan producing 93 percent of the world's opium. So we have to refocus on Afghanistan.

Our troops have done a tremendous job in Iraq and, of course, in Afghanistan. It does your heart a lot to be able to visit with those troops in the battlefield as we did. So it is time we get this Defense authorization bill passed. We have to do that. We need the funds for the programs in Afghanistan that are critical to winning the peace that have been ignored for far too long.

This legislation increases the size of the Army to 532,000; the Marine Corps, 194,000; along with other steps to improve readiness and reduce the strain and improve the capabilities of our Armed Forces. We have had other occasions with our Republican allies to pass a Defense authorization bill in the Senate, but we haven't been successful in doing that. So I hope we are allowed to go to the bill.

I have had a number of conversations with Senator LEVIN, the chairman of the committee. Each conversation I have with him, he tells me he is going to confer with Senator WARNER, the former chairman and now ranking member of that most important committee. We want to get on the bill. We want to get the bill passed. This bill is not an opportunity for people to vent their frustration on all of the issues that are floating around this country. This is a bill that deals with the safety and security of our Nation and the well-being of our troops. So when we get on the bill, I hope we can move forward and complete legislation on this

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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most important part of what we are trying to do.

This is the first issue we are going to take up when we get here. So my goal is to do what we have to do to work on the Defense bill this week.

We have an energy summit this Friday. It has been requested by a significant number of Senators, including the gang of 10, which I am told is now up to a gang of 22—or if it is not 22, last week it was 16. It is a lot of Senators. So we are going to have the energy summit this Friday. It doesn't mean we will not have votes this Friday, but at least starting at 9:30 on Friday morning we are going to have an energy summit. My desire is to spend next week dealing with energy.

We have a piece of legislation we have had the opportunity to move to. It was a bill on speculation which was very important. I would think it could be a vehicle to work with. If our Republican colleagues wish to get rid of the speculation part of it, in an effort to be cooperative and show some degree of conciliation on our side, what we would be willing to do is have that as a vehicle.

The first amendment to be offered on that piece of legislation would be the Bingaman-Baucus legislation, which is a Democratic proposal that has been on the calendar, the only difference being there is a drilling provision in it. The second amendment would be the gang of whatever it is—now we are up to 22—and then I would hope we could have some kind of an agreement if the Republicans are not satisfied with the Bingaman-Baucus amendment or the gang of 22 amendment; if they want to come up with an amendment dealing with legislation, fine. That would be the next amendment in order. I hope we can agree on a limited number of amendments dealing with energy on this Energy bill. It is my understanding—and I understand this fairly well—that both the Bingaman amendment and the gang of 22 amendment have drilling provisions. So I hope we can move forward. We have attempted in the past, as everyone knows, to do energy legislation, including that with drilling. But, so there is no confusion or consternation on anyone's behalf, next week we should be able to do the drilling votes and other votes as they relate to energy.

The state of the economy is very desperate, for lack of a better description. Oil and gas are just part of our economic crisis. Since we left for our recess and the conventions are over, we have only more bad news, which means we should look forward also during this work period to see if we can do an economic stimulus bill. Why is one necessary?

Well, the Bush economy has lost jobs every month this year. Just last month alone 84,000 jobs were lost. A total of more than 600,000 jobs have been lost this year alone. The total number of jobless Americans is now about 10 million. A number of people are out of work also, but they stopped keeping track of the unemployment after they had been on the rolls for a certain period of time. Housing values have decreased by almost 20 percent. The unemployment rate has soared now to over 6 percent.

American workers are holding up their end of the deal because one of the interesting things through all of this is that productivity by our work force is up by 20 percent since 2000, but wages have not kept pace with productivity.

Then, finally, the news of Freddie and Fannie—these two huge financial operations that have been so important since the 1930s in our country—are now in trouble, and the Federal Government is taking them over, which is certainly another strong piece of evidence about the disastrous shape of our economy. I hope we can move on and do something with an economic stimulus package. To this point, Senator MCCAIN has been unwilling to do that. Let's hope this string of bad news items will bring him back to saying we need to do something with the stimulus.

We have—I am sure Senator MCCONNELL has, and I know my colleagues, the counterparts on the Democratic side of the Congress—received calls from Secretary Peters. We have tried in the past on a number of the bills we have put forth to put money in the highway trust fund to replenish it. We were thwarted from doing that. We have to do something. Secretary Peters said now States are only getting part of their money. Eighty percent of them have dropped; 50 percent have basically dropped to nothing. We can pass the highway trust fund replenishment bill immediately. We have a bill from the House that starts doing that on October 1. We would have to move the date forward. We are willing to pass it today. Democrats are willing to pass this today. I say to the Bush administration, to Secretary Peters, we are willing to do this today. She said it needed to be done immediately. I talked to her over the weekend. I acknowledge that is the case.

For this $8 billion, we will create eight times 47,500 high-paying jobs for people. So we should do that. I would hope we can get my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to move forward by unanimous consent today to pass that. What we would like to do, as I have indicated, is move the time forward from October 1. Secretary Peters said we need to do that. It passed the House by a 387-to-37 vote. I hope we can do that. In effect, what we could do is transfer $8 billion from the general fund to the highway trust fund.

There is a funding shortage looming, and we hear strong support from both Democrats and Republicans, with now Secretary Peters. I am confident she speaks for the administration. So we could pass this legislation immediately.

There are other priorities we need to work on this work period. If we have time to do that, we certainly will do that. We have the tax extenders. Without going through the list, I look forward to working with my friend, Senator MCCONNELL, to see what we can do to move forward on these things.

Finally, before we leave here, we must find some way to fund the Government. If the Republicans want to do it on a week-by-week basis, that is fine. If they want to wait to do it until after the election so we have to come back for a lameduck, we are willing to do that. If they want to do it sometime in February, we are willing to do that. We are not interested in games being played on the CR. We simply want to make sure Government is allowed to function. There have been Republicans on the other side of the Capitol—in the House—saying they want to close down the Government. I hope some of those people have read recent history where Gingrich tried to do that and it didn't work out well for the Republicans and certainly not for this country.

I look forward to this short work period we have left to show the American people we can get some things done. I hope that is, in fact, the case.

MEASURE PLACED ON CALENDAR—S. 3430

Mr. REID. Mr. President, it is my understanding that S. 3430 is at the desk and due for a second reading.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator is correct. The clerk will read the title of the bill for the second time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3430) to provide for the investigation of certain unsolved civil rights crimes, and for other purposes.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I object to any further proceedings with respect to this bill.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection is heard.

The bill will be placed on the calendar.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—S. 3001

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the motion to proceed to the motion to reconsider the vote by which cloture was not invoked on the motion to proceed to S. 3001 be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be agreed to, and the time until 5:30 be equally controlled between Senators LEVIN and WARNER or their designees; that at 5:30 today, there be a vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to S. 3001, the Defense Department authorization bill, with the time from 5 o'clock to 5:30 equally divided and controlled between Senators LEVIN and WARNER or their designees, with Senator LEVIN controlling the final 15 minutes prior to the vote.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection? Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE REPUBLICAN LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

DAUNTING CHALLENGES

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I welcome my good friend the majority leader back to Washington. I hope he is renewed after the August break.

These past several weeks have been extremely instructive for me, as I am sure they were for a lot of the rest of our colleagues. I talked to a lot of Kentuckians, and not a single one suggested that I come back to Washington and do nothing until the November election.

America faces a number of daunting challenges. Very few of them were unknown to us when we all showed up here in January of 2007. Very few of them have been addressed, but there is still time to do significant work in the next weeks. I am still hopeful that we will.

We can protect millions of Americans from the alternative minimum tax and extend a host of expired and expiring tax incentives, including the renewable energy tax credits that drive much needed investment in alternative energy sources such as solar and wind. We should come together and agree to a long-term extension of these important tax incentives before the end of this year.

So far, Congress has been unable to come together on a comprehensive solution to our Nation's energy crisis. But the book hasn't closed yet on the 110th Congress. There is still time to act on this issue. And we should. We must work to provide much needed relief for Americans across the country who are struggling with the high price of gas at the pump. Congress can still show that we are responsive to the needs of the American people by doing something about the crisis now.

Some might disagree. One Senator on the other side recently said that he thinks frustration over the high price of gas has ''peaked.'' But I have seen no evidence of this whatsoever in my State. In fact, I am confident, after spending the past month away from Washington, that if we did little else these next few weeks but pass a serious response to high gas prices, fund the Government, and protect taxpayers, the American people would view these next few weeks as extremely productive.

Americans want us to act to increase offshore exploration. There is nothing to fear in this. We can and should increase domestic energy exploration, even as we encourage the use of alternative energy sources and new conservation measures. There is no good reason we cannot all get behind a balanced approach that would allow us to find more and use less at the same time.

We also need to do our basic duty of funding the Government by passing appropriations bills. Over the last 25 years, no other Congress has failed to pass a single appropriations bill this late in the year. Even the infamous do-nothing Congress of 1948 had passed more than a dozen appropriations bills at this point on the legislative calendar. This is certainly not a record to be proud of. But it is not a record that has to stand. We still have time to change course. And we should.

While at war, we have yet to fund the troops, homeland security, and critical domestic programs. We have yet to fund veterans hospitals, education, transportation, and national parks. These are the basics. We should take them on. The upcoming election is no excuse to put off our responsibilities for another day. Americans have held a regularly scheduled election every 2 years for more than two centuries. The work of Government must go on regardless of how strong the partisan currents flow. It always has, and this year should be no exception.

We still have a few more weeks to do right by the American people. Let's not just mark time. Let's make a difference and do something constructive to help the American people in a difficult economic time. Let's put political games aside for a few weeks and do what is expected of us. This is not too much to ask, and I, for one, remain hopeful that we can rise to the occasion.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The senior Senator from Virginia is recognized.

DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I wonder if I might pose a question to the leadership. Senator LEVIN and I just met in preparation to move forward, hopefully, on the annual authorization bill. This would be the 30th bill Senator LEVIN and I have worked on together. In the interim period, over the summer, our staffs have done a lot of very valuable work in terms of trying to sort through reconciliation between the House and Senate provisions. But it is our recommendation to the leadership that we try to obtain a UC to enable the amendments that would be brought forward to be relevant to the work of the committee, or the text of the bill.

I am just wondering, what do the respective leaders have to guide the Senator and myself on this issue?

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I say to the Senator from Virginia that I hope we can work out something. We have this week to do it. It will be the last week that we have an opportunity to finish this most important piece of legislation. I think we owe it to our troops to work out something. We can get hung up on germane and relevant. One thing we could do—and I know we have had a problem here with people wanting to offer amendments on everything, as they have said, ''like we used to do in the Senate.''

Mr. President, I have been through a number of Presidential elections, and we have one coming up in about 60 days. We have to do things a little differently. I hope we can come up with some way to move forward on that. One of the suggestions made is maybe we could come up with something where the Senator from Virginia and Senator LEVIN can look at the amendments first related to the bill. We need to finish the Defense bill. Next week, we are going to be able to legislate our hearts out on energy. People have been wanting to do that for a long time. Let's get rid of this piece of legislation, which is important. I hope we can figure out a way to move forward on it.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, we talked about this a couple of times before the August break. I know he is concerned because this bill has frequently been targeted for nongermane amendments. I can recall that, as recently as last year, a nongermane amendment was offered by a member of the majority and actually adopted and became a complication in trying to complete the legislation.

I say to the Senator from Virginia, I don't know what is possible. I just got in from the airport. I will meet with the Republican leadership later this afternoon to discuss with our colleagues what we might be able to achieve. I am certainly open to trying to move the measure along. I will consult with everybody on our side to see whether that is possible.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I thank the leaders. I only say that Senator LEVIN and I are ready, beginning tomorrow morning, if this procedural motion this afternoon at 5:30 is carried, to go to work. Hopefully, we can waive any 30-hour requirement, or whatever might be attached to this, and proceed directly to the bill. We both have amendments that can be brought up, and we welcome amendments from our colleagues. Again, the issue of relevancy is imperative if we hope to complete this bill this week.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I hope we don't have to use the 30 hours. We can start working on this tomorrow. There are amendments, as the Senator has indicated, members of the committee want to offer which relate to the bill. We should do that. Now, I hope we don't have to file cloture on the bill itself if we get on it. I think we should try to finish the Defense bill.

As I have indicated, I went to Afghanistan. We have learned a lot, and we are implementing what we learned in Iraq. There are some things in Iraq that didn't do so well. We are trying to do better in Afghanistan. But it takes resources, and that is what this bill is about. I hope we don't have to wait 30 hours. We don't have to do that.

We have a national election coming up. Speaking for the Republican leader, we don't want to be here until November 3, which is a Monday. We need to allow people to get back and work—those who want to help MCCAIN and OBAMA, those who want to work on their own campaigns, and those who want to help others who are campaigning. I hope we can legislate on this tomorrow. Before we do that, we have to proceed to it tonight.

Mr. MCCONNELL. At the risk of being redundant, I will consult with the leadership of my conference and other members, and surely we will be able to get on the bill, at the latest, sometime tomorrow and proceed with the amendment process.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I thank the leaders.

I yield the floor.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, leadership time is reserved.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2009—MOTION TO PROCEED

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to S. 3001, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to S. 3001, a bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2009 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Hawaii is recognized.

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I rise today to speak on the motion to proceed to the National Defense Authorization Act. I ask unanimous consent that I be given 20 minutes to do so.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I rise today to urge my colleagues to set aside bipartisan differences and vote in favor of the motion to proceed to the National Defense Authorization Act. This bill is critically important to ensuring that our troops have the equipment and support they need in order to fulfill their mission. Voting against the motion to proceed would have significant consequences for the men and women who have made so many sacrifices for this Nation, as well as their families. It would mean delays in pay increases, delays in benefits, and delays in authorities that are necessary to train and equip our soldiers.

This bill authorizes the military construction projects that directly affect the quality of life of our armed services members by giving them new, safer, more effective facilities in which to work.

Under the leadership of Chairman LEVIN, the Armed Services Committee has produced a carefully crafted bill that addresses the many complex issues facing today's military. This includes language in direct support of our armed services members and their families, such as a 3.9-percent pay raise.

Over the last 6 years, continuous combat operations have put a severe strain on our Nation's military capabilities. Consequently, one of the primary goals of this year's bill was to focus on restoring the readiness of our troops.

As chairman of the Subcommittee on Readiness, I worked very closely with Ranking Member THUNE on the readiness acquisition policy and military construction portions of this bill that are under the jurisdiction of my subcommittee. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Senator THUNE for his hard work and cooperation during the markup of this bill. It was my privilege to work with him to advance the readiness of our Armed Forces.

I also thank our personal staff members and the professional staff of the committees for their efforts, in particular Peter Levine, Mike McCord, Bill Sutey, Lucian Niemeyer, Greg Kiley, and Chris Paul.

The Readiness Subcommittee has a broad mandate of policy oversight as well as jurisdiction over a substantial part of the DOD budget. In addition, it is responsible for the readiness and operation and maintenance provisions that support the essential requirements of the military services for the next fiscal year for the cost of normal operations. However, our goal remains simple: to maintain and, wherever possible, improve the readiness of our military.

Altogether, this bill contains $162 billion for the programs within the jurisdiction of the Readiness Subcommittee, which represents over 30 percent of the DOD budget. That amount is within one-quarter of 1 percent of the amount requested.

I believe all of us are concerned that our military forces have what they need to be trained and ready, but we are particularly concerned about the readiness of our ground forces. This bill fully funds the Army and Marine Corps readiness accounts, including the training and equipment maintenance request.

With respect to revitalizing our defense facilities, this bill invests an additional $413 million above the budget request in our infrastructure to repair or replace our aging defense facilities and improve the quality of life and the productivity of our military.

These military construction projects require both an authorization and an appropriation. I urge the Senate to pass both these important pieces of legislation—this authorization bill and the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs appropriations bill—as soon as possible.

This year's Defense authorization bill also addresses the need for increased oversight of the acquisition programs and activities of the Department of Defense to ensure that taxpayers' dollars are well spent and not wasted. For example, this bill requires DOD to establish ethics standards to prevent personal conflicts of interest by contractor employees who perform acquisition functions on behalf of DOD.

This bill ensures that private security contractors do not perform inherently governmental functions in an area of combat operations. It codifies existing DOD standards under which security operations are inherently governmental if they will be performed in highly hazardous public areas where the risks are uncertain.

This bill prohibits contractor employees from conducting interrogations of detainees during or in the aftermath of hostilities. The provision has an effective date 1 year after the date of enactment to give DOD time to comply.

This bill requires the military departments to ensure that urgent requirements documents developed by operational field commanders are presented to senior officials for review within 60 days of the time they are submitted. This is a response to reports that Marine Corps leadership failed to respond to requests for Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicles, known as MRAPs, and other critical requirements for several years.

This bill codifies the requirement for boards to review and approve—or disapprove—any new requirements that could add to the costs of a major weapon system.

This bill requires DOD to ensure that a contractor does not receive a competitive advantage by using foreign subsidiaries to avoid the payment of U.S. payroll taxes for its workers.

This bill requires DOD to establish a database of information regarding the integrity and contract performance of contractors, to ensure that this information is available to acquisition officials making key contracting decisions.

This bill requires DOD to take steps to ensure that contractor employees who are the victims of sexual assault and other crimes in Iraq and Afghanistan receive the help they need and the investigative assistance they deserve.

This bill requires the military departments to establish business transformation offices to serve as a central focus for the reform of their business and financial systems and processes.

This bill ensures that the chief lawyer for the DOD inspector general, or IG, serves at the discretion of the IG and reports only to the IG.

It is my hope that the Senate will strongly support these provisions.

In addition to working to improve the readiness of our troops as chairman of the Readiness Subcommittee, I was pleased in my role as chairman of the

Veterans' Affairs Committee to work to include language in this bill that will improve care for this Nation's wounded warriors. One such provision responds to the need for comprehensive care for wounded warriors and their families by requiring the Secretary of Defense to provide referrals for legal assistance when appropriate in order to help with legal issues related to long-term care needs.

The necessity to encourage and promote the treatment of service-related injuries was also addressed in this bill through the authorization of a pilot program to assess treatment approaches for all forms of traumatic brain injury and the establishment of a center of excellence for the treatment and rehabilitation of traumatic extremity injuries and amputations.

In order to ensure that the Department of Defense and Department of Veterans Affairs continue to carefully coordinate these efforts to improve the process for the care, management, and transition of wounded and ill servicemembers, this year's bill also provides for a 3-year extension of the Senior Oversight Committee.

Let me end by restating how vitally important it is for us to move forward with the debate of this bill. A little over 3 weeks ago, I attended the deployment ceremony for the members of the Hawaii Army National Guard's 29th Infantry Brigade Combat Team who are headed to Kuwait in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom for their second deployment. It was my great honor and privilege to say goodbye to these soldiers who are leaving their homes, their jobs, and their families in order to fulfill a commitment to defend and protect our Nation. I remind my friends and colleagues that we have also made a commitment to work together to pass a bill that provides our troops with everything they need to come home safely. The first step in this process is to adopt this motion to proceed so that we can begin debate on this very important bill.

I yield back the remainder of my time, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the time be equally divided between the two parties.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. AKAKA. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. NELSON of Florida. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CARDIN). Without objection, it is so ordered.

ENERGY

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, last week we heard chants, slogans—as if those slogans were going to solve the energy crisis—of drill, baby, drill. I think it is more appropriate to use the words of Tom Friedman: Innovate, baby, innovate. If we are going to solve this energy crisis, we have to have a comprehensive solution, and we need to unleash what America can do best, which is our intellectual capacity, our creativeness, our ingenuity. We need to unleash that capacity of America to get out and whip the energy crisis where we are addicted to oil. In fact, in this Senator's judgment, the single greatest threat to our security may well be our dependence on oil, not foreign oil but oil.

We all have been hearing from our constituents about what is the possible path for us to break this addiction, and we need to break the addiction and become energy independent in 10 years.

I caution against misguided rhetoric and hollow chants, as we have heard—of drill, baby, drill—as a seemingly swift and simple solution to high gas prices. It doesn't have any basis in reality. Remember the words of President Kennedy:

> Real solutions are not easily or cheaply obtained, nor are they quickly and simply explained.

So as we approach it in a comprehensive way, it is not easily and simply explained. Common sense ought to tell us, since the United States has only 3 percent of the world's oil reserves, and yet uses 25 percent of the world's oil production, we can't drill our way out of the problem. Indeed, there are 65 million acres leased by the oil companies from the Federal Government, not one of which has been drilled. In the Gulf of Mexico itself—where the so-called gang of 10 that is now called the gang of 16 seems to want to pick on my State of Florida and wants to drill all the way up to within 50 miles of the coast—there are 32 million acres under lease by the oil companies, and not one of those acres has been drilled. Yet they are leased from the Federal Government. As a matter of fact, that includes 8.3 million acres on which this Senator worked a compromise to try to solve this problem and got it into law 2 years ago, 8.3 million new acres kept away from the military mission line where we do our testing and training off of Florida, kept away from the shores of Florida. Not 1 acre of that 8.3 million has been drilled since it was offered for lease.

More leasing would not stabilize Iraq or guarantee Saudi Arabia's long-term friendship, nor would it end the unregulated speculation that drove oil prices to over $147 a barrel and pushed pump prices to more than $4 a gallon. More leasing of Federal lands will only delay America's freedom from oil. If we do drill, baby, drill, we will dirty and destroy Florida's economy. Even worse, if this so-called gang of 16 puts it all the way up to 50 miles off of Florida, it will cut the heart and lungs out of the last area of unfettered military training for the U.S. military, the largest testing and training for the U.S. military in the world, which is the range in the Gulf of Mexico, all off of the coast of Florida.

No matter what anybody says, when the United States only has 3 percent of the world's oil reserves but uses one-fourth of the world's oil supply, drill, baby, drill is not going to work.

Now, that is what this Senator has been saying for years. By the way, now even a Texas oilman is saying the same thing. T. Boone Pickens has all of these commercial ads on TV, and he says we cannot drill our way out of this problem.

As a matter of fact, the White House report from 5 months ago that I have shared with the Senate several times says the same thing: That drilling in the Outer Continental Shelf of the United States will not change the price of gasoline one whit until the year 2030.

So what do we do? Well, for the short term, we need to keep bringing gas prices down by not wasting so much oil and by banning the greedy speculation on the part of the oil traders and the profiteers. We have a Senate investigation that has reported that there is lax Federal oversight of these traders, and that is as a result of a loophole that was slipped in in the dead of night in December just before Christmas in the year 2000 at the behest of the infamous Enron Corporation. BP, Amoco, Goldman Sachs, and Morgan Stanley also were instrumental in getting this so-called Enron loophole through Congress. Afterward, the price of both oil and natural gas skyrocketed, despite reports that oil supplies were mostly adequate.

Links between soaring oil prices and vast sums of money flowing into these unregulated commodities have been uncovered by the Senate Commerce Committee and the Homeland Security Committee. As a matter of fact, just last week, a report by the Washington Post pointed out, unbelievably, that of all the futures contracts for the oil commodities, 81 percent of all that trading was done by people who do not intend to use that oil. If true, done by the speculators: 81 percent.

We have had testimony in Congress by an ExxonMobil executive. We have had testimony from a Shell Oil Company executive who said that under normal supply and demand oil ought to be at $55 a barrel.

But by any measure, this Enron loophole, which exempts the traders of energy contracts from Federal oversight, was an ill-conceived public policy. That is why a number of us have filed legislation to fully close that loophole and to stop the unchecked runups in

speculation of crude oil and gasoline prices.

Now, what do I mean by ''unregulated futures commodities markets''? I mean that a governmental entity, if it were regulated, would require them to put a substantial downpayment on the contract for future oil—to put their money where their mouth is—or a regulated market would be that they would require the bidder for that future oil contract to be somebody who was going to use the oil instead of just speculating on the price and running up the price. So if we do not do something about speculation, they can drive that up again, and we have to fully close that loophole.

About 50 percent of the oil we use goes into our cars and trucks. So it should not take a rocket scientist to realize this ought to be where we ought to focus. It took us in the Congress more than 30 years to raise mileage standards to a paltry 35 miles per gallon, to be phased in over the next 15 years—35 miles a gallon. It was 25 miles a gallon back in the 1980s. But, oh, by the way, that exempted light trucks and SUVs. It is interesting that American car manufacturers sell cars in Europe and the cars over there already get 43 miles a gallon. Japan is approaching 50 miles per gallon. In other words, we are wasting billions of gallons of oil here at home. To stop it, we must enact serious conservation measures, such as 40 miles per gallon for our vehicles. We must provide bigger tax incentives for people to buy hybrid cars and plug-in hybrids.

Now, what I have shared with you are not simple chants, simple slogans. They are real solutions for the short term. But for the long term, we need to unleash that American ingenuity and to rapidly build cars that run on batteries or hydrogen, not petroleum. We need to develop alternative fuels such as ethanol from things we do not eat.

Our Government, led by the next President, must enact a national energy program to transition us from petroleum to alternative and synthetic fuels. It needs to be leadership by the next President in the memory of President Kennedy, when we had only flown Alan Shepard in suborbit, and President Kennedy had the vision and said: This Nation is going to go to the Moon and back in 9 years. That is the kind of leadership we need, and we now have to act with the same urgency.

So we are going to have to pay attention to how we power our homes and industry. We are going to need to develop solar, wind, and thermal energy and safer nuclear power. We have a lot of innovative work.

I see some colleagues are in the Chamber who wish to speak, and I will conclude.

Let me say that I want everybody to know, including the Senator who is just walking onto the floor, this Senator is not going to allow Florida to be a sacrificial lamb for whatever is struck as an energy compromise, nor is this Senator, who has been protecting the interests of the U.S. Department of Defense for 25 years, ever since I was a young Congressman representing the east coast of Florida, going to allow drilling to cut the heart and the lungs out of the military mission area, which is our largest testing and training area, nor to threaten the interests of the State of Florida, by people succumbing to the simple slogan of ''drill, baby, drill'' when it ought to be ''innovate, baby, innovate.''

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

INTERNATIONAL FETAL ALCOHOL SPECTRUM DISORDERS AWARENESS DAY

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I rise very briefly to recognize tomorrow, Tuesday, September 9, as International Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders Awareness Day. This is a day to bring a voice to the numerous children—many children—born with a continuum of serious, lifelong disorders caused by prenatal exposure to alcohol, which includes fetal alcohol syndrome, alcohol-related neurodevelopmental disorders, and alcohol-related birth defects. The lifetime health costs for people afflicted with fetal alcohol syndrome is at least $2 million, and the overall cost of fetal alcohol syndrome in the United States is estimated to be at least $6 billion. That was back in 2007. There is a great need for research, surveillance, prevention, treatment, and support services for individuals with fetal alcohol spectrum disorders and for their families.

It is for these reasons I rise today to dedicate September 9 as International Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders Awareness Day and encourage all my fellow Americans to promote awareness of the effects of prenatal exposure to alcohol; to increase compassion for individuals affected by prenatal exposure to alcohol; to minimize further effects of prenatal exposure to alcohol; and, most importantly, to bring greater awareness to a disease that is absolutely 100 percent preventable.

Communities around the world will observe a moment of silence at 9 minutes after 9 tomorrow, on September 9, to remind women that no alcohol during pregnancy is safe. For the past 6 years, the Senate has passed a resolution highlighting and bringing awareness to this issue. It is my understanding that all resolutions are currently being blocked, so we may not have one this year. But today, on behalf of the millions of individuals suffering from the lasting and detrimental effects of fetal alcohol spectrum disorders, I encourage all Americans to observe a moment of reflection on the ninth hour of the ninth day of the ninth month to remind them that no amount of alcohol—none at all—is safe during the 9 months of pregnancy.

With that, Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I want to share a thought about the vote we will undertake. I know some of us were taking to calling the speculation bill our Democratic leader offered the ''no energy bill'' because it had nothing in it to produce any more energy for America—American energy, which I think is a critical component of any successful policy to make us more energy independent, which, indeed, can make us energy independent if we do the right things as far as foreign oil and energy.

I would say to my colleagues, some of whom are part of the so-called Gang of 10, who are trying to work out a compromise they think might produce some more energy for America that might change a few policies that would make us more energy independent and help our economy, which by any calculation is being pulled down by the increasing price of energy, the Cato Institute says electricity bills have doubled since 2001. Electricity has already doubled.

Before we get into some of the more extreme proposals for the regulation of utilities and requirements on utilities, I would say that gasoline prices have surged. The world price of oil hit 140-some-odd dollars per barrel. It has dropped some, to maybe the $107, $110 range per barrel, which is better, but it is still far above the $30 a barrel it was just a few years ago.

So this is adversely impacting American families. We calculate it costs $57 more a month for a two-car family for gasoline each month than it did this time last year. It is also impacting adversely the American economy. I believe it is an absolute fact that this surge in energy prices is causing the economic slowdown we are facing today, and we have to do something about it.

There are things we can do. So I want to say to my colleagues who are trying to work on something, I am for you. I want you to go ahead. I want you to push forward. I want to put some things in there that will work. That is my policy. I will support anything—efficiencies, conservation, innovation, creativity. It must include more production of American energy, of course. Anything else would be mindless. People do not seem to worry that we pay $130 a barrel for imported oil, but they want to constrict our ability to produce oil and gas here at home. So I just want to say that.

I urge my colleagues who are discussing this issue to produce some things that will work, and you will have a willing supporter in this Senator. I am willing to do some things that may be even dubious if we can get some things that are good. For example, I understand they are talking about more offshore production. I think that is absolutely necessary. We need to have nuclear recycling. I am hopeful that will be part of any compromise package.

I offered with Senator DOMENICI earlier this year, just a few months ago,

the SMART Act, which would favor the nuclear recycling of waste, which would reduce its toxicity dramatically and reduce the amount that would be needed and produce more uranium capable of creating electricity. It would increase, I understand, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's staff so we do not have unnecessary delays in approving new powerplants. We have not built one in 30 years, but France is building them. The Brits just announced plans to build five more. We need to get in that game. We have not done so in 30 years.

I would note, however, there is nothing in this legislation that I can see that I am hearing about that would create energy from shale oil in the West. There has been no production from that 2,000 acres in ANWR that is part—that will be producing oil and gas out of an 18-acre region the size of the State of South Carolina. So those are things I hope we can have, before I yield the floor, in a compromise package and that would actually produce more energy for us.

I would note I am honored to serve on the Armed Services Committee with Senator LEVIN and Senator WARNER, our senior member. I see them both here to kick off this debate. It is a very good committee. It is a committee I have learned a great deal from serving on, and I think it is important that we be able to move forward with the Defense authorization bill.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan is recognized.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, under the existing unanimous consent agreement, the Senator from Virginia is going to proceed for 15 minutes, I understand.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia is recognized.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I first wish to congratulate my colleague of some 30 years that we have worked together on the Senate Armed Services Committee. Under his leadership this year, we passed the 2008 bill unanimously by the committee in April. Here we are in September, and we are finally getting to the opportunity presented to our colleagues and, hopefully, this week we will act on this bill.

Earlier this afternoon, the distinguished majority leader and the minority leader addressed the Senate on their express hope that this bill will be acted on expeditiously and done so within this week. That will require, however, in my judgment—and I speak only for myself—a unanimous consent request relating to the amendment process. We are anxious to receive amendments from our colleagues, but unless we maintain some order in terms of relevant amendments, I am fearful we will not be able to expeditiously handle this bill. That is a matter that is now being quite fairly and forthrightly worked upon by the respective majority and minority leaders, and certainly my distinguished colleague, Senator LEVIN, and I have discussed this together and have a joint recommendation for our leadership.

I also wish to express my appreciation to our professional staff, both majority and minority, who have worked on this bill throughout the summer. Such that on the assumption that we can pass it and then get to a conference we will have beforehand reconciled some of the differences between—that is on an informal basis, but on a formal basis, we will be able to reconcile in a conference this bill and then bring it back in the form of a conference report.

This will be the forty-third—bill No. 43—consecutive authorization bill adopted by the Senate. I am hopeful the unbroken record of 42 consecutive times will now be the 43rd, and that puts the Senate clearly on record as supporting the men and women of the Armed Forces of the United States who most justly deserve all the support we can give them. I point out that we have a specific constitutional responsibility toward the men and women of the Armed Forces. It is this bill, coupled with such appropriations as may be acted upon by other committees—this is the discharge of our constitutional responsibility.

We are at a very dangerous crossroads in the history of the world. Our forces today are fighting in two theaters—Iraq and Afghanistan—and are standing watch on many other theaters and outposts across the world. They are facing the threats of militant extremists at home, worldwide, abroad, in all corners of the globe. We are also astounded by the performance of what heretofore we thought was a supporting partner in world affairs—Russia—by virtue of their aggressions in Georgia, and the instability in Pakistan, a major non-NATO ally but nevertheless a major ally. Hopefully, with the election of a new President, that country can begin to govern itself strongly because it is very important, with our forces on the border of Pakistan and our operations against the insurgents and the Taliban in Afghanistan, it is essential we have the strongest of working relationships with Pakistan. Then we have, unfortunately, the nuclear ambitions and the hostile behavior of Iran. All of those propose a profound and wide-ranging challenge for U.S. interests and our friends and our allies in the international community as a whole.

We are fortunate today that the people in the United States of America are so supportive of our Armed Forces. I have had the privilege to observe this Nation in previous conflicts beginning in World War II. In World War II 16 million men and women of the Armed Forces were greeted when they returned home from a solid victory against the axis powers, as well as those of the Pacific. Then, following the Korean conflict, again I had the opportunity to observe firsthand the deterioration of the support in the many respects it was given to the Armed Forces who fought so bravely in that conflict. I pause to think that we have celebrated the 55th anniversary of that conflict. Over 30,000 Americans—Americans in uniform—lost their lives in that conflict. Another 90,000 were wounded. Today, currently, 8,000 are still unaccounted for.

So we have a different attitude today. In Vietnam, we likewise experienced a lot of antagonism against the men and women of the Armed Forces. Today, this country is united behind those men and women and giving support to their brave families.

We have also had the good fortune for 35 years to have an All-Volunteer Force. This bill is constructed to continue that support of the All-Volunteer Force. I can recall, in the Vietnam period, I was privileged to be Secretary of the Navy—Under Secretary for some 5 years—that the constricted force experienced a lot of problems. It was during that period in 1973, I remember vividly that the then-Secretary of Defense, Melvin Laird, had the vision to have the All-Volunteer Force. It eventually came into law with the support of the Congress. It was a major gamble, I say to my colleagues—a major gamble. It was the first significant large military power in the world—the United States of America—to try and have this national security policy, this national security defended by all volunteers, but it has worked and worked well beyond the early concepts we had in mind. It has been a superb military force that has preserved America's freedom.

We also have in this bill a reflection on the future needs of our Armed Forces. This bill will provide better compensation and first-rate health care to improve the quality of life of the men and women on Active Duty and in the National Guard and Reserve and their families. I will enumerate a number of provisions in this bill that address those issues.

We also authorize Active Duty end strengths, increases for the Army to go to 532,000-plus and for the Marine Corps, 194,000-plus, respectively. We authorize an increase of 3,371 full-time personnel for the Army National Guard and the Army Reserve. We authorize the costs of special pay and allowances, death benefits, and permanent change of station moves. It authorizes $26 billion for the Defense Health Program. It requires the Secretary of Defense to develop a comprehensive policy to prevent, regrettably, the increasing rate of suicides.

So I say to my colleagues, this bill is absolutely essential—absolutely essential—and it provides the statutory authorities that our men and women of the Armed Forces need to succeed in combat and stability operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

We will authorize those funds necessary to seek to reduce our Nation's strategic risks by taking action to restore, as soon as possible, the readiness

of the military services to conduct the full range of their assigned missions. I wish to correct that by saying by taking the action aimed at fully restoring, since much of our military is in a state of high readiness today.

This bill will improve the efficiency of Defense Department programs and activities, promote the transformation of the Armed Forces to deal with the threats of the 21st century, and improve the ability of the Armed Forces to counter nontraditional threats, including terrorism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

In addition, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009 includes authorization of $24.8 billion in Division B for military construction, BRAC, and family housing programs. Because MILCON projects require a line item authorization by law, and considered new-starts, DOD will not be able to carry out any new project in fiscal year 2009 if this bill is not enacted.

Of the 24.8 billion, $11.7 billion is for military construction, $3.2 billion for the construction and operation of family housing, and $9.1 billion to implement the results of the 2005 BRAC.

Within the BRAC account, 282 projects are at risk across the country, including critical construction to establish new hospitals at the Naval Medical Center, Bethesda, MD; Fort Belvior, VA; and Fort Sam Houston, TX, to facilitate the closure of inadequate facilities at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Washington, DC. Other critical BRAC construction at Fort Bliss, TX, and Fort Benning, GA, is required to facilitate the return of U.S. forces from overseas locations and the establishment of new modular units. Also BRAC construction at Eglin Air Force Base, FL, is required to support the joint Air Force and Navy training.

In closing, this is an important bill that takes care of our troops and their families. It sustains a national treasure, the All Volunteer Force, and authorizes funding for the Department of Defense and the national security programs of the Department of Energy.

I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of the motion to proceed to the Defense authorization bill for the sake of the men and women in uniform and in spirit of Article I, section 8 of the Constitution that assigns to Congress the powers ''to raise and support Armies'' and ''to provide and maintain a Navy.''

Mr. President, I defer to our distinguished Chairman. Again, I congratulate the chairman on bringing this bill to the floor.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. WHITEHOUSE). The Senator from Michigan is recognized.

Mr. LEVIN. Very briefly, I note the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, first, I wish to thank my good friend from Virginia, Senator WARNER. As he pointed out, he and I have been together in the Senate now almost 30 years. Hopefully, we could get this bill to the floor the way he and I and other chairmen before us have been able to get a Defense authorization bill to the floor and passed for, I believe, close to 50 years; somewhere in the mid 40s now we have had a Defense authorization bill. We have to have it under the law. There is mandatory spending in here. There are pay increases in here. There are benefit provisions in here. This is a must-do bill.

Senator WARNER, in his great leadership over the years, has made it possible for many of these bills to get to the floor. I look forward to all our efforts to get this bill done in the very few weeks we have remaining. If we do get it done—and I am optimistic—it will be because Senator WARNER, as always, brings his managerial skills and his good nature and his other skills to the fore. I look forward to trying to get this bill done the way we have been able to do it for all these years.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I thank my distinguished colleague for his kind remarks. I should also wish to join him in thanking the members of our committee. We have had an excellent committee, and we have a very bipartisan, professional staff. I am sure we can do the job. I will point out one additional feature—military construction. I daresay that almost every Member of this body has a provision somewhere in this bill relating to military construction. Without passage of the bill, that simply will not take place.

Mr. LEVIN. I thank my friend. I want to make another point. In the weeks we have remaining, we not only have to get this bill passed, but we have to get it to conference and back in probably a record period of time. It is going to take all of the cooperation of the Members of the Senate. We are going to succeed. There are 100 reasons to do it, and all of them boil down to the men and women in uniform and their families and the security of this country. The incentive should be there for us to do it. Because of the long delay, we have to do it in record time. We have had wonderful cooperation from members of the committee on a bipartisan basis. We have tremendous staff members who have worked over the recess to get the work done so we can get this bill passed in a very short period of time and so that we would have a reasonable chance of getting this bill done in the number of weeks we have left.

The committee approved this bill unanimously. More than 4 months ago now, on April 30, we tried to bring the bill to the Senate floor. At the end of July, we were unable to do so because we could not obtain cloture on the motion to proceed. There are many important nondefense legislative proposals that Members would like to bring before the Senate to get adopted. I am one of those Members. There are a number of things I would love to bring before the Senate and get adopted. But we cannot take out our frustration on our troops. I am prepared to give up a whole bunch of nondefense amendments that I hoped to be able to bring to the Senate's attention. I am willing to give them up. I hope other Members who feel the same way will ensure that we have a Defense bill this year.

This bill is simply too important and the time available to us is too limited to be sidetracked by unrelated amendments, as important as they may be. As my dear friend from Virginia said, we have enacted a defense authorization act every year now for 4½ decades. During that time, there have been years when we had to invoke cloture to get final passage, years when we have had to enter unanimous consent agreements to expedite consideration of the bill, years in which the bill was vetoed and we had to start over again. There have been years in which we have spent weeks debating the bill on the Senate floor and months in conference with the House. We have had to address serious disagreements over issues such as base closures and missile defense. But we have always had a bill because Members have always understood that we have to do what it takes to do the right thing for our soldiers, sailors, airmen, marines, and their families.

These authorization bills, which come annually, contain provisions that improve the quality of life for our men and women in uniform and give them the tools they need to defend our Nation and provide critical reforms to improve the operations of the Pentagon. That is the case with this bill. The bill reported by the Armed Services Committee 3 months ago obtains many provisions of critical importance to our troops.

First and foremost, the bill would increase military pay by 3.9 percent, a half percent more than the President requested. It provides continued authority for the payment of enlistment and reenlistment bonuses, ascension and retention bonuses for servicemembers with critical skills who are assigned to high-priority units, and bonuses and incentives to reward our troops to make sure we can retain our people. It provides new incentives to military psychologists and the nursing students to address the ongoing shortages we have in these critical specialty areas.

At a time when thousands of our troops are deployed around the world and our voluntary military is strained to meet the requirements of ongoing conflicts, while remaining prepared for other contingencies these are steps that we simply must take.

When our men and women in uniform are in harm's way, there is nothing

more important for us to do. The bill would increase the end strength of the Army, Marine Corps, Air National Guard, and Army Reserve to reduce the incredible stress on our troops. It would establish and extend critical authorities needed by the DOD for current operations. For instance, it would provide the Department of Defense the authorization to use funds for quick turnaround construction projects needed to support our troops in Iraq and Afghanistan. It will extend the DOD's authority to provide training and funds and stabilization in security assistance, which are so essential to the well-being of our troops.

The bill includes numerous other measures to improve the quality of life for our service men and women, retirees, and their families. For instance, the bill ensures that wounded and injured servicemembers will not be charged for meals received at military treatment facilities. It is so unbelievable that some of those facilities make these current charges, so I should repeat it. This bill will ensure that wounded and injured servicemembers will not be charged for meals received in military treatment facilities. It will provide supplemental impact aid for schools with large populations and military children. It authorizes funds for military construction projects, military family housing, and BRAC-related construction to ensure that our troops have the housing they deserve and our military has the facilities it needs for the national defense.

The bill will build on last year's National Guard Empowerment Act by requiring the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs and the Chief of the National Guard Bureau, to develop a strategic plan to enhance the rule of the National Guard and Reserves, taking into account the recent report of the Commission on National Guard and Reserves.

The bill will provide funding for critical initiatives, including $3 billion for the Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Organization. That is the ongoing effort of that organization to defeat the threat of these explosive devices. There are over $100 million in investments in advanced energy and power technology to support defense missions, such as hybrid engines, military fuels research, and battery technology, and more than $120 million to combat the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and improve our ability to reduce and respond to threats of weapons of mass destruction, both at home and abroad.

Another thing this bill does is something I think every American who has heard about the fact that we are spending taxpayer dollars for the reconstruction of Iraq, while the Iraqis have about $80 billion in surplus funds in banks, including ours, drawing interest from the American taxpayers, to go to the Iraqi Government to build infrastructure in Iraq while they are charging us $120 a barrel and we are paying $4 a gallon for gasoline. When the American public focused on that a few weeks ago, the reaction was what we would expect. They were astounded that 5½ years later, $11 billion a month is going out of our taxpayers' pockets, while the Iraqis have a huge oil surplus based on the revenues they get from $120- or $130-a-barrel oil, and with all that money in the bank, we are still paying significant moneys for Iraqi reconstruction. It is unconscionable.

We have a provision in this bill that will require the Iraqis to use their own oil revenues rather than U.S. taxpayer dollars to pay for the large infrastructure projects and also for the training and equipping of their own military. We all remember Deputy Defense Secretary Wolfowitz, at the beginning of the war, who said Iraq would be able to ''finance its own reconstruction through oil revenue.'' But that has not proven to be the fact. U.S. taxpayers, so far, have paid $48 billion for stabilization and reconstruction activities in Iraq.

Again, the Iraqi Government has generated more than $100 billion in oil revenue since the war began and spent only a fraction of that amount on its own reconstruction. Under these circumstances, it is inexcusable and unconscionable for U.S. taxpayers to have to foot the bill for projects that the Iraqis are fully capable of funding themselves. The bill addresses that problem. We should not have to have legislation on that. The President ought to call the Prime Minister of Iraq and say: Folks, you have $80 billion. Reimburse us for the reconstruction. Surely, the ongoing construction should be paid for by Iraq's surplus. But, apparently, that is not going to happen. So this legislation is needed.

The bill also includes a number of measures to ensure the proper stewardship of taxpayer dollars. These include provisions that would institute improved cost control for the acquisition of major weapons systems, require program managers to incorporate energy efficiency requirements and performance parameters for such systems, and ensure that private security contractors don't engage in combat and combat-related activities on the battlefield. This is a reform that has been needed for a long time. We have these contractors that are hired to perform Government functions, with combat-related duties. We simply have to make sure these private security contractors don't engage in combat-related activities in these battle zones. We have to increase oversight and accountability for housing privatization initiatives, and the bill does all that. Our acquisition system is in deep trouble. This bill addresses that issue.

Since the beginning of 2006, nearly half of the 95 largest acquisition programs of the Department of Defense have exceeded the so-called Nunn-McCurdy cost growth standards that were established by Congress to identify seriously troubled programs.

I wonder if I might inquire of the Chair about the time remaining that I control.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator has 30 seconds remaining.

Mr. LEVIN. I will yield back.

Mr. WARNER. I yield my time to my colleague. I think I have 2 minutes remaining.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator has 3 minutes 15 seconds.

Mr. LEVIN. I thank my friend. I am happy to share that with him. I am appreciative.

As I was saying, almost half of our largest acquisition programs have exceeded the Nunn-McCurdy standard to identify seriously troubled programs. These major defense acquisition programs are known as MRAPs. They have exceeded their R&D development by an average of 40 percent, and we have seen their acquisition costs grow by an average of 26 percent and experience an average delay of almost 2 years. The GAO tells us the cost overruns on these major defense acquisition programs—just on these programs—now total almost $300 billion over and above the original program estimates. This isn't the cost of these programs. This is the cost of the programs above what they were supposed to cost—$295 billion. That is true even though we have cut quantities in those programs and reduced performance expectations on many programs in an effort to hold costs down.

I want to put into context what the $295 billion cost overrun could buy for us. This is what we could buy at current prices: two new aircraft carriers at $10 billion each, eight Virginia class submarines at $2.5 billion each, 500 V–22 Ospreys, 500 Joint Strike Fighters, and 10,000 MRAPs—all of that, not either/or but all of it—and we could still pay for the total cost of our future combat system program, which is $130 billion.

That is just the overruns in those programs which have exceeded their cost estimates. These overruns happen because of fundamental flaws that are built into our acquisition system.

I will conclude because it is now time for us to vote. I am very hopeful that every Member of this Senate will vote to proceed to this bill. We cannot justify again delaying consideration of this Defense authorization bill. The men and women in uniform deserve for us to act. There is no way that we can look their parents, their families, their loved ones in the eyes and justify a failure to adopt this bill this month.

Again, I thank all the members of the committee and my good friend, Senator WARNER, for everything he has done to make it possible for us to at least have a good chance to pass this bill.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, my understanding is at the hour of 5:30 p.m. the vote will commence.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the

Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to proceed to S. 3001, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009.

Carl Levin, Christopher J. Dodd, E. Benjamin Nelson, John F. Kerry, Claire McCaskill, Joseph R. Biden, Jr., Bill Nelson, Blanche L. Lincoln, Richard Durbin, Daniel K. Akaka, Robert Menendez, Kent Conrad, Sherrod Brown, Jack Reed, Jim Webb, Charles E. Schumer, Harry Reid.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call is waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the motion to proceed to S. 3001, an original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2009 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Delaware (Mr. BIDEN), the Senator from New York (Mrs. CLINTON), the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUYE), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY), the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU), the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. MCCASKILL), the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. OBAMA) and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) are necessarily absent.

Mr. KYL. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Kansas (Mr. BROWNBACK), the Senator from North Carolina (Mrs. DOLE), the Senator from Nevada (Mr. ENSIGN), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN), the Senator from New Hampshire (Mr. SUNUNU), the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER) and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER).

Further, if present and voting, the senator from North Carolina (Mrs. DOLE) would have voted ''yea.''

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 83, nays 0, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 197 Leg.]

YEAS—83

Akaka	Coburn	Hagel
Alexander	Cochran	Harkin
Allard	Coleman	Hatch
Barrasso	Collins	Hutchison
Baucus	Conrad	Inhofe
Bayh	Corker	Isakson
Bennett	Cornyn	Johnson
Bingaman	Craig	Kerry
Bond	Crapo	Klobuchar
Boxer	DeMint	Kohl
Brown	Dodd	Kyl
Bunning	Domenici	Lautenberg
Burr	Dorgan	Leahy
Byrd	Durbin	Levin
Cantwell	Enzi	Lieberman
Cardin	Feingold	Lincoln
Carper	Feinstein	Lugar
Casey	Grassley	Martinez
Chambliss	Gregg	McConnell
Menendez	Rockefeller	Stabenow
Murkowski	Salazar	Stevens
Murray	Sanders	Tester
Nelson (FL)	Schumer	Thune
Nelson (NE)	Sessions	Voinovich
Pryor	Shelby	Warner
Reed	Smith	Webb
Reid	Snowe	Whitehouse
Roberts	Specter	

NOT VOTING—17

Biden	Inouye	Obama
Brownback	Kennedy	Sununu
Clinton	Landrieu	Vitter
Dole	McCain	Wicker
Ensign	McCaskill	Wyden
Graham	Mikulski	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 83, the nays are 0. Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn having voted in the affirmative, the motion is agreed to.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, for the benefit of Members, cloture has been invoked on the motion to proceed. We are now waiting to see if we are going to require the use of 30 hours. We hope that is not the case. The two managers of the bill are ready to start legislating whenever they can.

We have worked all afternoon trying to figure out a way to move forward on this bill, and I hope we can do that very quickly. This is an extremely important piece of legislation. This is the way we take care of our troops. There is a 3.9-percent pay increase in this bill, and there are a lot of other good efforts to help the Nation's military, so I hope we can move as quickly as possible. But we will wait for the Republicans to tell us if they are going to require the use of the 30 hours postcloture.

There will be no more votes today, Mr. President.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNANIMOUS-CONSENT REQUEST—H.R. 6532

Mr. REID. Mr. President, earlier today I came to the floor and indicated I had received calls from the administration—specifically, one call from the Secretary of Transportation, Mary Peters, who pleaded with me to do everything I could to replenish the money from the highway trust fund. The House has passed legislation that that will take place on or about October 1 of this year. What we want to do, at the request of the administration, is move that forward and do that now. The money is gone. The Secretary has informed me and everyone else that she is going to start doling the money out, first 80 percent and then, as I understand what she said to me, it will be 50 percent, and pretty soon nothing. We have major projects around the country that will go unfunded and will have to cease construction.

It is extremely important we do this. We have asked, on many occasions prior to today, that this take place. We knew the trust fund was down. But we have asked this be done before, and we received word from the White House that this was something they did not want to do. Now it appears the White House wants to have it done—as they should have wanted it done a long time ago.

Mr. President, having said that, I ask unanimous consent the Finance Committee be discharged from H.R. 6532 and the Senate proceed to its consideration; that the amendment at the desk be considered and agreed to, the bill, as amended, be read a third time, passed, the motion to reconsider be laid on the table and any statements relating to this matter be printed at its appropriate place in the RECORD with no intervening action or debate.

That is the consent. I add that what this would do is replenish—take from the general fund money in the sum of $8 billion and put it in the highway trust fund.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. GREGG. Reserving the right to object, if the majority leader will allow me to take a minute or so to explain the theory behind the objection, it is this. Essentially, the highway fund was set up with the highway trust fund and road construction to be paid for with revenues from gas receipts. This will be one of the first occasions when the highways' construction will be paid for by taking the money out of the general fund. The only problem is we don't have any money in the general fund. This money will have to be borrowed from our children.

It makes no sense from our fiscal responsibility to set this precedent. There are many other ways this can be paid for in a responsible way. Therefore, I do not believe we should start a precedent of borrowing from the general fund in order to pay for highway construction, which historically has been paid out of the highway trust fund.

Therefore, on behalf of myself and Senator DEMINT, I will be objecting. But I would like to say this. I believe that with a reasonable number of amendments, probably no more than three, and a very tight timeframe, we can address the issues about which I am concerned and about which Senator DEMINT is concerned. They would be relevant issues, I would hope. We would run them by the majority leader so he could be reasonably comfortable with their relevance. Mine obviously would be related to paying for it in a more responsible way than borrowing it from our children.

At this time, I have to object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. REID. As I said a number of times, I so appreciate the ability that I have—and I hope he, the distinguished senior Senator from New Hampshire,

has with me—to talk with each other, even though we disagree on matters. He is always very upfront. He told me what amendments he thinks should be offered and I appreciate that very much. But at this stage we cannot do that. It would take days to get to this matter and then, of course, amendments would take time.

I would also add this. This is not the first time the highway trust fund has been used in some manner. In 1998 we took approximately $8 billion from the highway trust fund and put it in the general fund. So now this is an opportunity to pay that back. We should have done it some time ago. We didn't do that.

I appreciate the concern of the Senator from New Hampshire, but I hope, during the night, people will think about this. I hope the Secretary of Transportation will let the Republicans know how desperate the country is for this money. We will renew this request tomorrow.

Mrs. BOXER. Will my colleague yield please for a question?

Mr. REID. I am happy to yield for a question.

Mrs. BOXER. I stand here as the chair of the Environment and Public Works Committee. We write the highway bill, and Senator MURRAY is involved in the funding of it. Both of us are involved in both. I ask the majority leader's opinion on this.

We found out days ago that 82,000 jobs were lost in the month of August.

Mr. REID. It was 84,000.

Mrs. BOXER. Thank you for the correction—84,000 jobs were lost in the month of August and our unemployment rate is the highest in 5 years. It is over 6 percent. I think it is extraordinary. I understand the respect we all have for Senator GREGG. He is upfront about how he feels. But the bottom line is, when people don't get a paycheck and they lose their job, I want them to know what is going on here. You have the Secretary of Transportation calling all of us saying: Please move now. As my friend pointed out, we have, in fact, used the highway trust fund in the past to fund the general fund. So this is not some extraordinary moment in history.

My question to my friend is—I want to ask you this, Mr. Leader: Could you please state again the urgency of this matter so my Governor, who is dealing with a horrific budget crisis—he doesn't need this. Neither does my State legislature. I have a Republican Governor and Democratic State legislature struggling to get a budget passed. I won't go into the details. You need two-thirds to pass it. Now we get this circumstance and job layoffs start to go out and the funding goes down—would my friend, the leader, please explain again in clear language why this is so urgent.

Mr. REID. I say to my friend, the chair of the committee of jurisdiction, the highway trust fund is broke. As a result of that, there are roads being built and bridges being built and that is simply going to stop. The people there, going to work, in the near future are not going to be able to go to work anymore because there is no money to pay them.

I would also say this. One of the things that so concerns me about the Bush-Cheney-McCain operation is no one seems to care about all the red ink we have spent over the last 8 years. In Iraq alone we are spending $5,000 a second. During the time we have been here since this vote started, 40 minutes—I don't know how much money that is. I tried to figure out what it would be, 40 times 60 times 240. It is lots of money. Everything we have done this last 8 years has been basically done on borrowed money.

Here is a situation where the administration is asking us to take money from the general fund. They will borrow that money as they have done with everything here. That is why we have a $11 or $12 trillion debt. I cannot imagine that self-righteous people are all of a sudden wanting things paid for.

Mrs. BOXER. If I could ask one more question. The Senator has hit the nail on the head. We do not hear any complaints from Senators DEMINT or GREGG or any of them over there on that side, or Senator MCCONNELL, when we send all this money abroad. As a matter of fact, the administration announced $1 billion to Georgia—not Atlanta, GA, the country of Georgia.

Regardless of how we feel, we all want to help them——

Mr. REID. That is borrowed money.

Mrs. BOXER. Borrowed money. The war costs $1 billion to the country of Georgia. Why are we paying $1 billion? It seems to me Europe has some interest in this. But oh, no, now we hear objection from our Republican friends when it comes to investing in America.

I tell my friend, the American people need to know more about this. That is why I prolonged this discussion. I thank the Senator.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Hampshire is recognized.

Mr. GREGG. I appreciate the enthusiasm of the Senator from California for her position. I don't think it accurately reflects my position. When you are voting for war costs, you are voting for supporting soldiers in the field. Basically, there is a big difference between the obligation of a Federal government to defend the Nation and support soldiers in the field and the obligation of the Federal Government to borrow from our children in order to do construction which should be paid for from taxes which go into the highway trust fund. That is a fairly significant difference. In fact, the two, as a matter of public policy, have basically no touch point.

The issue is, the highway trust fund does not have enough money in it right now to pay for the costs which have been obligated as a result of construction commitments.

We knew 3 or 4 years ago, when we passed the highway bill, that as a very practical matter we were setting up this scenario because we put in place thousands—actually, tens of thousands—of projects in that bill which we knew could not be paid for under the projected cash flows into the highway trust fund. We knew this point was going to occur when we passed that bill. So now we are here, and suddenly we hear these statements: Well, I am sorry, we are out of money. So we have to go into the general fund—which doesn't have any money, by the way—and take money out of the general fund and put it in the highway trust fund in order to pay for these costs. Well, who pays for that? That is borrowed debt. That is debt on debt. Our children pay for that.

The purpose of the highway trust fund was to build roads and to do it in a fiscally responsible way. If the highway trust fund does not have enough money to build the roads that are proposed, then you either, A, get more money into the highway trust fund; B, take the money from someplace else that is part of the trust fund, such as the mass-transit fund, which was the proposal of the administration initially and which makes probably the most sense here; or, C, you raise more money for the highway trust fund, something I do not happen to support, but that is the responsible way to approach this. You do not go into the general fund and set a precedent of borrowing from the general fund for the purposes of funding the highway trust fund because all that means is our children will get the bill and you will set up a scenario where the next time we get the highway bill, there will be even more projects in it because people will know the relevance of the highway trust fund, and the revenues coming into it, has no relationship to the number of projects you put in the bill because they will know that the precedent has been set that you can raid the general fund for the purposes of the highway trust fund. This is not good policy. It is not good fiscal policy.

It has nothing to do, by the way, with funding troops in the field. Now, the Senator from California alleges that I am supporting funding Iraq. By the way, I am not. Iraq reconstruction—I actually put the language in the appropriations bill which stopped money from going for Iraq reconstruction. So don't accuse me of something I didn't do. I have supported funding the troops, but I do not happen to believe we should be sending any more money to the Iraq Government. I think they should be sending us more money, if we get down to the basics here, for all the money we have spent on reconstruction, especially the money that has been stolen.

But, in any event, that is a red herring. The issue here is whether we are going to set the terrible precedent of using general fund money to fund the highway trust fund because, believe me, once you open that floodgate, there is no end to it—no end to it—and

the next time we get a highway bill around here, there will be no end to the amount of spending that is involved.

Now, I understand the construction industry is not really too concerned about that. I mean, they want those dollars and they want them now. If they get access to the general fund, they are probably pretty excited about that. But it is terrible policy. Remember, these projects will not be terminated. The spend-out will continue. It will continue at a slower rate. As money comes into the general fund, it gets spent out of the general fund. That is called—wow, a surprise—pay as you go.

Now, I hear a lot from the other side of the aisle about pay as you go. Well, this is the ultimate test of pay as you go. We should be paying for highway construction as we go or, alternatively, if you really want to start raiding different funds, you should raid within the highway trust fund. There are significant dollars in the mass-transit fund. You could take that money and put it in the highway trust fund if you really wanted to be consistent about funding the transportation needs of this country or, as I said earlier, you could raise the taxes, which I do not happen to support, to go into either one of those funds in order to make this a more responsible fiscal action. But what we are setting here is a precedent that makes no sense at all from a standpoint of fiscal policy.

The majority leader is absolutely right. We have been spending money around here in a very profligate way, and regretably it has not been a partisan event, it has been bipartisan. There has been a lot of money spent here that should not have been spent. But that doesn't justify creating a new precedent which will create significant debt for our children, on top of debt which already exists, when we know that is not the policy that was set up under the highway trust fund.

Now, if the theory of the chairman of this committee is that the highway trust fund is essentially a nonexistent event, that it is basically something that is there, it is a political statement—you know, the gas taxes should come in and be spent, but if we run out of gas taxes, we go into the general fund—if that is the position of the majority, the chairman of the committee, which appears to be the position, well, then let's abolish the highway trust fund. Let's abolish it. Let's put the gas tax into the general revenue base, and then you can argue, effectively, that it should come from general funds for construction—not necessarily a good policy. In fact, it moves away from good policy. If we wanted a good policy, we would actually have a much more structured capital budget around here, and we would fund it from independent sources such as gas taxes.

So we have a difference of opinion. It is a difference of opinion, however, that is pretty significant because it goes to the question of, How does a government spend money when it runs out of money? Does it borrow the money? Does it raise taxes or does it slow its spending to meet its income? And I would suggest that the best way to approach this is to slow spending to meet incomes.

The second way to address this is to keep the integrity of the highway trust fund by moving funding around within the highway trust fund. The third way to address this is to raise taxes, which I do not support. But absolutely the worst way to address this is to essentially make the highway trust fund a nonevent, neutralize it, neuter it, and essentially merge it with the general fund, which is what is going to happen as a practical matter if this bill goes forward in this form.

Now, I suggest to the majority leader, since I do not have the votes to sustain my position—I recognize that—the influence of the various forces that want to get this money is pretty significant, as always happens around here anyway, but in this case it is even more significant since the White House has changed its position just this week.

But I have suggested that we take up this bill, we spend a couple of hours on it, allow myself and Senator DEMINT—I think Senator DEMINT told me he wanted two amendments—I cannot speak for him, but I believe that is what he said—and that they would be relevant to earmarks, and my amendment would be relative to a better way to pay for this, which would be to pay for this by the transit fund or, alternatively, set up some sort of structure where the general fund gets paid back. But in any event, we could set aside a couple of hours here sometime this week and do it. I mean, we can do that on unanimous consent. I think it is a reasonable way to approach it, and as a very practical matter, it would give those of us who think a fiscally responsible approach at least requires a vote on it the chance to vote on it.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I did not dream up the idea that projects were going to be terminated. That is what the Secretary of Transportation told me. Now, maybe I misunderstood her. Maybe she was exaggerating. But that is what I took away from my conversation with her.

It is difficult for me to argue with the Senator from New Hampshire because I think it is fair to say that he has been trying to raise a red flag for a number of years about the wild spending of this administration. Even though he is a stalwart Republican and close to the administration, he has not been quiet about this.

Now, this is an issue I brought up today because I was asked to do so by the White House. Let the record be clear: Democrats have been very supportive of funding the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. We want to support the troops. And we can go into another discussion—and none of us want to get into that tonight—about what is going on in Afghanistan and Iraq.

But the highway trust fund, part of it—and I believe, if we ever get to a point where we are debating amendments on taking money out of mass transit—maybe 20, 25 years ago, when Nevada didn't have these tremendously difficult problems we have with traffic, with roads, and we were not concerned about mass transit, maybe we would have joined with the Senator from New Hampshire. But we in Nevada, as with many metropolitan areas around the country, are desperately in need of more transit money, not less—more transit money rather than less. So it would exacerbate a tremendously difficult problem if the idea of the Senator from New Hampshire bore fruit; that is, we take the money out of mass transit and put it in for highways. That would be the wrong thing to do.

You can no longer say that the highway trust fund is just for highways because for decades now, we have used part of this money—rightfully so—because of actions of the Congress, along with the administrations, taking this money and doing very important mass-transit projects.

So here is where we are. If we were able to have a vote on this piece of legislation tonight or tomorrow, it would pass overwhelmingly. But, as with the Senate, we cannot move to things just because we want to. We have a lot ahead of this. We have the Defense authorization bill, we have an energy issue we have to take up. That is next week. Every day that goes by, according to the Secretary of Transportation, is a bad day for the Department of Transportation.

Mr. DURBIN. Would the majority leader yield for a question?

It is my understanding that the Bush administration's Secretary of Transportation has asked us to move this bill, to put billions of dollars into the highway trust fund, so that it will not go broke so that we can continue building those projects across America to reduce highway congestion. And we have an objection on the floor of the Senate from a member of the Republican party to move to this bill to put the money in the highway trust fund; is that correct?

Mr. REID. The Senator is right. I see on the floor a poster child for the necessity to do this, and that is the junior Senator from Minnesota. We had a bridge collapse from lack of money, and we, on an emergency basis, came to this floor, recognizing what a catastrophe that was for Minnesota and our country. That bridge is now being built with borrowed money.

Mr. DURBIN. I say to the leader in closing, to make the record clear for those following the debate, our attempt to pass a bipartisan measure to help the administration, to make certain there is money in the highway trust fund is being stopped by the Republican side of the aisle; is that correct?

Mr. REID. Absolutely true.

Mrs. MURRAY. Would the majority leader yield for a question? I would say to the majority leader, since I am chairman of transportation appropriations, I have been warning of this to come for some time. It is my understanding that the amendment you are asking unanimous consent for takes $8 billion out of the general fund and puts it back in the trust fund, which is exactly what happened back in 1998, in reverse.

Taxpayers pay their gas tax into the trust fund, expect it to go for transportation projects. In 1998, we took $8 billion of that money that they expected to go into transportation funding and put it in the general fund.

What you are asking to do tonight is simply to take that $8 billion back and put it exactly where taxpayers expected it to go originally, which was to transportation funds; is that not correct?

Mr. REID. The Senator from Washington is exactly correct.

Mrs. MURRAY. I did not talk to the Secretary of Transportation. I did see their press release that they now want this money to come out. It is my understanding that if we do not take this action, as the House has done, that beginning this Thursday, and shortly thereafter, States will not get their transportation dollars and will therefore have to begin to lay off workers at construction projects and essentially halt many of the construction projects in the country, correct?

Mr. REID. When I talked to her, I believe last Friday, she indicated to me that she was going to have to make those difficult decisions. Then I also read her press release later, after she had been able, I guess, to put more numbers in the paper, and that is what I read, which is an elaboration of what she told me.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I share the concern of the majority leader.

I am deeply concerned that several members of the Republican Party have said no to this. At a time when our economy is in real trouble, when construction projects are not only providing critical dollars but completing important transportation work across the country, that we would allow those projects to be halted and workers to be laid off, adding to the economic woes of the country at this time, is simply not a smart move. I hope we see that decision reconsidered on the other side in the next 24 hours.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Minnesota.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I thank the majority leader for his leadership. I am not surprised that the Transportation Secretary for the Bush administration would call the majority leader and ask this be done. She came to us today. She stood over that bridge the day after it happened. When I was listening to my friend from New Hampshire talk about the fact that we need to continue funding our soldiers, of course, we need to do that. But for me, this is an issue of priorities. Why this administration would decide to spend $10 billion a month in Iraq month after month after month, so that this war has gone on longer than World War II, while we have bridges collapsing, while we have levees falling apart, defies reality.

When I heard the Senator from New Hampshire talk about soldiers on the frontline, which this Congress has been more supportive of than any other Congress for continuing that funding, for those people on the bridge that day in Minnesota, they were on the frontline. Those people who plummeted into that cold water that day were on the frontline. People died at that bridge. The NTSB has not concluded its investigation of the cause for the bridge collapse, but what we do know is, if it had been fixed earlier, if there had been appropriate funds all over this country for bridge and levee repairs, we may not have experienced some of the disasters we have seen. I view this not only as fixing a bridge that, by the way, is six blocks from my house—I drive over it every day with my daughter in the back seat, an eight-lane bridge that fell into the Mississippi River—it is also about going into the next century's transportation system.

If we are going to move to the next century in this economy, if we are going to start talking about transportation and wind and solar and doing things with biofuels and building our own energy future, we cannot be stuck in the last century's transportation system. As we face difficult economic times and look at the number in terms of what we can generate in jobs with transportation funding, it is a winner. I want to have an infrastructure plan and a stimulus package that lasts long after the rebate checks are cashed, that is looking to the future with infrastructure funding.

When Dwight D. Eisenhower created the interstate highway system, when President Roosevelt did the rural electrification system, they saw it as not only moving the economy forward, they saw it as a way to generate jobs. That is what this is about.

It is shortsighted, indeed, and shows a lack of understanding of the country's priorities to say that we should let transportation funding go down the pot while we are constructing bridges in Iraq and as bridges in Minnesota are falling apart.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. BOXER. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNIZING LOS TIGRES DEL NORTE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the musical group Los Tigres del Norte for its contribution to the greater Las Vegas community and especially for its commitment to the Silver State's vibrant Hispanic community. As we commemorate the importance of the Hispanic community in Nevada and around the country during Hispanic Heritage month, I find it fitting to recognize the members of Los Tigres del Norte for their talent and dedication.

Just last year, this premier musical group was chosen by a committee comprising Las Vegas community and business leaders to join individuals such as my good friend, Wayne Newton, Vicente Fernandez, and other notable celebrities who have made a positive impact on Clark County. Like the Walk of Stars honorees before them, Los Tigres del Norte have added to the worldwide prominence of Las Vegas. These talented artists have also been an encouraging and supportive voice for the Silver State's hardworking Hispanic community.

Their Grammy and Latin Grammy winning music not only entertains, but it sends a clear message that we all have a commitment to making a lasting impact on our community, regardless of the color of our skin or our country of origin. It also tells stories of those individuals who often are not able to share their concerns and challenges. Los Tigres del Norte truly are a voice of the unheard. They confront the issues of our day and use their music as a medium to provide inspiration and hope.

Today I join my colleagues in the Silver State in recognizing Los Tigres del Norte for all they have brought to Nevada and their dedication to serving as a positive voice for our vibrant Hispanic community. Their addition to the Las Vegas Walk of Stars was a much deserved recognition of their almost 40-year-long musical career and their success in bringing to light the challenges facing America's Hispanic communities. As we celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month, I offer my congratulations to Los Tigres del Norte—an accomplished group of musicians of whom all Nevadans can be proud.

TRIBUTE TO TRILBY WHOBREY BALL

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise to pay tribute to a dear friend of mine who has left behind her beloved

Commonwealth stronger than when she found it. Mrs. Trilby Whobrey Ball was 80 years old when she passed away in her Owensboro, KY, home this August 26.

Born in the Kentucky town of Semiway, in McLean County, Trilby—or Trib, to her friends—graduated from Calhoun High School in 1946. She married her husband, Dr. Coy ''Eddie'' Ball, in 1947 when they both were attending Western Kentucky University. The Balls moved to Owensboro in 1964, where they would stay until this day.

Trib became well known to her neighbors and friends as she became active in her community. She was a member of the Daviess County Medical Auxiliary/Alliance since 1964 and served on the boards of several important charitable causes, including the Ellis Park Foundation, the Alma Randolph Foundation and the H.L. Neblett Center.

In fact, I first became aware of the H.L. Neblett Center through Trib. The old building she showed me wasn't good enough, and I was able to appropriate funds to construct a new H.L. Neblett Center for the community to focus on mentoring children and their families. That is directly due to Trib, and a room in the new building is appropriately named after her.

Since 2005, she was a member of the Kentucky State Legislative Ethics Commission. She joined Owensboro's First Baptist Church and became an integral member of the New Ladies Sunday school class, a group of fast friends who were very supportive of the Ball family during Trib's final years.

Trib also became involved in local politics and devoted a lot of time to serving her community and her country that way. Back in the days when Kentucky was very much dominated by one political party, she stood up for a competitive two-party system. She became active in the Republican Party of Daviess County and of Kentucky, and was chairperson of the 21-county Second District from 1968 to 1972. She cochaired the Daviess County gubernatorial campaign for Kentucky Governor Louie B. Nunn.

Trib served on the party's State Central Committee for more than 20 years, and represented Kentucky as either a delegate or a guest at the Republican National Convention three times. In fact, in my role as its temporary chairman, I selected her to be my honorary escort for the 2008 Republican Convention, just held last week. Sadly, she left us before that date, but I decided to let her appointment stand as I know Trib would have loved to be with us in St. Paul, MN.

May I add, that Trib was also a longtime, steadfast supporter of my own campaigns, and I remember her eagerness to help and to volunteer very well. Trib was very helpful to me back when no one knew who I was or if I could win a statewide election. I'm gratified that 24 years after the fact, she told a reporter at a Lincoln Day luncheon this year that my first Senate race in 1984 was one of the sweetest campaigns she ever worked on. It was made all the sweeter by her presence.

Friends and family members will remember Trib's love of boating, basketball and bluegrass music when they think of her long, well-lived life. She leaves behind her husband of nearly 61 years, Eddie; their two children, Bonnie Harris and her husband Jay as well as David Ball and his wife Christy; her grandchildren, Jack, Cal and Keeley Harris; her sister, Sylvia Gross; several nieces and nephews; and many other beloved family members.

Mrs. Trilby Whobrey Ball was a very special woman and one of Kentucky's finest citizens. I extend my deepest sympathies to her family. She will be greatly missed by all who loved her.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

SERGEANT BRIAN K. MILLER

Mr. BAYH. Mr. President, I rise today with a heavy heart to honor the life of SGT Brian K. Miller from Pendleton, IN. Brian was 37 years old when he lost his life on August 2, 2008, in Abd Allah, Iraq, from injuries sustained when his vehicle overturned. He was a member of D Company, 1st Battalion, 293rd Infantry Division, 76th Infantry Brigade, Army National Guard of Huntington, IN.

Today, I join Brian's family and friends in mourning his death. Brian will forever be remembered as a loving husband, father, son, brother, friend, and soldier. He is survived by his wife, Becky Miller; his children, Nikki and Austin Miller; his mother, Donna Cook; his sister, Tammy Osalear; and his brother, Kevin Miller. Brian was preceded in death by his father, Glen Miller; and his brother, Kenny Miller.

A lifelong Hoosier, Brian was born in Indianapolis, IN, and graduated from Pendleton Heights High School in 1990. Driven to public service, he joined the Indiana Army National Guard as a metal worker in 1989, while still in high school. Brian was assigned to Company D (HM), 738th Maintenance Battalion in Indianapolis and later moved to 1413th Engineer Detachment in Edinburgh, Indiana, where he was a vehicle mechanic and a welder. He later served time with Company C (HM), 38th Main Support Battalion as a welder and vehicle mechanic.

For 19 years, Brian devoted himself to national service through the Indiana National Guard. He assisted in Hurricane Katrina recovery efforts in the Mississippi Valley and in security for the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta. In March, Brian was deployed to Iraq, serving as a truck commander for more than 20 combat logistics patrols and working full-time as a technician with the Indiana Army National Guard. His comrades remember Brian as a respected leader who brought both professionalism and humor to his service, and as a man who loved his family. For his exceptional service and sacrifice, Brian was awarded the Army Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal, Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal with 5 Oak Leaf clusters, Armed Forces Reserve Medal, Iraqi Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon, and the Joint Meritorious Unit Award.

While we struggle to express our sorrow over this loss, we can take pride in the example Brian set. Today and always, Brian will be remembered by family, friends, and fellow Hoosiers as a true American hero, and we cherish the sacrifice he made while dutifully serving his country.

As I search for words to do justice to this valiant fallen soldier, I recall President Abraham Lincoln's words as he addressed the families of soldiers who died at Gettysburg:

> We cannot dedicate, we cannot consecrate, we cannot hallow this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here.

This statement is just as true today as it was nearly 150 years ago, as we can take some measure of solace in knowing that Brian's heroism and memory will outlive the record of the words here spoken.

It is my sad duty to enter the name of Brian K. Miller in the RECORD of the U.S. Senate for his service to this country and for his profound commitment to freedom, democracy and peace. When I think about this struggle in which we are engaged, and the immeasurable pain that comes with so great a loss, I pray that Brian's family can find comfort in the words of the prophet Isaiah who said:

> He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from off all faces.

May God grant strength and peace to those who mourn, and may God be with all of you, as I know He is with Brian.

SERGEANT GARY M. HENRY

Mr. President, I also rise today with a heavy heart to honor the life of SGT Gary M. Henry from Indianapolis, IN. Gary was 34 years old when he lost his life on August 4, 2008, in Baghdad, Iraq, from injuries sustained from a roadside bomb that hit his vehicle. He was a member of the 38th Military Police Company, 38th Infantry Division, Army National Guard in Danville, IN.

Today, I join Gary's family and friends in mourning his death. Gary will forever be remembered as a loving husband, devoted father, son, brother, friend, and soldier. He is survived by his wife, Regina Lynn; his children, Shelby Brooke, Gavin Michael, and Ashtyn Taylor; his father, Gary Henry; his mother and step-father, Marajo and Rick Castor; his sister, Jennifer Clark; his step-sister, Stevie Ewing; his step-brother, Jon Castor; and his grandparents, Margaret Hawkins, Orville Henry, and Pat Henry.

Gary Henry was one of Indianapolis' great public servants, and his passion was visible in every aspect of his life. He joined the Indiana National Guard in 1991 while he was a student at Whiteland High School. Gary retired from the Guard 12 years ago, but rejoined in 2007, hearing once again the call to national service. A 12-year veteran of the Indianapolis Fire Department, Gary was known to his peers as a team player, a dependable and upstanding leader who could be counted on during hard times. He served as a captain and coordinator of special operations, head of the crisis response team, a paramedic, and a Marion County Deputy.

While we struggle to express our sorrow over this loss, we can take pride in the extraordinary example Gary set. Today and always, Gary will be remembered by family, friends, and fellow Hoosiers as a true American hero, and we cherish the sacrifice he made while dutifully serving his country.

As I search for words to do justice to this valiant fallen soldier, I recall President Abraham Lincoln's words as he addressed the families of soldiers who died at Gettysburg:

> We cannot dedicate, we cannot consecrate, we cannot hallow this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here.

This statement is just as true today as it was nearly 150 years ago, as we can take some measure of solace in knowing that Gary's heroism and memory will outlive the record of the words here spoken.

It is my sad duty to enter the name of Gary M. Henry in the RECORD of the U.S. Senate for his service to this country and for his profound commitment to freedom, democracy, and peace. When I think about this struggle in which we are engaged, and the immeasurable pain that comes with so great a loss, I pray that Gary's family can find comfort in the words of the prophet Isaiah who said:

> He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from off all faces.

May God grant strength and peace to those who mourn, and may God be with all of you, as I know He is with Gary.

SPECIALIST JONATHAN D. MENKE

Further, Mr. President, I rise today with a heavy heart to honor the life of SPC Jonathan D. Menke from Madison, IN. Jon was 22 years old when he lost his life on August 4, 2008, in Baghdad, Iraq, from injuries sustained from a roadside bomb that detonated near his vehicle. He was a member of the 38th Military Police Company, 38th Infantry Division, Army National Guard in Danville, IN.

Today, I join Jonathan's family and friends in mourning his death. Jonathan will forever be remembered as a loving son, brother, friend and soldier. He is survived by his mother, Debbie Kay Estes Sizemore; his father and stepmother, Daniel and Paula Menke; his sisters, Kristen Pearson and Nichole Menke; and his brother, Matthew Eversole. Jon was preceded in death by his brother, Shane Pearson.

A lifelong Hoosier, Jon was born in Columbus, IN, and raised in Madison. A 2005 graduate of Madison Consolidated High School, Jon was a successful student with many talents. He was a member of the football and track teams, qualifying for a regional meet as a member of the 400-meter relay team. He was on the honor roll, was awarded for his art skills in sculpture, and had leading roles in school plays. A natural artist, Jon also played guitar and banjo.

In March of 2004, Jon answered the call to serve his country and joined the Indiana National Guard. He graduated from basic training at Fort Leonard Wood in 2005. Returning to his education, Jon attended Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis and Ivy Tech in Indianapolis. In February of 2008, Jon was called to active duty and deployed to Kuwait and later to East Baghdad, his last assignment. Jon was an exemplary soldier. For his outstanding service and sacrifice, Jon was awarded the Bronze Star Medal, the Purple Heart, Army Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal with Bronze Service Star, Global War On Terrorism Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon and the Combat Action Badge.

While we struggle to express our sorrow over this loss, we can take pride in the example Jon set. Today and always, Jon will be remembered by family, friends, and fellow Hoosiers as a true American hero, and we cherish the sacrifice he made while dutifully serving his country.

As I search for words to do justice to this valiant fallen soldier, I recall President Abraham Lincoln's words as he addressed the families of soldiers who died at Gettysburg:

> We cannot dedicate, we cannot consecrate, we cannot hallow this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add detract. The world will little note nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here.

This statement is just as true today as it was nearly 150 years ago, as we can take some measure of solace in knowing that Jon's heroism and memory will outlive the record of the words here spoken.

It is my sad duty to enter the name of Jonathan D. Menke in the RECORD of the U.S. Senate for his service to this country and for his profound commitment to freedom, democracy, and peace. When I think about this struggle in which we are engaged, and the immeasurable pain that comes with so great a loss, I pray that Jon's family can find comfort in the words of the prophet Isaiah who said:

> He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from off all faces.

May God grant strength and peace to those who mourn, and may God be with all of you, as I know He is with Jon.

REAUTHORIZATION OF THE ANIMAL DRUG USER FEE ACT, H.R. 6432

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I rise today in support of H.R. 6432, a bill that reauthorizes the Animal Drug User Fee Act, or ADUFA, and create a new user fee for the approval of generic animal drugs. This bill also addresses the use of antibiotics in animals, and technical corrections to last year's Food and Drug Administration Amendments Act.

Like human drugs, animal drugs must be shown to be safe and effective before they can be marketed. An animal drug can take 7 to 10 years to develop, at a cost of $100 million or more. ADUFA supports the review of animal drugs by authorizing FDA to collect fees for animal drug applications, and for the establishments, products, and sponsors associated with these products.

This program is similar to the user fee programs for human drugs and medical devices which we renewed last year. Like those programs, ADUFA expires October 1. If we do not act on this bill, 60 valuable FDA employees could be laid off. Even if we simply delay renewal of this program, those employees will receive a ''reduction in force,'' or RIF notice, indicating they might be let go. Many will make that possibility a reality, and leave the agency, taking their talent with them.

ADUFA has been a success. The program has eliminated the review backlog for new animal drugs, improved the timeliness and predictability of reviews, and improved communication between companies and the FDA throughout the process. The renewal of this program will continue to enhance FDA review capacity, including more support for increasingly complex reviews. Also, there is a growing backlog of premarket inspections of foreign animal drug producing facilities, which is a very timely issue. The renewal of ADUFA would better prioritize those inspections, and eliminate the backlog, helping to keep our animal drug supply safe.

The renewal of this important animal health program would nearly double funding levels to $98 million over 5 years. I want to be clear that the renewal of this program does not speed up the review of new animal drugs. It holds FDA to the same performance goals for review times—it just keeps review times from getting slower.

The bill we are considering today contains another important advance for animal drugs. Under the Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act, FDA is required to review and act on generic animal drug applications within 180 days. Unfortunately, in fiscal year 2007, the average review time for generic animal drug applications was 570 days, and there was a backlog of 446 of these submissions. Without Congressional action,

the proposed target for action in fiscal year 2009 is 700 days—nearly 2 years. This is an untenable position.

We all know that FDA is seriously underfunded. Like many of you, I would prefer that appropriations be used to fund the agency's activities. But that is simply not in the offing. An appropriated dollar is better than a user fee dollar, but a user fee dollar is better than no dollar at all. The Animal Generic Drug User Fee Act under consideration today would create a new program to fund the reviews of animal generic drugs. This program will lead to progressive improvements in performance, with the time for review and action on submissions decreasing each year.

If we do not proceed with this initiative, our farmers, ranchers, veterinarians and pet owners like you and me will not be able to capture the savings that result from generic animal drug use. I want to point out that even with the creation of this new user fee, the performance goals do not return animal generic drug review times to the statutory requirement of 180 days. By fiscal year 2013, the fifth year of the program, the proposed review target is 270 days. Once again, the best we can do is to keep things from getting much worse as quickly.

The bill before us today also includes a section expanding and streamlining the reporting of the amount of antibiotics that are used to treat animals that are sold annually and the label information about those antibiotics. This reporting language is a carefully crafted compromise between the farmer, rancher and veterinarian communities on one side and those who think the FDA has inadequate information to assess the potential public health impact of antibiotic use on the other. I appreciate the House Members and staff and outside groups who worked together to achieve this agreement.

Finally, this bill contains just two of several changes necessary to properly implement the Food and Drug Administration Amendments Act of 2007. As with any large piece of legislation, there are some technical corrections necessary to fix inadvertent errors in the law.

These technical corrections are critical to ensuring that key drug safety and transparency provisions in the bill work as intended. I am disappointed that we could not complete agreement on a package in time to attach the package to ADUFA. I am even more discouraged that the House chose to cherry-pick just the technical corrections they wanted and attach those instead.

But given the approaching deadline for renewing ADUFA, we cannot afford to hold this important program hostage to unrelated provisions. I intend to continue pressing for passage of a full package of technical corrections. I appreciate Chairman DINGELL's commitment to continuing to meet and work on this, and I look forward to preparing a full package of technical corrections that can be accepted by both Houses and go into effect.

I thank my colleagues for their hard work on these proposals. We have some work still ahead of us, but the bill before us today contains much that is good. I strongly urge my colleagues to support final passage.

NAMING OF U.S. COURTHOUSE IN RICHMOND, VA

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I rise today to speak on S. 2403, a bill to name the new United States courthouse in Richmond, VA, for two distinguished jurists and sons of VA.

Senator WEBB and I introduced this bill together last year, and the bill passed the Senate on June 24, 2008. The House of Representatives is expected to pass this bill tonight, with a minor technical change. It is my hope that the Senate will accept this minor modification and pass this bill when the legislation returns to the Senate tonight or early tomorrow.

Our bill will recognize two of Virginia's outstanding jurists: Spotswood Robinson III and Robert Mehrige, Jr. They were lawyers who throughout their careers adhered to the principle of ''equal justice under law.''

The first, Spottswood William Robinson, III, was born in Richmond, VA, on July 26, 1916. He attended Virginia Union University and then the Howard University School of Law, graduating first in his class in 1939 and serving as a member of the faculty until 1947.

Judge Robinson was one of the core attorneys of the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund from 1948 to 1960, achieving national prominence in the legal community with his representation of the Virginia plaintiffs in the 1954 U.S. Supreme Court case Brown v. Board of Education. Brown outlawed public school segregation declaring ''separate but equal'' schools unconstitutional.

In 1964, Judge Robinson became the first African American to be appointed to the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia and, in 1966, President Johnson appointed Judge Robinson the first African American to the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit. Finally, on May 7, 1981, Judge Robinson became the first African American to serve as chief judge of the District of Columbia Circuit.

Our second jurist, Judge Robert R. Merhige, Jr., was born in 1919 and later attended High Point College in North Carolina. He subsequently earned his law degree from the T.C. Williams School of Law at the University of Richmond, from which he graduated at the top of his class in 1942.

From 1942 to 1945, Judge Merhige served in the U.S. Air Force, he practiced law in Richmond from 1945 to 1967, establishing himself as a formidable trial lawyer representing criminal defendants as well as dozens of insurance companies.

On August 30,1967, Judge Merhige was appointed U.S. District Court Judge for the Eastern District of Virginia, Richmond Division by President Lyndon B. Johnson, serving as a Federal judge until 1998. In 1972, Judge Merhige ordered the desegregation of dozens of Virginia school districts. He considered himself to be a ''strict constructionist'' who went by the law as spelled out in precedents by the higher courts. In 1970, he ordered the University of Virginia to admit women. As evidence of Judge Merhige's groundbreaking decisions, he was given 24-hour protection by Federal marshals due to repeated threats of violence against him and his family. His courage in the face of significant opposition of the times is a testimony to his dedication to the rule of law.

As my colleagues may be aware, I have worked to name the new courthouse in Richmond for these two men for several years. I am proud that the Virginia Congressional delegation, the Virginia Bar Association, the mayor of Richmond, and many others decided that the best way to honor both men was to have them equally share the honor of having the courthouse so named.

With the ribbon cutting for this grand facility tentatively set for October 17 of this year, I can think of no better time than now to move this legislation in honor of Spottswood Robinson and Robert Merhige. I thank the committee for the consideration of this bill and look forward to working with my colleagues in seeking its passage.

COMMENDING OLYMPIAN SHAWN MACHEL JOHNSON

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, today I honor an Iowan who has shown tremendous strength of spirit, as well as a fierce determination and world-class talent. Olympic gymnast Shawn Machel Johnson has been and continues to be a model of character and fitness, as well as a source of inspiration for all Americans.

Shawn recently returned from Beijing, where she made us all very proud, competing in the 2008 Olympics and winning one gold and three silver medals. The gold medal was for her performance in the balance beam finals, while the silver medals were for the team competition, the women's all-around, and the floor individual finals.

Since Johnson was 3 years old, she has exhibited a love for gymnastics, and received constant support and encouragement from her parents Teri and Doug Johnson, and coaches Liang Qiao and Liwen Zhuang. She is greatly admired and respected by her fellow gymnasts at Chow's Gymnastics and Dance in West Des Moines, where she has been training since she joined the facility at age 6. Her training and her strong commitment to the sport have propelled her to success in the series of competitions that led her to the Beijing Summer Olympics.

In addition to her rigorous training of up to 25 hours per week, she has also excelled academically. She is now in her junior year at Valley High School in West Des Moines, and has been on the ''A'' Honor Roll. I believe very strongly that promoting fitness and providing quality education are both key factors in ensuring that children have a bright and successful future. Shawn Johnson is an inspiration to Iowa's young people to stay active, be studious, do what they love, and follow their dreams.

I would like to congratulate Johnson for bringing home four Olympic medals and commend her for her outstanding commitment to the sport of gymnastics. I hope that she continues to pursue her passion and that we will see her endearing smile and more of her amazing performances in London in 2012.

COMMENDING OLYMPIAN LOLO JONES

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, today I honor an Iowan who has courageously pursued her dreams through great adversity and who has displayed outstanding character and grace throughout her life. Lori ''Lolo'' Jones recently returned from Beijing, where she competed as a hurdler in the 2008 Olympic Games. Lolo made us all very proud as she represented the United States in Beijing. Although she did not come away from Beijing with a medal, she realized her dream of competing in the Olympics and was a model of athleticism, sportsmanship, and determination.

Lolo has had seemingly limitless energy, a positive attitude and an intense focus on running since she was a child. It is these characteristics that have allowed her to overcome what many would consider to be challenging circumstances, including the fact that her family relocated frequently throughout her childhood.

As a student at Roosevelt High School in Des Moines, she excelled at running as well as academics. After graduating from Roosevelt, Lolo became the first in her family to attend college when she enrolled at Louisiana State University, where she excelled on the LSU track team. She graduated with an economics degree and a minor in Spanish, yet deferred seeking a career in her field of study, determined to pursue her running career instead. She worked part-time jobs to support herself and to have free time to travel for competitions. After missing an opportunity to compete in Athens in 2004, her former LSU coach persuaded sponsors to recognize Lolo's great potential, allowing her to devote herself to becoming a world-class professional athlete.

Competing in and winning many races around the world in the years leading up to the 2008 Beijing Olympics, Lolo became a highly respected athlete, not only for her performances, but for her exemplary sportsmanship and generosity.

And, through it all, Lolo never forgot where she began her journey. She returned to Roosevelt High School earlier this year to make a donation for improvements to the track, and also for new shoes and equipment for the track team. She also donated winnings from a recent race to a victim of the flooding that ravaged Iowa this spring.

I salute Lolo Jones for her extraordinary discipline and hard work, for her determination to improve and excel as an athlete, and also for her grace, generosity, and strength of character. She has been, and will continue to be, a wonderful role model for all athletes and for all young people seeking to excel in their field. I congratulate her on all of her achievements and on realizing her dream of competing in the Olympics. I hope and expect that we will see Lolo again in London in 2012, this time hurdling her way toward Olympic gold.

REMEMBERING BABE RUTH

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the life and career of Babe Ruth, one of America's greatest baseball players. The man we know as Babe Ruth, was born on February 6, 1895, as George Herman Ruth, Jr. and passed away 60 years ago on August 16, 1948. In his obituary, the New York Times called him ''a figure unprecedented in American life. A born showman off the field and a marvelous performer on it, he had an amazing flair for doing the spectacular at the most dramatic moment.'' Although he played his last season in 1935, Ruth still holds the records for all-time highest slugging percentage. Ruth's 714 career homers and his consistent dominance in the batter's box rightly earned him the nickname, ''The Sultan of Swat.''

However, Babe Ruth was more than a superior ballplayer. Although his dramatically big swing earned him a place in the record books, Mr. Ruth was a figure of legendary proportions who permanently changed the game of baseball and made it a fixture in American life. His famous ''called'' shot in the 1932 World Series is so ingrained in our national memory and baseball lore that even our youngest children playing tee-ball in backyards across the country seek to emulate this iconic moment.

Mr. Ruth was also famous for his generosity, working for the Red Cross during World War II, organizing charity golf tournaments with longtime adversary Ty Cobb, appearing at benefits, and buying more than $100,000 in war bonds. A year before his death, he established the Babe Ruth Foundation, which provided assistance to disadvantaged children. Linda Ruth Tosetti, Mr. Ruth's granddaughter, is a resident of Connecticut, and today I would like to remember her grandfather, one of the greatest sports legends in our Nation's history.

RECOGNIZING THE LA SALLE ACADEMY PLAYERS

Mr. REED. Mr. President, today I recognize the achievement of the La Salle Academy Players, the theater troupe from my high school alma mater, which recently gave four performances of ''The Scottish Play: Macbeth'' at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival. This prestigious event, the world's largest arts festival, is held annually in Scotland.

The La Salle Players were one of only 43 high school troupes chosen to perform from among hundreds of high school drama programs by the American High School Theatre Festival. La Salle Academy was the first Rhode Island private high school and only the second Rhode Island high school to have been selected in the 14 years that the American High School Theatre Festival has participated in the Fringe Festival.

I am especially pleased to share that, by all reports, the young men and women of the La Salle Players conducted themselves with great talent and poise, representing both their school and their country with distinction.

I want to individually recognize the cast and crew, faculty, and staff, who were instrumental to this effort: Brother Michael McKenery, the president of La Salle Academy, served as producer. The student cast and crew included Trisha Moise, Tiia Groden, Gabbie Whitney, John Pleasants, Dan Tracy, John Coletta, Nick Oliveira, Nick Montecalvo, Ryan Zins, Cam Burns, Matt Petrarca, Mark Sullivan, Valentina Szlashta, Michael Commendatore, Alex Schlageter, Sean Walsh, Kevin Cronin, Molly B. Allen, Katie Ryan, Emily Maher, Colin Whitney, Ashley Smith, Stephen Zukauskas, JR McKenzie, and Michael Gebhart. Faculty and staff included Thomas Haynes, Elissa Cerros, Margaret Hayes, and David Cabral.

RECOGNIZING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF WUOM-FM

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, it is with pleasure that I, along with my Michigan colleague, Senator STABENOW, congratulate WUOM-FM on 60 years of successful broadcasting. Over the past six decades, WUOM-FM, the University of Michigan's flagship public radio station, has become a fixture in public broadcasting, distinguishing itself through the breath and depth of its programming and through its unwavering dedication and service to its many listeners throughout southeastern Michigan.

Since its inception as a small radio station broadcasting in the Ann Arbor area, WUOM-FM has been a consistent and important voice in public radio in Michigan. In 1950, WUOM broadcasted its first Michigan Football game, a tradition it would enjoy for the next 50 years, and in 1958, it broadcasted its

first Detroit Symphony Orchestra performance from the Ford Auditorium. Two years later, Michigan Radio broadcasted Senator John F. Kennedy's famous campaign speech at the University of Michigan, where he spoke about public service as a responsibility of freedom, a speech that helped to bring about the creation of the Peace Corps. In 1971, WUOM joined National Public Radio and became one of the first radio stations to air ''All Things Considered''.

WUOM has grown and evolved since its first public broadcast on July 5, 1948. Today, Michigan Radio, which includes WUOM, WVGR and WFUM, broadcasts from Ann Arbor, Grand Rapids, and Flint, respectively, and enjoys the largest listening audience of any public radio station in the State and is among the leaders nationally. Michigan Radio's programming format changed from classical music to a news and information format in 1996. With this change one thing has remained the same: the superb quality of each and every broadcast segment. With more than 400,000 listeners tuning in each week, Michigan Radio has become an important source of news and information about local, state, national and world affairs for the listening public.

As technology has evolved, so has Michigan Radio. Today, it is broadcasted in high definition and is accessible from mobile devices across Michigan. Listeners can tune in to programming from National Public Radio, Public Radio International, and the BBC, as well as local programs, such as the Environment Report and Jack Lessenberry's Essays and Interviews.

WUOM has been the recipient of many awards throughout its history. In the past year alone, Michigan Radio has earned more than 30 awards. The most notable was the 2008 National Edward R. Murrow Award for Best News Documentary, which was awarded for ''Ashes to Hope: Overcoming the Detroit Riots.''

Michigan Radio has forged an impressive reputation for quality programming, public service, and integrity. It is in this spirit that we know our Senate colleagues join us in congratulating each individual who has contributed to the success of WUOM-FM over the past 60 years, dedicating endless hours, energy, and hard work in pursuit of excellence in public broadcasting. I wish them another 60 years of outstanding achievement.

IDAHOANS SPEAK OUT ON HIGH ENERGY PRICES

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, in mid-June, I asked Idahoans to share with me how high energy prices are affecting their lives, and they responded by the hundreds. The stories, numbering over 1,000, are heartbreaking and touching. To respect their efforts, I am submitting every e-mail sent to me through an email address set up for these stories to the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. This is not an issue that will be easily resolved, but it is one that deserves immediate and serious attention, and Idahoans deserve to be heard. Their stories not only detail their struggles to meet everyday expenses, but also have suggestions and recommendations as to what Congress can do now to tackle this problem and find solutions that last beyond today. I ask unanimous consent to have today's letters printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

Priority: Explore in this country for oil

How do high fuel prices affect me and my family? We do not travel nearly as much as before. I am telecommuting one day a week. We have cut out all spending except the bare essentials. We are worried about losing jobs as the economy continues to collapse.

I have no doubt that the fuel prices will continue to increase as the extremists in this country continue to sabotage efforts to tap local fuel sources. They are diligent in their efforts to slowly undermine and destroy this country. Unfortunately, there is no hope that they will be stopped. I am doing what I can to not spend as much on fuel, such as using a wood stove for heat in the winter. Of course, the natural gas-fired furnaces are cleaner-burning, but the extremists do not consider that when they ban mining for gas and oil and, in a roundabout way, drive up the price of everything. Wood for the stove is very cheap or free.

I would use fossil-fuel-free transportation more than I already do if the roadways were safer for that. I could use my horses to get around, but the city codes and the highways are not set up for that. Other people are trying to use bikes. I saw a smashed bike in front of a large vehicle in the middle of a busy road today. The ambulance was just getting to the scene. Not too safe to use bikes.

If nothing effective can be done to bring down fuel prices, then the roadways need to be set up for using horses and carts and bicycles and foot traffic. City codes need to be changed to allow the use of horses and other draft animals. That was the most effective method of transportation before the invention of cars, and draft animals are used in other countries that do not have fossil-fuel-fired vehicles. It is extreme, but all I see are fuel prices going up so fast that quickly most people will not be able to get around. Bicycles are limited as to how much stuff you can haul. So draft animals are the only way.

With the short-sighted ban on horse slaughter, there are now way too many horses around being abandoned and given away. It is the perfect solution: A lot of these unwanted horses can be used for transportation as soon as city codes and CC&R's are changed to allow people to keep horses on small land parcels. I have a few acres and pasture for my horses, but a lot of people do not have that. I cannot use my horses to go to the big towns because the roads are suited for high-speed cars, not for horses. My horses and I would end up like that bike I saw today, twisted and crumpled in the road in front of some large car.

CAROLE, *Kuna.*

Thank you for the opportunity to state briefly how higher energy processes are impacting my own life. I like to think of myself as well-educated, environmentally responsible, and having control of my life and my family finances. We are fiscally responsible. We try to live to an established budget. We pay our bills on time, and we set aside money for a rainy day. However, with today's skyrocketing gas prices and energy costs, I do not think we are going to be able to sustain our current lifestyle any longer. We have made cuts where we can. We have tried to reduce the number of trips we need to take in our vehicles, but just doing that is not nearly enough. We have had to cut out some of our luxuries such as cable television. Given what is presented on television these days, that was not too much of a sacrifice, either. Now we are starting to wonder if we will be able to get enough food on the table, or keep our kids in the clothes that they need. We have 3 growing children, and it seems their clothes only fit for a few weeks. Now we are considering reducing the amounts we contribute to our 401K investment plan, cutting out family vacations, and working more hours.

It is funny how the things that are most important in life such as spending time with your children are the things that must suffer because of the condition of the economy. It is frustrating that we are having to cut the investments we are trying to make in our future just to make ends meet today. Further, every bill seems to be going up, and my salary is not increasing at all. We feel lucky to have a job at all as there have been many who have been laid off where I work. We might be considered upper middle class, but I wonder how much longer this will last as the economy and government policies are slowly driving all of us into poverty.

There are a lot of things in the world to worry about. For the sake of my children, I hate to see this direction we are heading in. Also, I am disappointed at how [some of] our lawmakers in Washington, D.C., wish to play politics, but do not seem to have any intentions on fixing the problems. All we see right now [is partisian] posturing just to win votes, economy be damned. They like to tell themselves that they have our best interests in mind, but given the lack of action, I am starting to wonder what good it is to have a government at all. How bad are things going to get before someone starts doing something about it?

What can be done about it? I think we need to step it up on several fronts. We need more gas and oil production here at home. We need to encourage more conservation. We need to demand car companies increase their mpg. We need to actively encourage nuclear power production and stop listening to all the crazy special interest groups that are out there. We need to stop worrying about an international war that is literally draining all of our resources. We have got to stop worrying about universal healthcare and everything else that will not succeed if we do not have a sound economy. Let us get focused and do it now. If we do not, it will be too little, too late.

Thanks for taking a minute to listen to my story. I was starting to wonder if any of our politicians knew we were out here.

JEFF, *Iona.*

It goes something like this. I am on Social Security Disability, and my mother and stepfather, aunts, and uncles are on Social Security. In the last ten years, the increase in benefits has been around 2.5% each year. Rent has increased 35%; gas, 50%+; natural gas, 30%; electricity, 35%; food, 30%; and basic water fees were $18 in 1999, and now are over $40.

An economist said that the economy raising 3% per year is a good thing, did not say the price of goods/services going up was a good thing. He meant that those working getting a 3% increase in funds to spend was a good thing.

Thinking that I live on $750 per month, and bills are $350–400 per month, then trying to

have insurance to drive a car, I was suspended because I had none. And I thought I would save money by not driving. It does not work that way, as food prices have risen over one-third, which makes getting insurance or paying my fines not on the top of my list. [I may need to rely on friends to drive me to Twin Falls to purchase groceries.]

I understand that things are changing, but I need to ask: how much profit is enough? I also think we should go back to the stipend system for elected officials. Those that lead this government should not be doing it for the money; it should be for the honor of the position.

I would also think that the government running its own business in competition to show a profit for tax relief would be a great way to show corps that it can be done, and it would force the lowering of prices. I think it would be cool to run a state-funded cellphone system, in areas not accessible to cell. The fees could be used for taxes, as well selling the towers for profit to the cellphone corps. Force the suppliers to compete.

ED.

While no one wants to pay more for anything, and most people are glad to have things for cheap or free, there comes a time to pay what the true value of energy is. Americans have been pretty lucky to pay low energy costs for as long as we have and we have become convinced that cheap energy is our God-given right.

Unfortunately, cheap energy comes at a cost, and future generations have been subsidizing our cheap energy. It is sad that we have been willing to pass the bill on to them in terms of pollution and the national debt. Since our military is in essence used to secure oil, that is another hidden costs that most people do not realize that someone will have to pay.

I do not think paying more for fuel is such a bad thing because I think most people overuse fuel. People need to be more considerate in fuel use, and if higher prices will reduce fuel use, then so be it.

As a farmer who grows food for my local community, higher fuel price actually means I can charge more for the food I grow since food prices are increasing everywhere. I have low transportation costs, so I will actually make more money as a result. I cannot complain about that.

If you sincerely want to do something about energy prices, Senator Crapo, then I suggest you promote the development of local economies, There is no need to ship and truck things from halfway around the world when, in reality, we can be producing what we need locally. That will reduce fuel use, which will lower demand, which will lower prices. We will also be reducing pollution and become more economically self-sufficient.

Our current system is completely unsustainable, and to complain about high fuel prices misses the point. I would much rather have you fighting for sound economic and environmental policies rather than continue to promote a system will at some point will collapse, anyway. As a leader, it is your job to make tough decisions, not pander to what seems to be selfish energy use.

Sincerely,

GARRETT, *Moscow*.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the effects that high gasoline prices are having on our family's budget. To begin with, we are a family of six: My wife Nancy and I have four children, ages 23, 21, 18, and 16. We live in Boise, and both Nancy and I commute to work on bicycles. I work for the State of Idaho, and my wife is a first grade teacher. We enjoy the jobs we have been blessed with in Boise.

Although we have received consistent salary increases, the percentages of these increases are certainly not keeping up to the increases in a lot of goods and services, and most notably, in gasoline costs.

Commuting on bicycles has saved us money and kept us in good shape, but it does have its risks! Our four children bicycle to work, college and high school. We have one main family car, and two of our children have cars. However, one of the cars is currently ''off the road'' and parked in our driveway. And the other one is destined for that, too. We still use the family car for a number of local trips, but we try to avoid or combine them when possible.

We are planning to take a trip to California in less than two weeks. Each year we take a group of people to help at a place called Gleanings for the Hungry, which is a Christian volunteer organization that processes food and ships it to hungry people all over the world.

We considered taking two vehicles for the seven people who are in our part of the team, but instead we may all crowd into our minivan in order to save gas money and wear and tear on the other car.

So, Senator, these are the ways that the high gas prices have affected us. I do not think that we will see lower gas prices again, so it is time for all of us to use our ''Yankee Ingenuity'' and make the best of this situation.

Sincerely,

KEN.

I am not surprised in the least that the situation is what it is. Actually, I am a little surprised that energy costs are not much higher at this time. I have been in contact with my Federal Representative, the Honorable Mike Simpson, regarding your update letter, namely, the high cost of gasoline, and energy in general. I sent him a link to a speech given in 2006, by a man that was present, for three years, on the building of the Alaska pipeline. His words were, ''. . . I am considering your suggestion to accelerate completion of the Alaskan pipeline with great interest.'' What say you, Senator?

The oil reserves that we hold are more than sufficient, to not only bring our pump prices down, but also allow us to pay off our outrageous, $9.3 Trillion national debt, in the space of five years, and allow us to consume oil for the next 200 years or so (at least!). Perhaps you, Senator Crapo, would be willing to watch this video. You, too, will be enlightened, as I have been by this knowledge, and perhaps will be persuaded to come to the aid of your country, in our darkest hour. This is a link to the video—http://wideeyecinema.com/?p=203.

CURT, *Boise*.

Being a sort of forward-looking individual, in 2005 we purchased a Volkswagen Jetta with a diesel engine. It is a wonderful little car, but the unique thing about it is that it gets fifty as in 50 miles per gallon. Now I have watched as our illustrious leadership have mollycoddled the automobile makers here in the U.S. and even actually required the raising of the automobile mileage here in this country to a measly 35 miles per gallon average for vehicles. This when vehicles running on diesel already get way more than that! Now we do not drive that much because of gas and diesel prices, but since I can drive nearly 700 miles on a 14-gallon tank of gas, how often do you think we fill up? Admittedly, the prices of a tank of gas amaze us each time we do fill up, but still, we can, and often do, go a month without buying diesel. Even if I were to drive to ''town'' every day, I could drive almost half a month without filling up!

While such action by our leadership I guess is to be expected, I would like to know when [Congress] will ever get enough gumption to provide leadership for this nation? As a sort of forward-looking individual, I guess it would be fair to say that waiting for anyone living and working within the Beltway to provide any kind of leadership on energy is probably a moot point. While [partisan battles cloud everything,] the world forges ahead, trying hard to ignore the lack of ability to get anything done.

We hire you (elect you) to provide leadership, guide the country in and out of crises but, to be quite frank, [I am extremely disappointed in the partisanship that seems to permeate everything that happens in Congress]. The congressional confidence level is, as you know, at the lowest level ever. Somebody has to do something—even if it is wrong!

Since I do not work in your environment, I do not have a remedy for the environment of ''do nothing'' that seems pervasive in the Beltway. I do believe, however, that all influence from well-paid lobbyists and those with more money that they know what to do with should be put in some kind of less effective position relative to policy influence. While I understand that people need to be able to contact the people representing them, they should be limited to doing so only by the same means as the rest of us who do not and cannot have someone following legislators around influencing them at every turn.

Sorry, Senator, to rant about this on your forum for high energy prices. But I do not think [the current leadership] has or is providing any leadership in this or a variety of other areas. It seems as if we, the public, have to solve our own problems while Congress muddles around [in partisan bickering.] I have a car that gets 50 miles per gallon of fuel—what does your car get? What do your staff cars get? How many of you use any of the many kinds of ''commuter'' transportation available within the beltway?

Have a good day—please try and help us working on the energy problem solve it!

RAYMOND and SHERRY.

Today I filled ¾ of my car's gas tank. It cost $80 plus. Need I say more?

GRANT, *Boise*.

Thank you for expressing an interest in the situation of one family here in Lewiston. Any time we plan to drive somewhere, we give more thought to the need for the trip and whether it can be postponed or eliminated. In deciding whether to travel, the miles to be driven and our estimated fuel consumption (cost) are discussed. My wife works at LCSC (Lewis Clark State College). Instead of my driving her to her office, I now walk with her to work. The walk saves fuel and gives us time together. Now that the summer air conditioning season is here, we are keeping the thermostat at about 75 deg. If the electric bill is much higher we will raise the thermostat again. With the increased cost of groceries, we are starting to shop in Clarkston, WA; i.e. no state sales tax. Instead of eating out several times a week, we may only go out once now. When getting gasoline, I limit my purchase to about $20, or, about 5 gallons.

We spend a lot of time trying to figure out why in a country with so many natural resources and safe nuclear power we are not developing addition resources for the benefit of the population. Why is an ever expanding polar bear population more important than American citizens?

Thanks for expressing an interest.

AL and HOLLY.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

COMMEMORATING KOJO NNAMDI'S 10TH ANNIVERSARY

• Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, today I commemorate the 10th anniversary of Kojo Nnamdi broadcasting on the American University's WAMU 88.5. Over the course of the last decade, based on his skills as an interviewer and his keen insight, Nnamdi has grown into a national treasure and one of the most respected broadcasters in the National Capital Region. ''The Kojo Nnamdi Show'' features 2 hours of news, political issues, and social trends of the day in a magazine program format.

It is hard to remember a time before Kojo Nnamdi was part of the WAMU 88.5 broadcasting family, but it was just 10 years ago, in 1998, when Nnamdi left his host position at WHUT–TV's public affairs show ''Evening Exchange'' to become the host of WAMU's radio program ''Public Interest.'' He replaced former host Derek McGinty, filling a vibrant radio talk show slot that can be traced back to 1977 with Fred Fiske. The program officially was renamed ''The Kojo Nnamdi Show'' in September 2002.

Nnamdi was born Rex Paul in Guyana. He came to this country in 1967 to attend college. He began broadcasting in 1973 at WHUR–FM and chose his radio persona based on the Akan word for Monday—Kojo—and Nnamdi Azikiwe, a fellow journalist and the founder of modern Nigerian nationalism who was the first President of Nigeria.

Nnamdi's global perspective and inviting demeanor have made his radio program a must-do for both regional and national leaders. Each weekday, he challenges his guests and call-in audience alike to explore a variety of current and emerging topics relevant to our daily lives. As good a listener as he is an interviewer, Nnamdi opens our consciousness to new ideas. He is so highly skilled that the Washington Post has called him, ''maybe the best interviewer in town.''

Locally, Nnamdi has become one of the foremost experts on the political and social scenes of Annapolis, Richmond, and Washington, DC. On Fridays, 1 hour of his show is renamed ''The Politics Hour'' while he opens his airwaves to the region's elected officials, community activists and local leaders. I personally have looked forward to joining Nnamdi for his show time and again.

As Kojo Nnamdi enters his second decade broadcasting at WAMU 88.5, I take great pride in joining with countless others in our community and across the Nation in congratulating him on this milestone. I listen with anticipation for his next topic and his next guest who will help open our minds and further our dialog.•

175TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MARTIN GUITAR FACTORY

• Mr. CASEY. Mr President, today I congratulate the Martin Guitar Factory, in Nazareth, PA, on celebrating 175 years of successful guitar making. C.F. Martin & Co. has continually produced the highest level of craftsmanship, design, quality, and tone for the acoustic guitar for over a century and a half.

Established in 1833, the Martin Guitar Factory has been at the leading edge of guitar manufacturing for six generations. The founder of Martin Guitar, Christian Frederick Martin, Sr., was born in 1796 in Germany and began the craft at the young age of 15. Since the guild system in Germany limited the opportunities for guitar production, C.F. Martin, Sr., decided to emigrate to the United States in the 1830s. Martin Guitar set up shop in New York City for 6 years before finally settling in the Lehigh Valley in 1839. After a century and a half of success in guitar manufacturing, C.F. Martin & Co. continues to produce the finest quality American acoustic guitars today. Each year, Martin Guitar manufactures and ships approximately 170,000 guitars all over the world and welcomes over 21,000 visitors to its factory in Nazareth, Northampton County. Martin Guitars have been played by some of our Nation's greats, such as Elvis and Johnny Cash, and are still being played today by Eric Clapton, Beck, Willie Nelson, and John Mayer, to name just a few.

In addition to Martin Guitar's accomplishments and I believe this is key, the company has demonstrated incredible staying power through six generations. C.F. Martin & Co. is the oldest surviving manufacturer of guitars in the world and is thus an extraordinary model to other businesses. I am proud to say that C.F. Martin & Co. has long been and will remain a vital staple of the Lehigh Valley.

Special recognition for this anniversary belongs to the sixth generation chairman and CEO Mr. Christian F. Martin IV, and the hard-working staff of Martin Guitar, for continuing the long standing tradition of crafting America's finest acoustic guitars. It is with great pride that I congratulate the Martin Guitar Factory on 175 outstanding years of achievement. •

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT FULWIDER

• Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, today I congratulate Mr. Bob Fulwider as he nears the end of his term as the 103rd chairman of the Nation's largest insurance association, the Independent Insurance Agents & Brokers of America, IIABA. Mr. Fulwider was elected to the IIABA's executive committee in 2002, and was installed as the association's chairman last September.

Founded in 1896, IIABA, or the Big ''I'' as it is better known, is the Nation's oldest and largest association of independent insurance agents and brokers, representing a network of more than 300,000 agents, brokers, and their employees. During his term as chairman of the Big ''I'', Bob Fulwider has been a leader on a number of issues for the association including regulatory reform and natural disaster insurance. Perhaps most importantly, during this year's consideration of the farm bill and specifically its impact on crop insurance, Mr. Fulwider was a forceful advocate for his association who led with professionalism and determination.

Mr. Fulwider has over his lifetime built two financial and insurance planning service businesses throughout eastern Iowa including West Liberty and West Branch, IA. Mr. Fulwider is also a former national board director and a past president of the Independent Insurance Agents of Iowa, IIAI.

Mr. Fulwider has been honored with several national and state awards. He has been honored with two IIABA Presidential Citations—in 1987 and 1994. He was named IIAI Agent of the Year in 1993 and received the association's ''Mr. Chairman'' Award in the same year. He also received the Agent of the Year Award in 1990. He is the first honoree in the Iowa association's history to receive the award twice. In 2002, Mr. Fulwider was honored with the Sydney O. Smith Award, IIABA's highest individual government affairs honor. In 2003 he was named to the Iowa Insurance Hall of Fame.

In addition, Mr. Fulwider is extremely active in his community. After graduating from Iowa State University, he taught in Iowa public high schools and served on the Iowa State University faculty prior to entering the insurance business. Mr. Fulwider is past president of the Muscatine County Economic Development Council and training director and board member of the Iowa Council—Boy Scouts of America. Mr. Fulwider has served as Scoutmaster of his local troop for 25 years and has received numerous Scouting awards including the Silver Beaver. Additionally, he is active in his church and Masonic Lodge.

I want to thank Bob Fulwider for his work with the IIABA over the years and for his commitment to his profession, his community, and our state of Iowa. His efforts are greatly appreciated. I am proud to count Bob as both a constituent and a friend. I wish him, his wife Jan, and their family all the best in their future endeavors.•

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF HEMATOLOGY

• Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment to congratulate the American Society of Hematology, which is observing its 50th anniversary this year, and to salute the advances hematologists have been able to make

in biomedical research, largely as a result of the funding for the National Institutes of Health that many of us in the Senate fight for each year.

The American Society of Hematologists—ASH—represents more than 15,000 clinicians and scientists committed to the study and treatment of blood and blood-related diseases, including blood cancers, bleeding and clotting diseases, and hereditary disorders. Hematologists have made remarkable contributions to the advancement of biomedical research and are active participants in NIH biomedical research programs, recipients of NIH grants, and contributors to NIH's biomedical research accomplishments. I am pleased to note that some of this groundbreaking research is being conducted in Iowa by ASH member Dr. George Weiner and his team at the Holden Comprehensive Cancer Center at the University of Iowa.

Hematologists have been at the forefront of some of the most remarkable advancements in medicine over the past half century. ASH members have turned Federal research dollars into effective treatments for diseases that were once disabling or a death sentence, and have been pioneers in the fields of bone marrow transplantation and gene therapy.

By the NIH's own estimates, the overall 5-year survival rate for childhood cancers rose to nearly 80 percent during the 1990s from under 60 percent in the 1970s. A diagnosis of acute lymphoblastic leukemia was fatal for every child who developed it in the 1960s, but today, after new combinations of drugs were developed by hematology researchers, and aggressive treatment of the brain and spinal fluid were incorporated, approximately 80 percent of children with the disease are cured.

NIH also notes that the emergence of new, more precise ways to treat cancer, such as drugs that target abnormal proteins in cancer cells, have contributed to a dramatic increase in the average life expectancy for Americans. Again, hematologists have been at the forefront of these discoveries.

Acute promyelocytic leukemia—APL—was once described as the most malignant form of acute leukemia. Today, the treatment of APL has become a model for treating cancer with targeted therapy. In combination with chemotherapy, targeted treatment has significantly improved survival in patients with APL and raised remission rates to about 85 percent.

In the 1950s the only treatment for chronic myelogenous leukemia—CML—was radiation of the spleen, granting patients about 30 months of survival. Analysis of the CML-specific chromosomal translocation allowed the development of imatinib, a gene-targeting drug that is the paradigm for a new generation of ''smart'' drugs that allow disease-specific therapy. Using this non toxic oral drug, more than 75 percent of patients diagnosed with CML achieve a durable, complete cytogenetic remission.

I have consistently fought for increases to NIH annual budget, and will continue to due so to ensure that hematologists and researchers around the Nation continue to have the resources necessary to lead in new fields of biomedical investigation and translate new scientific discoveries into improved diagnostic, therapeutic, and preventive strategies.

Again, I salute the American Society of Hematology for a magnificent first 50 years. With continued NIH funding, I am confident that hematologists will have even greater successes in treating and eliminating blood diseases over the next 50 years.●

COMMENDING ALLAMAKEE COMMUNITY EDUCATION

● Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, in Iowa and across the United States, a new school year has begun. As you know, Iowa public schools have an excellent reputation nationwide, and Iowa students' test scores are among the highest in the Nation.

I would like to take just a few minutes today to salute the dedicated teachers, administrators, and school board members in the Allamakee Community School District, and to report on their participation in a unique federal partnership to repair and modernize school facilities.

This fall marks the 10th year of the Iowa Demonstration Construction Grant Program. That is its formal name, but it is better known among educators in Iowa as the program of Harkin Grants for Iowa public schools. Since 1998, I have been fortunate to secure a total of $121 million for the State government in Iowa, which selects worthy school districts to receive these grants for a range of renovation and repair efforts—everything from updating fire safety systems to building new schools or renovating existing facilities. In many cases, this Federal funding is used to leverage public and/or private local funding, so it often has a tremendous multiplier effect in a local school district.

The Allamakee Community School District received a 2004 Harkin Grant totaling $394,382 for a collaborative project addressing a myriad of needs throughout the community. After eight failed efforts to pass a referendum to make improvements to the high school, it was time to think outside the box.

Community leaders established the PRIDE committee to undertake a comprehensive planning process that looked at the needs of the school district as well as those of the community. The result was a proposal to renovate the high school and build an addition to the existing building. The committee also recommended building a new facility across the street from the high school to house a satellite center for Northeast Iowa Community College, a community wellness center, a senior center, and a youth center. This project was a unique partnership between the school district, city, county and community college. And their hard work paid off with the passage of a $10 million bond issue approved by 78 percent of the voters.

Excellent schools do not just pop up like mushrooms after a rain. They are the product of vision, leadership, persistence, and a tremendous amount of collaboration among local officials and concerned citizens. I salute the patrons, staff, administration, and governance in the Allamakee Community School District.

I would like to recognize a number of individuals for their outstanding leadership on the project, in particular, members of the Allamakee PRIDE Committee—Michael Meyers from Veterans Memorial Hospital, Dave Martin from Martin Funeral Home, Dennis Lyons from Farmers and Merchant's Bank, Joe Cunningham from the Waukon City Council, Patty Fosaaen from the Allamakee Board of Education, superintendent of schools David Herold and former superintendent of schools John Speer. I would also like to recognize members of the Allamakee County Board of Supervisors—Kathy Campbell, Lenny Burke, and the late Bill Clark; members of the Board of Education—President Tom Baxter, Bob Hager, Scott Melcher, Dwight Watkins and former member Sheryl Evanson; members of the Waukon City Council—former mayor Dwight Jones, Steve Wiedner, Rod Peterson and former members Drew Hager and Duane DeWalle; and several key school district administrators—buildings and grounds manager Dennis Mahr, business manager Janice Rea, junior high principal Joe Griffith and assistant high school principal Bob Wasson. Finally, I would recognize some of the personnel responsible for grant writing and for the bond referendum—Safe Schools/Healthy Students project director Barb Winters, elementary principal Ann Hart, Gail Prestemon from Waukon State Bank, Mary Jo Meyer from Farm Bureau Financial Services and Allamakee Community School District librarian Linda Groe.

As we mark the 10th anniversary of the Harkin School Grant Program in Iowa, I am obliged to point out that many thousands of school buildings and facilities across the United States are in dire need of renovation or replacement. In my State of Iowa alone, according to a recent study, some 79 percent of public schools need to be upgraded or repaired. The harsh reality is that the average age of school buildings in the United States is nearly 50 years.

Too often, our children visit ultramodern shopping malls and gleaming sports arenas on weekends but during the week go to school in rundown or antiquated facilities. This sends exactly the wrong message to our young people about our priorities. We have to do better.

That is why I am deeply grateful to the professionals and parents in the Allamakee Community School District. There is no question that a quality public education for every child is a top priority in that community. I salute them and wish them a very successful new school year.●

COMMENDING BOONE COMMUNITY EDUCATION

● Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, in Iowa and across the United States, a new school year has begun. As you know, Iowa public schools have an excellent reputation nationwide, and Iowa students' test scores are among the highest in the Nation.

I would like to take just a few minutes today to salute the dedicated teachers administrators, and school board members in the Boone Community School District and to report on their participation in a unique Federal partnership to repair and modernize school facilities.

This fall marks the 10th year of the Iowa Demonstration Construction Grant Program. That is its formal name, but it is better known among educators in Iowa as the program of Harkin grants for Iowa public schools. Since 1998, I have been fortunate to secure a total of $121 million for the State government in Iowa, which selects worthy school districts to receive these grants for a range of renovation and repair efforts—everything from updating fire safety systems to building new schools or renovating existing facilities. In many cases, this Federal funding is used to leverage public and/or private local funding, so it often has a tremendous multiplier effect in a local school district.

The Boone Community School District received a 2005 Harkin grant totaling $183,500. The grant helped the district renovate and convert several classrooms at the high school into state-of-the-art science labs, install technology infrastructure at a new middle school, and provide a fiber optic connection to Franklin Elementary School, to provide high speed Internet access. This project provides the type of facilities that befit the educational ambitions and excellence of this school district

Excellent schools do not just pop up like mushrooms after a rain. They are the product of vision, leadership, persistence, and a tremendous amount of collaboration among local officials and concerned citizens. I salute the entire staff, administration, and governance in the Boone Community School District. In particular, I would like to recognize the leadership of the members of the school board, Dr. Jeff Anderson, Pam Boehm, Everett Johnson, Kirk Leeds and Brad O'Neal and former members Stan Brandmeyer, Jim Malloy, and Paulette Newbold. I would also recognize superintendent Dr. Theron Schutte, high school principal Dave Kapfer, former middle school principal Nate Heying, Franklin principal Dan Gould, technology coordinator Bog Patterson, director of buildings and grounds Dean Berkland, and John Haila from Haila Engineering.

As we mark the 10th anniversary of the Harkin school grant program in Iowa, I am obliged to point out that many thousands of school buildings and facilities across the United States are in dire need of renovation or replacement. In my State of Iowa alone, according to a recent study, some 79 percent of public schools need to be upgraded or repaired. The harsh reality is that the average age of school buildings in the United States is nearly 50 years.

Too often, our children visit ultramodern shopping malls and gleaming sports arenas on weekends but during the week go to school in rundown or antiquated facilities. This sends exactly the wrong message to our young people about our priorities. We have got to do better.

That is why I am deeply grateful to the professionals and parents in the Boone Community School District. There is no question that a quality public education for every child is a top priority in that community. I salute them and wish them a very successful new school year.●

COMMENDING CLEAR CREEK EDUCATION

● Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, in Iowa and across the United States, a new school year has begun. As you know, Iowa public schools have an excellent reputation nationwide, and Iowa students' test scores are among the highest in the Nation.

I would like to take just a few minutes today to salute the dedicated teachers, administrators, and school board members in the Clear Creek Amana Community School District, and to report on their participation in a unique Federal partnership to repair and modernize school facilities.

This fall marks the 10th year of the Iowa Demonstration Construction Grant Program. That is its formal name, but it is better known among educators in Iowa as the program of Harkin grants for Iowa public schools. Since 1998, I have been fortunate to secure a total of $121 million for the State government in Iowa, which selects worthy school districts to receive these grants for a range of renovation and repair efforts—everything from updating fire safety systems to building new schools or renovating existing facilities. In many cases, this Federal funding is used to leverage public and/or private local funding, so it often has a tremendous multiplier effect in a local school district.

The Clear Creek Amana Community School District received a 2005 Harkin grant totaling $500,000, which it used to help build North Bend Elementary School in North Liberty. This school is a modern, state-of-the-art facility that befits the educational ambitions and excellence of this school district. Indeed, it is the kind of school facility that every child in America deserves.

Excellent new schools like North Bend Elementary do not just pop up like mushrooms after a rain. They are the product of vision, leadership, persistence, and a tremendous amount of collaboration among local officials and concerned citizens. I salute the dedicated educators in the Clear Creek Amana School District, which serves the towns of Tiffin, Oxford and North Liberty, as well as the historic Amana Colonies. The district has 1,420 students in grades K–12, and is growing steadily. It takes great pride in its teaching staff of 118 fully certified teachers, more than 30 percent of whom have been with the district at least 15 years. To have so many long-serving teachers is unusual in education today, and it speaks volumes about the quality of this school district, as well as the dedication and loyalty of its teaching staff.

I salute the entire staff, administration, and governance in the Clear Creek Amana district. In particular, I would like to recognize the leadership of Lisa Green-Douglas and Jeanne Goldsmith who served as the cochairs of the committee that won passage of the $25.5 million bond issue to build a new elementary school and a new high school in the district. I would also like to recognize the members of the school board: Jim Seelman, Don Schaapveld, Tim Hennes, Kathi Huebner, Kevin Kinney, Elizabeth Momany, Matthew Croco, and Kathy Zimmerman as well as Superintendent Paula Vincent and elementary school principal Brenda Parker.

As we mark the 10th anniversary of the Harkin school grant program in Iowa, I am obliged to point out that many thousands of school buildings and facilities across the United States are in dire need of renovation or replacement. In my State of Iowa alone, according to a recent study, some 79 percent of public schools need to be upgraded or repaired. The harsh reality is that the average age of school buildings in the United States is nearly 50 years.

Too often, our children visit ultramodern shopping malls and gleaming sports arenas on weekends, but during the week go to school in rundown or antiquated facilities. This sends exactly the wrong message to our young people about our priorities. We have got to do better.

That is why I am deeply grateful to the professionals and parents in the Clear Creek Amana School District. There is no question that a quality public education for every child is a top priority in that community. I salute them and wish them a very successful new school year.●

COMMENDING DAVIS COUNTRY EDUCATION

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, in Iowa and across the United States, a new school year has begun. As you know, Iowa public schools have an excellent reputation nationwide, and Iowa students' test scores are among the highest in the Nation.

I would like to take just a few minutes today to salute the dedicated teachers, administrators, and school board members in the Davis County Community School District, and to report on their participation in a unique Federal partnership to repair and modernize school facilities.

This fall marks the 10th year of the Iowa Demonstration Construction Grant Program. That is its formal name, but it is better known among educators in Iowa as the program of Harkin grants for Iowa public schools. Since 1998, I have been fortunate to secure a total of $121 million for the State government in Iowa, which selects worthy school districts to receive these grants for a range of renovation and repair efforts—everything from updating fire safety systems to building new schools or renovating existing facilities. In many cases, this Federal funding is used to leverage public and/or private local funding, so it often has a tremendous multiplier effect in a local school district.

The Davis County Community School District received a 2003 Harkin grant for $498,000 to help remodel the north entrance of the high school. The district also received two fire safety grants totaling $161,000 to make needed repairs to buildings throughout the district. The Federal grants have made it possible for the district to provide quality and safe schools for their students.

Excellent schools do not just pop up like mushrooms after a rain. They are the product of vision, leadership, persistence, and a tremendous amount of collaboration among local officials and concerned citizens. I salute the entire staff, administration, and governance in the Davis County Community School District. In particular, I would like to recognize the leadership of the Board of Education—President Marty Owen, Vice President Ken Wuthrich, Edward Reese, Jr., Rob Melvin, Susan Knapp, Rita Grob, and Rob Lynch. I would also like to recognize Superintendent Sam Miller and former Superintendent Anne Morgan.

As we mark the 10th anniversary of the Harkin school grant program in Iowa, I am obliged to point out that many thousands of school buildings and facilities across the United States are in dire need of renovation or replacement. In my State of Iowa alone, according to a recent study, some 79 percent of public schools need to be upgraded or repaired. The harsh reality is that the average age of school buildings in the United States is nearly 50 years.

Too often, our children visit ultramodern shopping malls and gleaming sports arenas on weekends, but during the week go to school in rundown or antiquated facilities. This sends exactly the wrong message to our young people about our priorities. We have to do better.

That is why I am deeply grateful to the professionals and parents in the Davis County Community School District. There is no question that a quality public education for every child is a top priority in that community. I salute them, and wish them a very successful new school year.

COMMENDING INDEPENDENCE COMMUNITY EDUCATION

• Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, in Iowa and across the United States, a new school year has begun. As you know, Iowa public schools have an excellent reputation nationwide, and Iowa students' test scores are among the highest in the Nation.

I would like to take just a few minutes today to salute the dedicated teachers, administrators, and school board members in the Independence Community School District and to report on their participation in a unique Federal partnership to repair and modernize school facilities.

This fall marks the 10th year of the Iowa Demonstration Construction Grant Program. That is its formal name, but it is better known among educators in Iowa as the program of Harkin grants for Iowa public schools. Since 1998, I have been fortunate to secure a total of $121 million for the State government in Iowa, which selects worthy school districts to receive these grants for a range of renovation and repair efforts—everything from updating fire safety systems to building new schools or renovating existing facilities. In many cases, this Federal funding is used to leverage public and/or private local funding, so it often has a tremendous multiplier effect in a local school district.

The Independence Community School District received two Harkin grants totaling $450,000. A 1999 fire safety grant for $100,000 was used to install smoke detectors and replace doors at the high school. A 2005 grant totaling $350,000 was used to help build the Early Childhood Center to provide five classrooms for prekindergarten programs. This school is a modern, state-of-the-art facility that befits the educational ambitions and excellence of this school district. Indeed, it is the kind of school facility that every child in America deserves.

Excellent schools do not just pop up like mushrooms after a rain. They are the product of vision, leadership, persistence, and a tremendous amount of collaboration among local officials and concerned citizens. I salute the entire staff, administration, and governance in the Independence Community School District. In particular, I would like to recognize the leadership of the board of education, President Dawnye Sturtz, Vice President K.C. Robb, Joseph Olsen, Charlie McCardle, and John Christiansen; former board members, Martin Brown, Kevin Greenley, Bob Reiff, and Shelly Whited, as well as elementary principal Dr. Mary Jean Blaisdell and Superintendent Devin Embray.

As we mark the 10th anniversary of the Harkin school grant program in Iowa, I am obliged to point out that many thousands of school buildings and facilities across the United States are in dire need of renovation or replacement. In my State of Iowa alone, according to a recent study, some 79 percent of public schools need to be upgraded or repaired. The harsh reality is that the average age of school buildings in the United States is nearly 50 years.

Too often, our children visit ultramodern shopping malls and gleaming sports arenas on weekends but during the week go to school in rundown or antiquated facilities. This sends exactly the wrong message to our young people about our priorities. We have got to do better.

That is why I am deeply grateful to the professionals and parents in the Independence Community School District. There is no question that a quality public education for every child is a top priority in that community. I salute them and wish them a very successful new school year.•

COMMENDING PERRY COMMUNITY EDUCATION

• Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, in Iowa and across the United States, a new school year has begun. As you know, Iowa public schools have an excellent reputation nationwide, and Iowa students' test scores are among the highest in the Nation.

I would like to take just a few minutes, today, to salute the dedicated teachers, administrators, and school board members in the Perry Community School District, and to report on their participation in a unique Federal partnership to repair and modernize school facilities.

This fall marks the 10th year of the Iowa Demonstration Construction Grant Program. That is its formal name, but it is better known among educators in Iowa as the program of Harkin grants for Iowa public schools. Since 1998, I have been fortunate to secure a total of $121 million for the State government in Iowa, which selects worthy school districts to receive these grants for a range of renovation and repair efforts—everything from updating fire safety systems to building new schools or renovating existing facilities. In many cases, this Federal funding is used to leverage public and/or private local funding, so it often has a tremendous multiplier effect in a local school district.

The Perry Community School District received Harkin grants totaling $505,095 which it used to help build two

additions at the high school to provide additional classrooms and administrative offices and to make fire safety repairs in the middle school. This school is a modern, state-of-the-art facility that befits the educational ambitions and excellence of this school district. Indeed, it is the kind of school facility that every child in America deserves.

Excellent new schools like Perry High School do not just pop up like mushrooms after a rain. They are the product of vision, leadership, persistence, and a tremendous amount of collaboration among local officials and concerned citizens. I salute the entire staff, administration, and governance in the Perry Community School District. In particular, I would like to recognize the leadership of the board of education—President Dave Menz, Vice President Kathy Powell, Dan Wilhelmi, Darek Vankirk, Scott Seeley, board secretary Nancy Gee and board treasurer Dwayne Hochhalter and former board members—Gary Huitt, Kent Feiedrichsen, Larry Lyons, Rudy Zagar, board secretary Mary Boege, Chuck Painter, Shirley Keenan-Allyn and board secretary Dean Stumbo. I would also like to recognize Superintendent Randall McCaulley, former Superintendent Ellen Wrzeski, high school principal Dan Marburger and the Kids 2000 Committee.

As we mark the 10th anniversary of the Harkin school grant program in Iowa, I am obliged to point out that many thousands of school buildings and facilities across the United States are in dire need of renovation or replacement. In my State of Iowa alone, according to a recent study, some 79 percent of public schools need to be upgraded or repaired. The harsh reality is that the average age of school buildings in the United States is nearly 50 years.

Too often, our children visit ultra modern shopping malls and gleaming sports arenas on weekends, but during the week go to school in rundown or antiquated facilities. This sends exactly the wrong message to our young people about our priorities. We have to do better.

That is why I am deeply grateful to the professionals and parents in the Perry Community School District. There is no question that a quality public education for every child is a top priority in that community. I salute them and wish them a very successful new school year.●

REMEMBERING WALTER C. ''BUD'' O'MEARA

● Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, it is with a heavy heart that I honor today the memory of Walter C. ''Bud'' O'Meara, a teacher, coach, and good friend who passed away on August 3, 2008. I am deeply saddened by Walter's death and will keep his friends and family in my thoughts during this difficult time.

Growing up in my hometown of Stamford, CT, Walter spent most of his free time at the local YMCA, where he developed a passion for sports. While attending Stamford High School—SHA—in the 1930s, Walter was captain of the basketball team and an all state quarterback. His abilities on the football field earned him a scholarship to Notre Dame, the most storied program in the history of college football, where he played under Coach Elmer Layden, one of the Four Horsemen.

After graduating from Notre Dame, Walter joined the U.S. Navy, where he would become a lieutenant in the Naval Air Corps. While in the Navy, Walter married his wife, Grace, whom he had met on a blind date. They would remain married until Grace's death in 2005. As a member of Air Group 19, Walter flew bombers in the Pacific Combat Zone during the Second World War and was awarded the Air Medal for his service. Walter would keep in touch with his friends from Air Group 19 throughout his life.

After the war, Walter returned to SHS as a teacher and coach. In 1958, he was named head football coach, and proceeded to lead Stamford High to back-to-back State championships in 1958 and 1959. In addition to his duties as football coach, Walter also coached American Legion Baseball for 9 years. Again, Walter proved adept at getting the most out of his athletes, producing five State championship teams, and two regional champions.

While his teams' accomplishments on the field are certainly impressive, Coach O'Meara's greatest contribution to Stamford High was the constant source of friendship and support he provided his students. Years later, his players still fondly recall the influence he had on them not just on the playing field but in life as well. When I attended SHS, all students, whether athletes or not, knew that Coach O'Meara was someone they could approach whenever they needed assistance.

When he retired from coaching, Walter continued to serve as an administrator at SHS and managed the Roxbury Swimming and Tennis Club for over 25 years. He also worked as a professional football scout for 9 years.

However busy Walter was, he always made time for his family and friends. Those who knew him best said that no matter his professional success, his greatest pride was reserved for his 6 daughters, 11 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren.

While I will miss my good friend Walter O'Meara, I take solace that his example will live on in all of us who were lucky to have known him.●

CELEBRATING THE 30TH ANNUAL DICK LUGAR FITNESS FESTIVAL

Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, I appreciate this opportunity to share my gratitude for the remarkable work of the students and staff at Indianapolis's Butler University over our 30-year partnership in encouraging fitness and health awareness in central Indiana.

This Saturday, September 13, 2008, I will have the privilege of joining my friends and fellow Hoosiers at the 30th Annual Dick Lugar Community Walk, Run and Health Fair, held on the attractive grounds of Butler University. This festival was inaugurated in May of 1979 in order to highlight the positive benefits of fitness and nutrition to members of the local community. From the very beginning, this initiative was designed to appeal to a wide spectrum of people. Youth and families were encouraged to participate in an effort to reach out beyond the normal universe of running enthusiasts and to capitalize on those who could serve as a model for young people. With the inclusion of the health fair our partnership strove to engage older adults as well. And in 1983, the festivities began to include a Health and Fitness Award, given in recognition of individuals and organizations that have made exemplary contributions to the community in these important areas.

The Fitness Festival remains an event I look forward to with excitement each year. The running and racewalk competitions, the health fair with local experts and organizations in attendance, and the general fellowship all promise to be especially memorable in this signal year. Accordingly, I would like to take special care in highlighting those most responsible for the festival's perennial success.

Butler University and its dedicated president, Dr. Bobby Fong, deserve considerable praise. The university's eagerness to not only host, but embrace this opportunity to promote the benefits of a fit and healthy lifestyle reminds me of why Hoosiers are so proud of our colleges and universities' roles in improving the quality of life for individuals throughout Indiana. Thanks must also be given to the Butler students and faculty, and the community members who volunteer as organizers and race workers; the individuals who devote their experience and expertise at the health fair booths; the city of Indianapolis and Marion County for logistical support; other supporting organizations, whose generosity and commitment to health awareness in the Indianapolis community is highly commendable; and the thousands of individuals who have participated in the Fitness Festival over the course of its life.

It is important that as citizens we do what we can at the Federal, State, and community levels to promote the benefits of leading healthy lifestyles. This auspicious occasion provides a wonderful opportunity to commend Butler University for its efforts in this regard.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MISSOURI SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM

Mrs. MCCASKILL. Mr. President, today I would like to honor the important and national contributions of the Missouri School of Journalism in Columbia, MO, on its 100th anniversary.

When the school opened its doors on September 14, 1908, it became the world's first school of journalism. The University Missourian published its first issue that day, exemplifying the school's ''Missouri Method'' of hands-on training at multiple professional media outlets affiliated with the school. In fact, the school still operates the only network-affiliated television newsroom in the country designed as a teaching facility.

The school's pioneering endeavors continued in 1921 and 1934 with the awarding of the first master's and doctoral degrees in journalism. And now more than 20,000 alumni from all over the world have become leaders in journalism, mass communication, and academe.

The free press plays an integral role in our society, as a champion of freedom and watchdog of liberty. The achievements of this school are a mark of pride for its students and faculty, for Missouri, and the Nation. I congratulate the school on the celebration of its 100th anniversary and look forward to future groundbreaking endeavors from the school's leadership, faculty, alumni, and students.

TRIBUTE TO THE MALCOLM GROW MEDICAL CENTER

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the great services that the Malcolm Grow Medical Center has done for this country. Malcolm Grow celebrated its 50th anniversary on July 31, 2008, and in those 50 years, it has provided medical care for those serving in the U.S. Air Force as well as their families. They follow in the proud tradition of medicine which their namesake developed.

MG Malcolm C. Grow was the first surgeon general of the U.S. Air Force, serving from July 1 to November 30, 1949. In 1943, General Grow received the Legion of Merit for developing body armor to protect combat crews. His research led the way in developing a light body armor and steel helmet that saved many lives and improved our fighters' morale.

Today there are 372,200 eligible beneficiaries within 40 miles of the Malcolm Grow Medical Center. On a typical day, Malcolm Grow providers see 930 outpatients, 90 dental patients, 72 emergency room patients and has 5 inpatients. Staff complete seven surgical procedures and perform two deliveries. The Aeromedical Staging Flight takes care of 30 patients transitioning through the National Capital Region and carries out 1,963 pharmacy procedures. In 2007, Malcolm Grown oversaw over 10,400 patient and attendant movements alone.

General Grow's innovative spirit has lived on at the Malcolm Grow Medical Center as it celebrates its 50th birthday. They are the East Coast hub for aeromedical evacuation and provide health care services to our Nation's top leaders. I am proud to honor the great contribution which this facility has made to our service members, our Armed Forces, and our Nation.

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mrs. Neiman, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations and a treaty which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE STATING THAT THE STATUTORY PREREQUISITE TO BECOME EFFECTIVE IS NO LONGER SATISFIED, AS REQUIRED BY SECTION 123 B. OF THE ATOMIC ENERGY ACT OF 1954, FOR THE PROPOSED AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION FOR COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF PEACEFUL USES OF NUCLEAR ENERGY TRANSMITTED TO THE SENATE ON MAY 13, 2008—PM 62

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

To the Congress of the United States:

On May 13, 2008, I transmitted a message to the Congress transmitting the text of a proposed Agreement for Cooperation Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Russian Federation for Cooperation in the Field of Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy (the ''proposed Agreement''), pursuant to sections 123 b. and 123 d. of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (42 U.S.C. 2153 (b), (d)) (the ''Act'').

In view of recent actions by the Government of the Russian Federation incompatible with peaceful relations with its sovereign and democratic neighbor Georgia, I have determined that the determination regarding the proposed Agreement in Presidential Determination 2008–19 is no longer effective. Accordingly, a statutory prerequisite for the proposed Agreement to become effective, as required by section 123 b. of the Act, is no longer satisfied. If circumstances should permit future reconsideration of the proposed Agreement, a new determination will be made and the proposed Agreement will be submitted for congressional review pursuant to section 123 of the Act.

GEORGE W. BUSH.

THE WHITE HOUSE, *September 8, 2008*.

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE RECEIVED DURING RECESS

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 4, 2007, the Secretary of the Senate, on August 1, 2008, during the recess of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

S. 3370. An act to resolve pending claims against Libya by United States nationals, and for other purposes.

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 4, 2007, the enrolled bill was signed on August 1, 2008, during the recess of the Senate by the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 4, 2007, the Secretary of the Senate, on August 4, 2008, during the recess of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

H.R. 2245. An act to designate the Department of Veterans Affairs outpatient clinic in Wenatchee, Washington, as the Elwood 'Bud' Link Department of Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic.

H.R. 4137. An act to amend and extend the Higher Education Act of 1965, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4210. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 401 Washington Avenue in Weldon, North Carolina, as the ''Dock M. Brown Post Office Building''.

H.R. 4918. An act to name the Department of Veterans Affairs medical center in Miami, Florida, as the ''Bruce W. Carter Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center''.

H.R. 5477. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 120 South Del Mar Avenue in San Gabriel, California, as the ''Chi Mui Post Office Building''.

H.R. 5483. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 10449 White Granite Drive in Oakton, Virginia, as the ''Private First Class David H. Sharrett II Post Office Building''.

H.R. 5631. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1155 Seminole Trail in Charlottesville, Virginia, as the ''Corporal Bradley T. Arms Post Office Building''.

H.R. 6061. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 219 East Main Street in West Frankfort, Illinois, as the ''Kenneth James Gray Post Office Building''.

H.R. 6085. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 42222 Rancho Las Palmas Drive in Rancho Mirage, California, as the ''Gerald R. Ford Post Office Building''.

H.R. 6150. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 14500 Lorain Avenue in Cleveland, Ohio, as the ''John P. Gallagher Post Office Building''.

H.R. 6340. An act to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 300 Quarropas Street in White Plains, New York, as the ''Charles L.

Brieant, Jr., Federal Building and United States Courthouse''.

H.R. 6432. An act to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to revise and extend the animal drug user fee program, to establish a program of fees relating to generic new animal drugs, to make certain technical corrections to the Food and Drug Administration Amendments Act of 2007, and for other purposes.

H.R. 6580. An act to ensure the fair treatment of a member of the Armed Forces who is discharged from the Armed Forces, at the request of the member, pursuant to the Department of Defense policy permitting the early discharge of a member who is the only surviving child in a family in which the father or mother, or one or more siblings, served in the Armed Forces and, because of hazards incident to such service, was killed, died as a result of wounds, accident, or disease, is in a captured or missing in action status, or is permanently disabled, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the dollar limitations on contributions to funeral trusts, and for other purposes.

S. 3294. An act to provide for the continued performance of the functions of the United States Parole Commission.

S. 3295. An act to amend title 35, United States Code, and the Trademark Act of 1946 to provide that the Secretary of Commerce, in consultation with the Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office, shall appoint administrative patent judges and administrative trademark judges, and for other purposes.

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 4, 2007, the enrolled bills were signed on August 4, 2008, during the recess of the Senate, by the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 3:00 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 6599. An act making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2009, and for other purposes.

MEASURES DISCHARGED DURING RECESS

The following measure was discharged from the Committee on Foreign Relations, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 2159, and placed on the Calendar:

S.J. Res. 42. Joint resolution relating to the approval of the proposed agreement for nuclear cooperation between the United States and the Russian Federation.

MEASURES DISCHARGED

The following measure was discharged from the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 5057. An act to reauthorize the Debbie Smith DNA Backlog Grant Program; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

S. 3430. A bill to provide for the investigation of certain unsolved civil rights crimes, and for other purposes.

The following bill was read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 6599. An act making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2009, and for other purposes.

ENROLLED BILLS PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bills:

On August 1, 2008:

S. 3370. An act to resolve pending claims against Libya by United States nationals, and for other purposes.

On August 5, 2008:

S. 3294. An act to provide for the continued performance of the functions of the United States Parole Commission.

S. 3295. An act to amend title 35, United States Code, and the Trademark Act of 1946 to provide that the Secretary of Commerce, in consultation with the Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office, shall appoint administrative patent judges and administrative trademark judges, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC–7371. A communication from the Director, Policy Issuance Division, Food Safety and Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Availability of Lists of Retail Consignees During Meat or Poultry Product Recalls'' (RIN0583–AD10) received on August 1, 2008; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–7372. A communication from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Mandatory Country of Origin Labeling of Beef, Pork, Lamb, Chicken, Goat Meat, Perishable Agricultural Commodities, Peanuts, Pecans, Ginseng, and Macadamia Nuts'' (Doc. No. AMS–LS–07–0081) (RIN 0581–AC26) received on August 8, 2008; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–7373. A communication from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Citrus Canker, Movement of Fruit From a Quarantined Area; Bag Markings'' (Docket No. APHIS–2008–0080) received on August 8, 2008; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–7374. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual report of the National Security Education Program for fiscal year 2007; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–7375. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Installations and Environment), transmitting, pursuant to law, notification of the Department's decision to convert to contract the aircraft maintenance, administration, and corrosion control functions currently performed by 375 military personnel at various locations Navy-wide; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–7376. A communication from the Principal Deputy, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting the report of (15) officers authorized to wear the insignia of the next higher grade in accordance with title 10, United States Code, section 777; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–7377. A communication from the Director, Defense Procurement, Acquisition Policy, and Strategic Sourcing, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Item Identification and Valuation Clause Update'' (DFARS Case 2007–D007) received on August 8, 2008; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–7378. A communication from the Director, Defense Procurement, Acquisition Policy, and Strategic Sourcing, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Ship Critical Safety Items'' (DFARS Case 2007–D016) received on August 8, 2008; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–7379. A communication from the Director, Defense Procurement, Acquisition Policy, and Strategic Sourcing, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Competition Requirements for Purchases from Federal Prison Industries'' (DFARS Case 2008–D015) received on August 8, 2008; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–7380. A communication from the Director, Defense Procurement, Acquisition Policy, and Strategic Sourcing, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Trade Agreements—New Thresholds'' (DFARS Case 2007–D023) received on August 8, 2008; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–7381. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller), transmitting, pursuant to law, a quarterly report entitled, ''Acceptance of Contributions for Defense Programs, Projects, and Activities; Defense Cooperation Account''; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–7382. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Final Flood Elevation Determinations'' (73 FR 42266) received on August 5, 2008; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–7383. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Changes in Flood Elevation Determinations'' (73 FR 42265) received on August 5, 2008; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–7384. A communication from the Acting Secretary, Division of Corporation Finance, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Commission Guidance on the Use of Company Web Sites'' (Release Nos. 34–58288, IC–28351) received on August 5, 2008; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–7385. A communication from the Assistant to the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Regulation Z (Truth in Lending)'' (Docket No. R–1320)

received on August 8, 2008; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–7386. A communication from the Administrator, Research and Innovative Technology Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''Transportation Statistics Annual Report 2007''; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7387. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Final Rule for Amendment 89 to the Fishery Management Plan for Groundfish of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area to Implement the Bering Sea Habitat Conservation Measures'' (RIN0648–AW06) received on August 5, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7388. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Pacific Coast Groundfish; Biennial Specifications and Management Measures; Inseason Adjustments'' (RIN0648–AX02) received on August 5, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7389. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries Off West Coast States and in the Western Pacific; West Coast Salmon Fisheries; Inseason Action #1 and #2'' (RIN0648–XH85) received on August 5, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7390. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries Off West Coast States and in the Western Pacific; West Coast Salmon Fisheries; Inseason Action #3 and #4'' (RIN0648–XH91) received on August 5, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7391. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Northern Rockfish for Catcher Processors Participating in the Rockfish Limited Access Fishery in the Central Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska'' (RIN0648–XJ36) received on August 5, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7392. A communication from the Director, Office of Protected Resources, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Taking and Importing Marine Mammals; Taking Marine Mammals Incidental to a U.S. Navy Shock Trial'' (RIN0648–AT77) received on August 8, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7393. A communication from the Director, Office of Surface Mining, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Utah Regulatory Program'' (Docket No. UT–044–FOR) received on June 13, 2008; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–7394. A communication from the General Counsel, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Standards for Business Practices and Communication Protocols for Public Utilities; Final Rule'' (Docket No. RM05–5–005; Order No. 676–C) received on August 8, 2008; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–7395. A communication from the Chief, Branch of Listing, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Designation of Critical Habitat for the Sierra Nevada Bighorn Sheep (Ovis canadensis sierrae) and Taxonomic Revision'' (RIN1018–AV05) received on August 5, 2008; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–7396. A communication from the Chief, Branch of Listing, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Revised Designation of Critical Habitat for the Northern Spotted Owl'' (RIN1018–AU37) received on August 5, 2008; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–7397. A communication from the Chief, Branch of Listing, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Designation of Critical Habitat for Poa atropurpurea and Taraxacum californicum'' (RIN1018–AV04) received on August 5, 2008; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–7398. A communication from the Chief, Branch of Listing, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Designation of Critical Habitat for the Devils River Minnow'' (RIN1018–AV25) received on August 5, 2008; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–7399. A communication from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Pennsylvania; Section 110(a)(1) 8-Hour Ozone Maintenance Plan and 2002 Base-Year Inventory for the Schuylkill County Area'' (FRL No. 8702–1) received on August 8, 2008; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–7400. A communication from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans for Arizona; Maricopa County PM–10 Nonattainment Area; Serious Area Plan for Attainment of the 24-Hour and Annual PM–10 Standards'' (FRL No. 8703–3) received on August 8, 2008; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–7401. A communication from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Delegation of National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants for Source Categories; State of Arizona, Arizona Department of Environmental Quality, Pima County Department of Environmental Quality'' (FRL No. 8701–7) received on August 8, 2008; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–7402. A communication from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Flubendiamide; Pesticide Tolerance'' (FRL No. 8360–2) received on August 8, 2008; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–7403. A communication from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Tebuconazole; Pesticide Tolerances'' (FRL No. 8376–2) received on August 8, 2008; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–7404. A communication from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Thifensulfuron Methyl; Pesticide Tolerances'' (FRL No. 8374–4) received on August 8, 2008; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–7405. A communication from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Tribenuron Methyl; Pesticide Tolerances'' (FRL No. 8374–5) received on August 8, 2008; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–7406. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 422 of the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–7407. A communication from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Utility Allowances Regulations Update'' ((RIN1545–BC22)(TD 9420)) received on August 5, 2008; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–7408. A communication from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Converting an IRA Annuity to a Roth IRA'' ((RIN1545–BE65)(TD 9481)) received on August 5, 2008; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–7409. A communication from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''July—September 2008 Section 42 Bond Factor Amounts'' (Rev. Rul. 2008–36) received on August 5, 2008; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–7410. A communication from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Severance of a Trust for Generation-Skipping Transfer Tax Purposes'' ((RIN1545–BE70)(TD 9421)) received on August 5, 2008; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–7411. A communication from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Tier I Issue IRC Section 118 Abuse Directive #4'' (Uniform Issue List Number: LMSB–4–0608–034) received on August 8, 2008; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–7412. A communication from the Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the efforts being undertaken to complete the mission in Iraq successfully; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–7413. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to contributions of the United States to international organizations for fiscal year 2007; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–7414. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report summarizing the Department's activities during calendar year 2007 under the Enterprise for the Americas Initiative and the Tropical Forest Conservation Act of 1998; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–7415. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting,

pursuant to law, the certification of a proposed license for the export of firearms sold commercially in the amount of $1,000,000 or more to the United Arab Emirates; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–7416. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the certification of a proposed license for the export of firearms sold commercially in the amount of $1,000,000 or more to Mexico; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–7417. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the certification of a proposed license for the export of defense articles and defense services in the amount of $50,000,000 or more to the Republic of Korea, the United Kingdom, New Zealand, Canada, Israel, Australia and Italy; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–7418. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the certification of a proposed license for the export of defense articles and defense services in the amount of $50,000,000 or more to the Government of Colombia; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–7419. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the certification of a proposed license for the export of defense articles and defense services in the amount of $50,000,000 or more to Egypt; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–7420. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the certification of a proposed license for the export of defense articles and defense services in the amount of $50,000,000 or more to the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, and Tunisia; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–7421. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the certification of a proposed license for the export of defense articles and defense services in the amount of $50,000,000 or more to Germany, Sweden, and Spain; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–7422. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the certification of a proposed license for the export of defense articles and defense services (Propulsion Shaft Seals and Pump Seal System Hardware) in the amount of $100,000,000 or more to the United Kingdom; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–7423. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the certification of a proposed license for the export of defense articles and defense services (Radio System for the United Kingdom Nimrod MRA4 Aircraft Program) in the amount of $100,000,000 or more to the United Kingdom; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–7424. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the certification of a proposed license for the export of defense articles and defense services (C–130 engine nacelles) in the amount of $100,000,000 or more to the United Kingdom; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–7425. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the certification of a proposed license for the export of defense articles and defense services in the amount of $100,000,000 or more to Taiwan; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–7426. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the certification of a proposed license for the export of defense articles and defense services in the amount of $100,000,000 or more to Canada; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–7427. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the certification of a proposed manufacturing license for the manufacture of significant military equipment abroad (manufacture, supply and distribution of sporting and recreational firearms) to Belgium, Canada, Portugal and Japan; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–7428. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the certification of a proposed manufacturing license for the manufacture of significant military equipment abroad (Have Quick II and SATURN Electronic Counter-Countermeasures) to France; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–7429. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the certification of a proposed manufacturing license for the manufacture of significant military equipment abroad (microcontrollers for the U.S. Army's Individual High Explosive Air Burst Weapons System) to Taiwan and Malaysia; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–7430. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the certification of a proposed transfer of major defense equipment with an original acquisition value of more than $14,000,000 to the Government of Norway; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–7431. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the certification of an application for a license for the manufacture of significant military equipment abroad (M61A1, GAU–12/U, GAU–22/A and M197 Guns, and M89E1 Feeders) to Italy; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–7432. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the certification of an application for a license for the manufacture of significant military equipment abroad and the export of technical data, defense services, and defense articles in the amount of $50,000,000 or more to the United Kingdom, Germany, and France; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–7433. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, notification of the proposed removal from the United States Munitions List of a digital transceiver that was developed for military application, but has no military specific features and now has both military and civil applications; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–7434. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, notification of the proposed removal from the United States Munitions List of vessels for the containment and transportation of explosive devices that have primary applications in law enforcement and security; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–7435. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendment to the International Traffic in Arms Regulations: The United States Munitions List Category VIII'' (RIN1400–AC47) received on August 8, 2008; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–7436. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulations, Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, Department of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Improving the Academic Achievement of the Disadvantaged—Migrant Education Program Final Regulations'' (RIN1810–AA99) received on August 1, 2008; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–7437. A communication from the Director, Patent and Trademark Office, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Changes to Representation of Others Before The United States Patent and Trademark Office'' (RIN0651–AB55) received on August 8, 2008; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC–7438. A communication from the Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the quarterly report of the Department of Justice's Office of Privacy and Civil Liberties; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC–7439. A communication from the Director, Office of National Drug Control Policy, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled, ''Fiscal Year 2007 Performance Summary Report''; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC–7440. A communication from the President, American Academy of Arts and Letters, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Academy's activities during the year ending December 31, 2007; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC–7441. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator, Drug Enforcement Administration, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Elimination of Exemptions for Chemical Mixtures Containing the List I Chemicals Ephedrine and/or Pseudoephedrine'' (RIN1117–AB11) received on August, 2008; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC–7442. A communication from the Acting White House Liaison, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, (4) reports relative to vacancy announcements within the Department, received on August 05, 2008; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC–7443. A communication from the Acting General Counsel, Office of Size Standards, Small Business Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Small Business Size Standards: Inflation Adjustment to Size Standards, Business Loan Program, and Disaster Assistance Loan Program'' (RIN3245–AF41) received on August 8, 2008; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

EC–7444. A communication from the Acting General Counsel, Office of Size Standards, Small Business Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Small Business Size Standards: Fuel Oil Dealers Industries'' (RIN3245–AF67) received on August 8, 2008; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

EC–7445. A communication from the Secretary of Agriculture, transmitting, the report of draft legislation, ''To amend the Packers and Stockyards Act, 1921, to provide authority to collect license fees from persons

participating in the Packers and Stockyards Programs, and for other purposes''; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–7446. A communication from the Associate Administrator, Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, the report of proposed legislation relative to the Toxic Substances Control Act and the Federal Insecticide Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–7447. A communication from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Marketing Order Regulating the Handling of Almonds Grown in California; Order Amending Marketing Order No. 981'' (Docket No. FV07–981–1) received on August 19, 2008; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–7448. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller), transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a violation of the Antideficiency Act that occurred within the Department of the Navy and has been assigned case number 08-01; to the Committee on Appropriations.

EC–7449. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller), transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a violation of the Antideficiency Act that occurred within the Department of the Army and has been assigned case number 07-01; to the Committee on Appropriations.

EC–7450. A communication from the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition and Technology), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Department's purchases from foreign entities in Fiscal Year 2007; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–7451. A communication from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting a report on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General John A. Bradley, United States Air Force Reserve, and his placement on the retired list in the grade of lieutenant general; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–7452. A communication from the Principal Deputy, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting the report of an officer authorized to wear the insignia of the grade of rear admiral in accordance with title 10, United States Code, section 777; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–7453. A communication from the Principal Deputy, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting, the report of (18) officers authorized to wear the insignia of the grade of brigadier general in accordance with title 10, United States Code, section 777; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–7454. A communication from Chief Financial Officer, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the final set of amendments to the Department's Fiscal Year 2008 Annual Performance Plan; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–7455. A communication from the Under Secretary for Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to amending the Export Administration Regulations; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–7456. A communication from the Regulatory Specialist, Legislative and Regulatory Activities Division, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Community Development Investments (12 C.F.R. part 24)'' (RIN1557-AD12) received on August 18, 2008; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–7457. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Final Flood Elevation Determinations'' (73 FR 44924) received on August 18, 2008; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–7458. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Authorization to Impose License Requirements for Exports or Reexports to Entities Acting Contrary to the National Security or Foreign Policy Interests of the United States'' (RIN0694-AD82) received on August 18, 2008; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–7459. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Mandatory Electronic Filing of Export and Reexport License Applications, Classification Requests, Encryption Review Requests, and License Exception AGR Notifications'' (RIN0694-AD94) received on August 19, 2008; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–7460. A communication from the Assistant to the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Truth in Lending'' (Docket No. R-1305) received on August 18, 2008; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–7461. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Minerals Management Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Electronic Payment of Fees for Outer Continental Shelf Activities'' (RIN1010-AD43) received on August 18, 2008; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–7462. A communication from the Secretary of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''Report on Section 3167 of the Department of Energy Science Education Enhancement Act Related to Education Partnerships with Minority Educational Institutions''; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–7463. A communication from the Secretary, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Fiscal Year 2007 Status Report to Congress for the Herger-Feinstein Quincy Library Group Forest Recovery Act Pilot Project; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–7464. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''A Preliminary Report on the Potential Impacts of Plug-in Hybrid Electric Vehicles on the U.S. Electric System''; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–7465. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Implementation Report on Energy Conservation Standards Activities, combining the fifth semi-annual Energy Policy Act of 2005 report and the second semi-annual Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 report; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–7466. A communication from the Administrator, Energy Information Administration, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled, ''Annual Energy Review 2007''; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–7467. A communication from the Secretary of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''Rural Interstate Corridor Communications Study; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–7468. A communication from the Chief of the Trade and Commercial Regulations Branch, Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''United States - Morocco Free Trade Agreement'' (RIN1505-AB76) received on August 8, 2008; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–7469. A communication from the Program Manager, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Medicare and Medicaid Programs; Fire Safety Requirements for Long Term Care Facilities, Automatic Sprinkler Systems'' (RIN0938-AN79) received on August 18, 2008; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–7470. A communication from the Chief of Publications and Regulations, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Tier I Issue IRC Section 118 Abuse Directive #4'' (LMSB-4-0608-034) received on August 18, 2008; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–7471. A communication from the Chief of Publications and Regulations, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Notice - Section 475 Valuation Safe Harbor'' (Notice 2008-71) received on August 18, 2008; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–7472. A communication from the Chief of Publications and Regulations, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Financing Commitments and Section 163(e)(5)'' ((Rev. Proc. 2008-51)(RP-133208-08)) received on August 18, 2008; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–7473. A communication from the Chief of Publications and Regulations, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''S Corporation Guidance under AJCA 2004 and GOZA of 2005'' ((RIN1545-BE95)(TD9422)) received on August 18, 2008; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–7474. A communication from the Chief of Publications and Regulations, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Employee Plans Compliance Resolution System (''EPCRS'')'' (Rev. Proc. 2008-50) received on August 20, 2008; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–7475. A communication from the Chief of Publications and Regulations, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Transfer of Sponsorship of a Pension Plan'' (Rev. Rul. 2008-45) received on August 18, 2008; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–7476. A communication from the Chief of Publications and Regulations, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Update of Weighted Average Interest Rates, Yield Curves, and Segment Rates'' (Notice 2008-69) received on August 18, 2008; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–7477. A communication from the Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting proposed legislation entitled ''The Foreign Agents Registration Technical Amendments Act of 2008''; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–7478. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendment to the International Traffic in Arms Regulations: U.S. Munitions List Interpretation'' (22 CFR Part 121) received on August 18, 2008; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–7479. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the certification of a proposed manufacturing agreement for the manufacture of significant military equipment abroad (Germany), involving the export of defense articles, including technical data, and defense services to support the replication of the Have Quick I/II and SATURN Electronic Counter-Counter Measure for integration into Radio Communications Equipment; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–7480. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the certification of a proposed manufacturing agreement for the manufacture of significant military equipment abroad (France), involving the export of technical data, and defense services for the manufacture of the Have Quick II and SATURN Electronic Counter-Countermeasures; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–7481. A communication from the Program Manager, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Service of Process'' (45 CFR Part 4) received on August 19, 2008; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–7482. A communication from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Medical Devices; Radiology Devices; Reclassification of Bone Sonometers'' (Docket No. FDA-2005-N-0346) received on August 19, 2008; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–7483. A communication from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''General and Plastic Surgery Devices; Reclassification of the Tissue Adhesive for Topical Approximation of Skin Device'' (Docket No. FDA–2006–P–0140) received on August 18, 2008; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–7484. A communication from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Current Good Manufacturing Practice and Investigational New Drugs Intended for Use in Clinical Trials'' (Docket No. FDA–2005–N–0170) received on August 18, 2008; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–7485. A communication from the Chief, Forest Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Tribal Forest Protection Act of 2004; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

EC–7486. A communication from the Under Secretary for Management, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Department's commercial activities inventory for fiscal year 2007; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–7487. A communication from the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy and Planning, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, an inventory of commercial activities that are currently being performed by the Department's Federal employees for calendar year 2007; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–7488. A communication from the Senior Procurement Executive and Director for Acquisition Management, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department's fiscal year 2007 inventory report; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–7489. A communication from the Executive Director, Project on National Security Reform, transmitting a report entitled ''Project on National Security Reform July 2008 Preliminary Findings''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–7490. A communication from the White House Liaison, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a vacancy for the position of Director, received on August 19, 2008; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–7491. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Suspension of Community Eligibility'' (73 FR Part 43632) received on August 18, 2008; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–7492. A communication from the Director, Census Bureau, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Cutoff Dates for Recognition of Boundary Changes for the 2010 Census'' (RIN0607–AA47) received on August 18, 2008; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–7493. A communication from the Director, Strategic Human Resources Policy, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Prevailing Rate Systems; North American Industry Classification System Based Federal Wage System Wage Surveys'' (RIN3206–AL45) received on August 19, 2008; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–7494. A communication from the Director, Strategic Human Resources Policy, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Competitive Area'' (RIN3206–AL64) received on August 19, 2008; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–7495. A communication from the Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General, transmitting, pursuant to law, the 2006 Annual Report of the National Institute of Justice; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC–7496. A communication from the Deputy White House Liaison, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, (2) reports relative to vacancy announcements within the Department, received on August 18, 2008; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC–7497. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Documentation of Nonimmigrants under the Immigration and Nationality Act, as Amended: Fingerprinting'' (22 CFR Part 41) received on August 19, 2008; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC–7498. A communication from the Deputy Under Secretary and Deputy Director, Patent and Trademark Office, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Revision of Patent Fees for Fiscal Year 2009'' (RIN0651–AC21) received on August 18, 2008; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC–7499. A communication submitted jointly by the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works) and the Under Secretary for Memorial Affairs, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''Report on Alternative Measures to Address Cracks in the Monument at the Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington National Cemetery, Virginia''; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES DURING RECESS

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of August 1, 2008, the following reports of committees were submitted on August 22, 2008:

By Mrs. BOXER, from the Committee on Environment and Public Works, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 2700. A bill to amend the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 to double liability limits for single-hull tankers and tank barges for 2009, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 110–445).

By Mrs. BOXER, from the Committee on Environment and Public Works, with amendments:

S. 2728. A bill to establish the Twenty-First Century Water Commission to study and develop recommendations for a comprehensive water strategy to address future water needs (Rept. No. 110–446).

By Mr. KERRY, from the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, without amendment:

S. 3362. A bill to reauthorize and improve the SBIR and STTR programs, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 110–447).

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. LEAHY, from the Committee on the Judiciary:

Report to accompany S. 344, a bill to permit the televising of Supreme Court proceedings (Rept. No. 110–448).

By Mr. LEAHY, from the Committee on the Judiciary, with amendments:

S. 3061. A bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2008 through 2011 for the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, to enhance measures to combat trafficking in persons, and for other purposes.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. COLEMAN:

S. 3450. A bill to provide for the rescission of funds made available for fiscal year 2009 for Iraq reconstruction; to the Committee on Appropriations.

By Mr. FEINGOLD:

S. 3451. A bill to amend the Small Business Act to extend the Small Business Innovation Research and Small Business Technology Transfer programs, to increase the allocation of Federal agency grants for those programs, to add water, energy, transportation, and domestic security related research to the list of topics deserving special consideration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Mrs. HUTCHISON:

S. 3452. A bill to authorize the expansion of the Fort Davis National Historic Site in Fort

Davis, Texas, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. MENENDEZ:

S. 3453. A bill to authorize the adjustment of status for immediate family members of aliens who served honorably in the Armed Forces of the United States during the Afghanistan and Iraq conflicts; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 223

At the request of Mr. FEINGOLD, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 223, a bill to require Senate candidates to file designations, statements, and reports in electronic form.

S. 261

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 261, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to strengthen prohibitions against animal fighting, and for other purposes.

S. 268

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. BAUCUS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 268, a bill to designate the Ice Age Floods National Geologic Trail, and for other purposes.

S. 316

At the request of Mr. KOHL, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 316, a bill to prohibit brand name drug companies from compensating generic drug companies to delay the entry of a generic drug into the market.

S. 400

At the request of Mr. SUNUNU, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 400, a bill to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that dependent students who take a medically necessary leave of absence do not lose health insurance coverage, and for other purposes.

S. 561

At the request of Mr. BUNNING, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VOINOVICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 561, a bill to repeal the sunset of the Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2001 with respect to the expansion of the adoption credit and adoption assistance programs.

S. 686

At the request of Mr. LIEBERMAN, the names of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) and the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 686, a bill to amend the National Trails System Act to designate the Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route National Historical Trail.

S. 727

At the request of Mr. COCHRAN, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 727, a bill to improve and expand geographic literacy among kindergarten through grade 12 students in the United States by improving professional development programs for kindergarten through grade 12 teachers offered through institutions of higher education.

S. 826

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN), the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUYE), the Senator from New York (Mrs. CLINTON), the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI), the Senator from Texas (Mrs. HUTCHISON), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) and the Senator from Maine (Ms. SNOWE) were added as cosponsors of S. 826, a bill to posthumously award a Congressional gold medal to Alice Paul, in recognition of her role in the women's suffrage movement and in advancing equal rights for women.

S. 860

At the request of Mrs. CLINTON, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 860, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to permit States the option to provide Medicaid coverage for low-income individuals infected with HIV.

S. 988

At the request of Ms. MIKULSKI, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WEBB) was added as a cosponsor of S. 988, a bill to extend the termination date for the exemption of returning workers from the numerical limitations for temporary workers.

S. 1003

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1003, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve access to emergency medical services and the quality and efficiency of care furnished in emergency departments of hospitals and critical access hospitals by establishing a bipartisan commission to examine factors that affect the effective delivery of such services, by providing for additional payments for certain physician services furnished in such emergency departments, and by establishing a Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Working Group, and for other purposes.

S. 1141

At the request of Mr. BINGAMAN, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1141, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow employees not covered by qualified retirement plans to save for retirement through automatic payroll deposit IRAs, to facilitate similar saving by the self-employed, and for other purposes.

S. 1169

At the request of Mr. FEINGOLD, the name of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1169, a bill to ensure the provision of high quality health care coverage for uninsured individuals through State health care coverage pilot projects that expand coverage and access and improve quality and efficiency in the health care system.

S. 1328

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. DODD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1328, a bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to eliminate discrimination in the immigration laws by permitting permanent partners of United States citizens and lawful permanent residents to obtain lawful permanent resident status in the same manner as spouses of citizens and lawful permanent residents and to penalize immigration fraud in connection with permanent partnerships.

S. 1410

At the request of Mr. COLEMAN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1410, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a credit against income tax for the purchase of hearing aids.

S. 1492

At the request of Mr. INOUYE, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1492, a bill to improve the quality of federal and state data regarding the availability and quality of broadband services and to promote the deployment of affordable broadband services to all parts of the Nation.

S. 1556

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1556, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the exclusion from gross income for employer-provided health coverage to designated plan beneficiaries of employees, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. SMITH, the names of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG) were added as cosponsors of S. 1556, supra.

S. 1755

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mrs. LINCOLN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1755, a bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to make permanent the summer food service pilot project for rural areas of Pennsylvania and apply the program to rural areas of every State.

S. 1906

At the request of Mr. BAUCUS, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. DORGAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1906, a bill to understand and comprehensively address the oral health problems associated with methamphetamine use.

S. 2052

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from New York

(Mrs. CLINTON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2052, a bill to allow for certiorari review of certain cases denied relief or review by the United States Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces.

S. 2505

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2505, a bill to allow employees of a commercial passenger airline carrier who receive payments in a bankruptcy proceeding to roll over such payments into an individual retirement plan, and for other purposes.

S. 2510

At the request of Ms. LANDRIEU, the names of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. BROWNBACK) and the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) were added as cosponsors of S. 2510, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide revised standards for quality assurance in screening and evaluation of gynecologic cytology preparations, and for other purposes.

S. 2619

At the request of Mr. COBURN, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. MARTINEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2619, a bill to protect innocent Americans from violent crime in national parks.

S. 2668

At the request of Mr. KERRY, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2668, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to remove cell phones from listed property under section 280F.

S. 2682

At the request of Mrs. CLINTON, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2682, a bill to direct United States funding to the United Nations Population Fund for certain purposes.

S. 2686

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2686, a bill to ensure that all users of the transportation system, including pedestrians, bicyclists, and transit users as well as children, older individuals, and individuals with disabilities, are able to travel safely and conveniently on streets and highways.

S. 2781

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2781, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to increase the per resident payment floor for direct graduate medical education payments under the Medicare program.

S. 2875

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2875, a bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to provide grants to designated States and tribes to carry out programs to reduce the risk of livestock loss due to predation by gray wolves and other predator species or to compensate landowners for livestock loss due to predation.

S. 2883

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mrs. HUTCHISON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2883, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the centennial of the establishment of Mother's Day.

S. 2899

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2899, a bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to conduct a study on suicides among veterans.

S. 2913

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. BENNETT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2913, a bill to provide a limitation on judicial remedies in copyright infringement cases involving orphan works.

S. 2932

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2932, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize the poison center national toll-free number, national media campaign, and grant program to provide assistance for poison prevention, sustain the funding of poison centers, and enhance the public health of people of the United States.

S. 2990

At the request of Mr. KERRY, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. REID) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2990, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve access of Medicare beneficiaries to intravenous immune globulins.

S. 3140

At the request of Mr. WEBB, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUYE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3140, a bill to provide that 4 of the 12 weeks of parental leave made available to a Federal employee shall be paid leave, and for other purposes.

S. 3187

At the request of Mr. HAGEL, the names of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER) and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 3187, a bill to establish a comprehensive interagency response to reduce lung cancer mortality in a timely manner.

S. 3209

At the request of Mrs. HUTCHISON, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. SPECTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3209, a bill to amend title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to clarify the filing period applicable to charges of discrimination, and for other purposes.

S. 3237

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3237, a bill to assist volunteer fire companies in coping with the precipitous rise in fuel prices.

S. 3246

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the names of the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH), the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. COLEMAN) and the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 3246, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow the Secretary of the Treasury to set the standard mileage rate for use of a passenger automobile for purposes of the charitable contributions deduction.

S. 3252

At the request of Mr. DODD, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3252, a bill to amend the Consumer Credit Protection Act, to ban abusive credit practices, enhance consumer disclosures, protect underage consumers, and for other purposes.

S. 3263

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 3263, a bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2009 through 2013 to promote an enhanced strategic partnership with Pakistan and its people, and for other purposes.

S. 3299

At the request of Mr. ENSIGN, the names of the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. MCCASKILL) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) were added as cosponsors of S. 3299, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend the demonstration project on adjustable rate mortgages and the demonstration project on hybrid adjustable rate mortgages.

S. 3308

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. DODD) and the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BAYH) were added as cosponsors of S. 3308, a bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to permit facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs to be designated as voter registration agencies, and for other purposes.

S. 3317

At the request of Mrs. CLINTON, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3317, a bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 101 West Main Street in Waterville, New York, as the ''Corporal John P. Sigsbee Post Office''.

S. 3331

At the request of Mr. BAUCUS, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. COLEMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3331, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to require that the payment of the manufacturers' excise tax on recreational equipment be paid quarterly.

S. 3362

At the request of Mr. KERRY, the name of the Senator from Colorado

(Mr. SALAZAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3362, a bill to reauthorize and improve the SBIR and STTR programs, and for other purposes.

S. 3367

At the request of Mr. SMITH, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CONRAD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3367, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to revise the timeframe for recognition of certain designations in certifying rural health clinics under the Medicare program.

S. 3380

At the request of Mrs. CLINTON, the names of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG) and the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 3380, a bill to promote increased public transportation use, to promote increased use of alternative fuels in providing public transportation, and for other purposes.

S. 3384

At the request of Mr. CARPER, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VOINOVICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3384, a bill to amend section 11317 of title 40, United States Code, to require greater accountability for cost overruns on Federal IT investment projects.

S. 3401

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM, the name of the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3401, a bill to provide for habeas corpus review for terror suspects held at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and for other purposes.

S. 3403

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the names of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) and the Senator from Colorado (Mr. SALAZAR) were added as cosponsors of S. 3403, a bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to require determination of the maximum feasible fuel economy level achievable for cars and light trucks for a year based on a projected fuel gasoline price that is not less than the applicable high gasoline price projection issued by the Energy Information Administration.

S. 3414

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3414, a bill to recapture family-sponsored and employment-based immigrant visas lost to bureaucratic delays and to prevent losses of family-sponsored and employment-based immigrant visas in the future, and for other purposes.

S. 3429

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the names of the Senator from North Carolina (Mrs. DOLE), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) were added as cosponsors of S. 3429, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code to provide for an increased mileage rate for charitable deductions.

S. 3437

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3437, a bill to limit the use of certain interrogation techniques, to require notification of the International Committee of the Red Cross of detainees, to prohibit interrogation by contractors, and for other purposes.

S. CON. RES. 86

At the request of Mr. KERRY, the names of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) and the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. FEINGOLD) were added as cosponsors of S. Con. Res. 86, a concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that the United States, through the International Whaling Commission, should use all appropriate measures to end commercial whaling in all of its forms and seek to strengthen measures to conserve whale species.

S. CON. RES. 87

At the request of Mr. SMITH, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. OBAMA) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 87, a concurrent resolution congratulating the Republic of Latvia on the 90th anniversary of its declaration of independence.

S. RES. 580

At the request of Mr. BAYH, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 580, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate on preventing Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapons capability.

S. RES. 619

At the request of Mr. SESSIONS, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 619, a resolution expressing support for a constructive dialogue on human rights issues between the United States and Bahrain.

S. RES. 640

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the names of the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. FEINGOLD) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 640, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that there should be an increased Federal commitment to public health and the prevention of diseases and injuries for all people in the United States.

AMENDMENT NO. 4979

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Florida, the names of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BOND), the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN), the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. COLEMAN), the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 4979 intended to be proposed to S. 3001, an original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2009 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. COLEMAN:

S. 3450. A bill to provide for the rescission of funds made available for fiscal year 2009 for Iraq reconstruction; to the Committee on Appropriations.

Mr. COLEMAN. Mr. President, legislation I am introducing today will rescind $1.1 billion in fiscal year 2009 funding for Iraq's reconstruction.

As you know, on the first of this month, U.S. forces handed security control of the Anbar province to the Iraqi government. This was an area that was considered all but lost to al-Qaida just 2 years ago, but as a result of the surge and related policies, today the Iraqis are able to take over the lead role for security in the province. This not only is a shining example of the success of the surge, but also shows the great improvements that the Iraqi government has made since the country's historic elections in 2005.

In fact, I believe these gains are so significant that it's time for the Iraqis to foot the bill for their reconstruction.

From 2005 to 2007, the Iraqi government brought in an estimated $96 billion—94 percent of that coming from oil revenues—and a cumulative budget surplus of $29 billion. An August 5, 2008, report by the Government Accountability Office estimated that in 2008 the Iraqis will generate up to $86 billion, with a surplus of up to $50 billion. This means that, by the end of this year, the Iraqis will have realized a budget surplus of up to $79 billion.

I have long been calling for the Iraqi government to assume more responsibility for its own reconstruction costs. Just as they continue to take the lead in securing their country as the situation on the ground improves, I once again call on the Iraqis to take more responsibility for their country's reconstruction. The Iraqis have made great progress in developing their oil infrastructure, and they are now in a position to assume greater financial responsibility of their economic future.

There is no reason that we can't begin to return American tax dollars to the U.S. Treasury. That is why today I am introducing legislation that would rescind more than $1 billion in funding that has been appropriated for future Iraqi reconstruction.

My legislation will rescind approximately $1.1 billion in Iraqi reconstruction funding appropriated by Congress for fiscal year 2009. It is important to note that this legislation will not affect any of the funding for our soldiers who are putting themselves in harm's way every day. Nor will it affect ongoing projects, nor any money that has already been obligated.

I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Iraqis in the improvements they have made by allowing them to take control of their own reconstruction. For the people of Iraq, this is a matter of self-determination and self-reliance. For American taxpayers, it's a matter of fairness.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 3450

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

SECTION 1. RESCISSION OF CERTAIN FISCAL YEAR 2009 FUNDS FOR IRAQ RECONSTRUCTION.

(a) BRIDGE FUNDS FOR ECONOMIC SUPPORT FUND FOR IRAQ.—The amount appropriated by subchapter B of chapter 4 of title I of the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2008 (Public Law 110–252) under the heading ''ECONOMIC SUPPORT FUND'' and available for assistance for Iraq is hereby rescinded.

(b) DEFENSE BRIDGE FUNDS FOR IRAQ SECURITY FORCES FUND.—The amount appropriated by chapter 2 of title IX of the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2008 under the heading ''IRAQ SECURITY FORCES FUND'' is hereby rescinded.

By Mr. FEINGOLD:

S. 3451. A bill to amend the Small Business Act to extend the Small Business Innovation Research and Small Business Technology Transfer programs, to increase the allocation of Federal agency grants for those programs, to add water, energy, transportation, and domestic security related research to the list of topics deserving special consideration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, we need to take strong steps to promote job creation, innovation and sustainable long term economic development and there is no better way to do this than by stimulating and supporting small business innovation, especially in areas of national priority. As part of this effort, today I am introducing the Strengthening Our Economy Through Small Business Innovation Act of 2008.

Job growth, innovation and economic development are driven by our small businesses. Small businesses also tend to be based in our cities and communities and so they are major contributors to our local economies. Half of our county's payroll jobs and most of our new job opportunities are provided by small businesses. Small businesses are proven innovators and drive commercialization of cutting edge technologies. They also are effective partners with universities to enhance product creation, develop university income and attract university graduates and faculty through increased innovative job opportunities.

Over the last 25 years, through the Small Business Innovation and Research program, SBIR, and, more recently, Small Business Technology Transfer program, STTR, up to 2.5 percent and 0.3 percent, respectively, of Federal R&D funds from 11 Federal agencies have been specifically allocated to our Nation's small businesses to fund innovation.

My bill does three things. First, it extends the SBIR and STTR programs for a further 14 years so that small businesses, as well as universities and non-profit research organizations that collaborate with small businesses, can continue to leverage Federal research and development funding.

Second, it significantly increases the allocation of funds and the awards from large Federal research and development budgets to small businesses through the SBIR and STTR programs. It would increase the SBIR allocation from its current 2.5 percent to 10 percent and the STTR allocation from 0.3 percent to 1.0 percent over a 3 year period. It would increase SBIR phase I awards from $100,000 to $300,000 and phase II awards from $750,000 to $2.2 million. Third, it identifies specific funding priorities for energy innovation; safe and secure water; domestic security; and transportation.

Not only are small businesses our major source of employment, they employ about one third of our country's scientists and engineers and generate more patents on a per capita basis than large businesses and universities. This is simply a good investment in sustained job creation and innovation.

Studies by both the independent Government Accountability Office and The National Research Council have established that these programs are very effective in addressing their stated purposes. The NRC's comprehensive study, which was completed last year, found that the SBIR program ''is sound in concept and effective in practice.'' It also found that the program was ''stimulating technological innovation''; ''linking universities to the public and private markets''; ''increasing private sector commercialization of innovations'' at an ''impressive'' rate; and ''providing widely distributed support for innovation activity.'' The study concluded that:

> [T]he program is proving effective in meeting Congressional objectives. It is increasing innovation, encouraging participation by small companies in R&D, providing support for small firms owned by minorities and women, and resolving research questions for mission agencies in a cost effective manner. Should the Congress wish to provide additional funds for the program in support of these objectives, those funds could be employed effectively by the nation's SBIR.

The NRC's study found that universities and other non-profit research institutions will benefit significantly from the increase in both the SBIR and the STTR programs. The STTR allocation increase will directly benefit universities and efforts to bring university-based research into the commercial marketplace, as a partnership with a non-profit research institution, such as a university, is a requirement of all STTR award recipients.

The NRC study also found that many of the small businesses that receive SBIR funding are rooted in the university infrastructure so there will be synergies as investigators and graduates from universities, will have opportunities to be part of commercial developments. More than ⅔ of SBIR companies report that at least one founder was previously an academic. About one-third of SBIR company founders were most recently employed as academics before founding the company. Over a third of SBIR projects cite direct university involvement with: 27 percent of projects having university faculty as contractors on the project; 17 percent using universities themselves as subcontractors; and 15 percent employing graduate students.

In its report accompanying reauthorization legislation, the Senate Small Business and Entrepreneurship Committee recently concluded that:

> increases in the SBIR allocation will invest money in research, contracting, internships, and other collaborative activities done with universities, with the contracting and patenting activities with SBIR companies being a sizable source of revenue for universities as well. The university-industry partnerships that SBIR creates are crucial in that they provide an applied research and commercialization focus that otherwise likely would not be present in university research. More specifically, the partnerships are important in exposing faculty and the next generation of scientists and engineers to commercial research and development. SBIR businesses provide graduate and undergraduate students with hands-on experience and job opportunities that universities would be unable to provide alone.

Our country faces some major challenges in which targeted research and development will be critical. Congress, with non-partisan expert guidance, has a role to play in guiding our national research and development priorities and, in this case, stimulating small business innovation in specific areas of critical national need. The National Academies of Science and other independent government research organizations provide us with carefully researched and considered recommendations on how we can address these priorities, so my bill draws on their recommendations to develop innovative energy technologies; enhance water quality and security; strengthen domestic security; and address transportation priorities. I urge my colleagues to support my legislation.

NOTICE OF HEARINGS

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I would like to announce that the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources will hold a business meeting on Thursday, September 11, 2008, at 9:30 a.m., in room SD–366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

For further information, please contact Sam Fowler at (202) 224–7571 or Amanda Kelly at (202) 224–6836.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that an energy summit has been scheduled under the auspices of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

The summit will be held on Friday, September 12, beginning at 9:30 a.m., in room SD–G50 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington, DC.

The purpose of the summit is to consider how to achieve a more secure, reliable, sustainable, and affordable energy future for the American people.

All Senators are invited to attend and present their views and recommendations. A limited number of experts will also be invited to participate and make oral statements. In addition, anyone wishing to submit written statements for the record may send them to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, United States Senate, Washington, DC. 20510–6150, or by e-mail to rosemarie_calabro@energy.senate.gov.

For further information, please contact Deborah Estes at (202) 224–5360, Tara Billingsley at (202) 224–4756, or Rosemarie Calabro at (202) 224–5039.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. President, I would like to announce for the Information of the Senate and the public that a hearing has been scheduled before Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. The hearing will be held on Tuesday, September 16, 2008, at 10 a.m., in room SD–366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The purpose of the hearing is to receive testimony on the current state of vehicles powered by the electric grid and the prospects for wider deployment in the near future.

Because of the limited time available for the hearing, witnesses may testify by invitation only. However, those wishing to submit written testimony for the hearing record should send it to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, United States Senate, Washington, DC 20510–6150, or by email to rachel_pasternack@energy.senate.gov.

For further information, please contact Mike Carr at (202) 224–8164 or Rachel Pasternack at (202) 224–0883.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Suzanne McGuire, a fellow in the office of Senator PRYOR, be granted floor privileges for the remainder of the second session of the 110th Congress.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the following named staff members of the Committee on Armed Services be granted privileges of the floor at all times during the Senate's consideration of and votes relating to S. 3001, the national defense authorization bill:

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

HOLDS PERMANENT FLOOR PRIVILEGES

Borawski, June M.; Brewer, Leah C.; Bryan, Joseph M.; Caniano, William M.; Clark, Jonathan D.; Cohen, Ilona R.; Collins, David G.; Cowart, Christine E.; Creedon, Madelyn R.; Cronin, Kevin A.

DeBobes*, Richard D.; Dickinson, Marie Fabrizio; Eisen, Gabriella; Fieldhouse, Richard W.; Forbes, Diana Tabler; Greene, Creighton; Howard, Gary J.; Hutton, Paul C.; Jacobson, Mark R.; Kiley, Gregory T.

Kingston, Jessica L.; Kostiw*; Michael V.; Kuiken, Michael J.; Kyle, Mary J.; Lang, Christine G.; Leeling, Gerald J.; Levine*, Peter K.; McConnell, Thomas K.; McCord, Michael J.; Monahan, William G.P.; Morriss*, David M.

Niemeyer, Lucian L.; Noblet, Michael J.; Pasha, Ali Z.; Paul, Christopher J.; Pearson, Cindy; Quirk V, John H.; Rusten, Lynn F.; Sebold, Brian F.; Seraphin, Arun A.; Smith, Travis E.; Soofer, Robert M.; Stackley, Sean G.; Sutey, William K.; Wagner, Mary Louise; Walsh, Richard F.; Wells, Breon N.; White, Dana W.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that U.S. Army MAJ Alison Martin, a military legislative fellow in Senator DODD's office, be granted the privilege of the floor during the debate on S. 3001.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Robert Bruce, a Marine Corps fellow, be granted the privileges of the floor during consideration of S. 3001.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

FOREIGN TRAVEL FINANCIAL REPORTS

In accordance with the appropriation provisions of law, the Secretary of the Senate herewith submits the following reports for standing committees of the Senate, certain joint committees of the Congress, delegations and groups, and select and special committees of the Senate, relating to expenses incurred in the performance of authorized foreign travel:

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS FOR TRAVEL FROM APR. 1 TO JUNE 30, 2008

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Senator Barbara Mikulski:									
Canada	Dollar		876.00						876.00
United States	Dollar				1,993.25				1,993.25
Gabrielle Batkin:									
Canada	Dollar		876.00						876.00
United States	Dollar				1,993.25				1,993.25
Senator Patrick J. Leahy:									
Ireland	Euro		759.00						759.00
Czech Republic	Koruna		372.00						372.00
Turkey	Lira		328.00						328.00
Ed Pagano:									
Ireland	Euro		759.00						759.00
Czech Republic	Koruna		372.00						372.00
Turkey	Lira		328.00						328.00
Kevin McDonald:									
Ireland	Euro		759.00						759.00
Czech Republic	Koruna		372.00						372.00
Turkey	Lira		328.00						328.00
Katherine A. Eltrich:									
Ireland	Euro		759.00						759.00
Czech Republic	Koruna		372.00						372.00
Turkey	Lira		328.00						328.00
Dr. John Eisold:									
Ireland	Euro		759.00						759.00
Czech Republic	Koruna		372.00						372.00
Turkey	Lira		328.00						328.00
Senator Thad Cochran:									
Ireland	Euro		759.00						759.00
Czech Republic	Koruna		372.00						372.00
Turkey	Lira		328.00						328.00
Kay Webber:									
Ireland	Euro		759.00						759.00
Czech Republic	Koruna		372.00						372.00
Turkey	Lira		328.00						328.00
Michele Wymer:									
Ireland	Euro		759.00						759.00
Czech Republic	Koruna		372.00						372.00

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS FOR TRAVEL FROM APR. 1 TO JUNE 30, 2008—Continued

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Turkey	Lira		328.00						328.00
Howard Sutton:									
Mexico	Peso		1,050.00						1,050.00
United States	Dollar				2,180.99				2,180.99
Ellen Stein Beares:									
Spain	Euro		1,608.00						1,608.00
United Kingdom	Pound		1,170.00						1,170.00
France	Euro		1,207.00						1,207.00
United States	Dollar				8,534.00				8,534.00
Total			18,459.00		14,701.49				33,160.49

SENATOR ROBERT BYRD,
Chairman, Committee on Appropriations, July 29, 2008.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, AMENDED, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS FOR TRAVEL FROM JAN. 1 TO MAR. 31, 2008

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Senator Patrick J. Leahy:									
Switzerland	Franc		1,194.64						1,194.64
Kevin McDonald:									
Switzerland	Franc		1,254.47						1,254.47
United States	Dollar				2,919.71				2,919.71
Total			2,449.11		2,919.71				5,368.82

SENATOR ROBERT BYRD,
Chairman, Committee on Appropriations, July 29, 2008.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES FOR TRAVEL FROM APR. 1 TO JUNE 30, 2008

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
William G. P. Monahan:									
Pakistan	Dollar		126.00						126.00
Afghanistan	Dollar		75.00						75.00
Israel	Dollar		180.00						180.00
United States	Dollar				9,038.30				9,038.30
Senator E. Benjamin Nelson:									
Germany	Euro		391.00						391.00
Pakistan	Rupee		96.00						96.00
Italy	Euro		273.00						273.00
Andrew Vanlandingham:									
Germany	Euro		321.00						321.00
Pakistan	Rupee		46.00						46.00
Italy	Euro		243.00						243.00
Senator Carl Levin:									
Pakistan	Rupee		126.00						126.00
Afghanistan	Afghani		75.00						75.00
Israel	Shekel		180.00						180.00
United States	Dollar				9,056.30				9,056.30
Richard D. DeBobes:									
Pakistan	Rupee		126.00						126.00
Afghanistan	Afghani		75.00						75.00
Israel	Shekel		180.00						180.00
United States	Dollar				9,038.30				9,038.30
Senator Joseph I. Lieberman:									
United States	Dollar				10,988.00				10,988.00
Japan	Dollar		135.00						135.00
Singapore	Dollar		333.00						333.00
Vance Serchuk:									
United States	Dollar				10,988.00				10,988.00
Japan	Dollar			135.00					135.00
Singapore	Dollar		333.00						333.00
Total			3,449.00		49,108.90				52,557.90

SENATOR CARL LEVIN,
Chairman, Committee on Armed Services, July 25, 2008.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS FOR TRAVEL FROM APR. 1 TO JUNE 30, 2008

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Senator Richard Shelby:									
Ireland	Euro		609.00				150.00		759.00
Czech Republic	Koruna		272.00				100.00		372.00
Turkey	Lira		228.00				100.00		328.00
William Duhnke:									
Ireland	Euro		609.00				150.00		759.00
Czech Republic	Koruna		272.00				100.00		372.00
Turkey	Lira		228.00				100.00		328.00

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS FOR TRAVEL FROM APR. 1 TO JUNE 30, 2008—Continued

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Neal Orringer:									
Bolivia	Boliviano		108.00						108.00
Argentina	Peso		312.00						312.00
United States	Dollar				2,733.00				2,733.00
Total			2,638.00		2,733.00		700.00		6,071.00

SENATOR CHRISTOPHER J. DODD,
Chairman, Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs,
July 25, 2008.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION FOR TRAVEL FROM APR. 1 TO JUNE 30, 2008

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Floyd DesChamps:									
United States	Dollar				8,684.56				8,684.56
Thailand	Baht		1,626.00						1,626.00
Todd Bertoson:									
United States	Dollar				6,135.30				6,135.30
Chile	Peso		1,636.00						1,636.00
Total			3,262.00		14,819.86				18,081.86

SENATOR DANIEL K. INOUYE,
Chairman, Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation,
Aug. 1, 2008.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, AMENDED, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2007

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Jessica Maher:									
Greenland	Krone		180.00						180.00
Ashley Horning:									
Greenland	Krone		140.00						140.00
Senator Bill Nelson:									
Greenland	Krone		257.00						257.00
Senator Johnny Isakson:									
Greenland	Krone		256.00						256.00
Senator Bernard Sanders:									
Greenland	Krone		257.00						257.00
Senator Sheldon Whitehouse:									
Greenland	Krone		257.16						257.16
Senator Barbara Mikulski:									
Greenland	Krone		140.44						140.44
Senator Frank Lautenberg:									
Greenland	Krone		307.00						307.00
Senator Benjamin Cardin:									
Greenland	Krone		257.30						257.30
Senator Amy Klobuchar:									
Greenland	Krone		350.00						350.00
Senator Bob Corker:									
Greenland	Krone		120.44						120.44
Erik Olson:									
Greenland	Krone		188.50						188.50
Michael Goo:									
Greenland	Krone		350.00						350.00
Michael Quiello:									
Greenland	Krone		160.44						160.44
Marc Morano:									
Greenland	Krone		260.00						260.00
Arvin Ganeson:									
Greenland	Krone		160.44						160.44
Mark Wilson:									
Greenland	Krone		350.00						350.00
John Eisold:									
Greenland	Krone		350.00						350.00
Alex Herrgott:									
United States	Dollar				7,676.29				7,676.29
Sweden	Krona		1,395.00						1,395.00
Netherlands	Euro		1,282.68						1,282.68
Turkey	Lira		1,288.00						1,288.00
James O'Keeffe:									
United States	Dollar				7,676.29				7,676.29
Sweden	Krona		1,395.00						1,395.00
Netherlands	Euro		1,282.68						1,282.68
Turkey	Lira		1,288.00						1,288.00
Paul Ordal:									
Greenland	Krone		140.44						140.44
United States	Dollar				6,231.02				6,231.02
United Kingdom	Pound		779.00						779.00
France	Euro		354.00		766.50		1,850.00		2,970.50
Iceland	Krona		234.00		194.50		338.00		766.50
Bettina Poirier:									
Greenland	Krone		350.00						350.00
United States	Dollar				6,231.02				6,231.02
United Kingdom	Pound		905.00						905.00
France	Euro		354.00		766.50		1,850.00		2,970.50
Iceland	Krona		234.00		194.50		338.00		766.50

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, AMENDED, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2007—Continued

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Peter Rafle:									
Greenland	Krone		225.24						225.24
United States	Dollar				6,231.02				6,231.02
United Kingdom	Pound		603.00						603.00
France	Euro		354.00		766.50		1,850.00		2,970.50
Iceland	Krona		234.00		194.50		338.00		766.50
Senator Barbara Boxer:									
Greenland	Krone		257.30						257.30
United States	Dollar				6,231.02				6,231.02
United Kingdom	Pound		524.00						524.00
France	Euro		354.00		766.50		1,850.00		2,970.50
Iceland	Krona		234.00		194.50		338.00		766.50
Total			18,409.06		44,120.66		8,752.00		71,281.72

SENATOR BARBARA BOXER,
Chairman, Committee on Environment and Public Works, Aug. 13, 2008.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS FOR TRAVEL FROM APR. 1 TO JUNE 30, 2008

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Eric Thu:									
United States	Dollar				10,842.56				10,842.56
Thailand	Baht		1,608.00						1,608.00
James O'Keeffe:									
United States	Dollar				8,229.97				8,229.97
Spain	Euro		1,458.00				150.00		1,608.00
United Kingdom	Pound		1,070.00				100.00		1,170.00
France	Euro		1,107.00				100.00		1,207.00
Total			5,243.00		19,072.53		350.00		24,665.53

SENATOR BARBARA BOXER,
Chairman, Committee on Environment and Public Works, July 25, 2008.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS FOR TRAVEL FROM APR. 1 TO JUNE 30, 2008

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Senator Joseph R. Biden, Jr.:									
France	Euro		834.00						834.00
United States	Dollar				3,103.85				3,103.85
Senator Joseph R. Biden, Jr.:									
Italy	Euro		861.00						861.00
United States	Dollar				7,184.75				7,184.75
Senator Robert Casey:									
Pakistan	Rupee		130.00						130.00
India	Rupee		86.00						86.00
United States	Dollar				9,362.40				9,362.40
Senator Christopher Dodd:									
Bolivia	Dollar		202.00						202.00
Argentina	Peso		312.00						312.00
Ecuador	Dollar		174.00						174.00
Senator Russ Feingold:									
Pakistan	Rupee		93.04						93.04
India	Rupee		718.00						718.00
United States	Dollar				7,960.28				7,960.28
Senator John Kerry:									
Saudi Arabia	Riyal		348.00						348.00
Israel	Shekal		176.00						176.00
Egypt	Pound		162.00						162.00
France	Euro		278.00						278.00
United States	Dollar				8,190.00				8,190.00
Jonah Blank:									
Thailand	Dollar		960.00						960.00
Malaysia	Dollar		1,338.00						1,338.00
United States	Dollar				9,854.33				9,854.33
Joshua Blumenfeld:									
Bolivia	Dollar		102.00						102.00
Argentina	Peso		252.00						252.00
Ecuador	Dollar		134.00						134.00
Jay Branegan:									
Vietnam	Dollar		1,460.00						1,460.00
Cambodia	Dollar		385.00						385.00
United States	Dollar				9,157.32				9,157.32
Shellie Bressler:									
Uganda	Shilling		1,764.62						1,764.62
United States	Dollar				10,342.94				10,342.94
Neil Brown:									
Chad	Franc		1,095.00						1,095.00
Ghana	Cedi		1,120.00						1,120.00
United States	Dollar				15,882.34				15,882.34
Brooke Daley:									
Peru	Nuevo Sol		1,850.00						1,850.00
Brazil	Real		864.00						864.00
United States	Dollar				6,076.30				6,076.30
Isaac Edwards:									
Korea	Won		200.00						200.00
Russia	Ruble		500.00						500.00

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS FOR TRAVEL FROM APR. 1 TO JUNE 30, 2008—Continued

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
United States	Dollar				9,330.00				9,330.00
Steve Feldstein:									
Nicaragua	Cordoba		174.00						174.00
United States	Dollar				2,406.30				2,406.30
Paul Foldi:									
Uganda	Shilling		2,072.00						2,072.00
United States	Dollar				10,342.94				10,342.94
Mark Helmke:									
Germany	Euro		2,561.48						2,561.48
United States	Dollar				6,979.66				6,979.66
Frank Jannuzi:									
Thailand	Baht		960.00						960.00
Taiwan	Dollar		1,795.00						1,795.00
United States	Dollar				9,830.83				9,830.83
Jofi Joseph:									
Pakistan	Rupee		130.00						130.00
India	Rupee		273.00						273.00
United States	Dollar				9,694.40				9,694.40
Danielle Langton:									
Russia	Ruble		877.00						877.00
United States	Dollar				7,761.78				7,761.78
Mark Lopes:									
Nicaragua	Cordoba		253.62						253.62
Honduras	Lempira		553.23						553.23
United States	Dollar				1,559.30				1,559.30
Frank Lowenstein:									
Saudi Arabia	Riyal		348.00						348.00
Israel	Shekal		176.00						176.00
Egypt	Pound		162.00						162.00
France	Euro		198.00						198.00
United States	Dollar				8,190.00				8,190.00
Sarah Margon:									
Pakistan	Rupee		156.00						156.00
India	Rupee		1,023.00						1,023.00
United States	Dollar				7,990.28				7,990.28
Dan McLaughlin:									
Kenya	Shilling		474.00						474.00
Tanzania	Shilling		308.00						308.00
Uganda	Shilling		272.00						272.00
Rwanda	Franc		272.00						272.00
Italy	Euro		273.00						273.00
United States	Dollar				5,979.67				5,979.67
Carl Meacham:									
Peru	Nuevo Sol		1,890.00						1,890.00
Brazil	Real		964.00						964.00
United States	Dollar				6,076.30				6,076.30
Kenneth Myers III:									
Russia	Ruble		760.00						760.00
United States	Dollar				7,761.78				7,761.78
Michael Phelan:									
Chad	Franc		1,095.00				777.00		1,872.00
Ghana	Cedi		1,120.00				856.00		1,976.00
United States	Dollar				15,882.34				15,882.34
Shannon Smith:									
Uganda	Shilling		1,624.00						1,624.00
United States	Dollar				10,343.00				10,343.00
Chris Socha:									
Djibouti	Franc		336.00						336.00
Ethiopia	Birr		996.00						996.00
Botswana	Pula		434.00						434.00
Senegal	Franc		796.00						796.00
United States	Dollar				12,122.96				12,122.96
Marik A. Frens-String:									
Vietnam	Dong		740.00						740.00
Cambodia	Riel		645.00				233.00		878.00
United States	Dollar				8,981.32				8,981.32
Puneet Talwar:									
Netherlands	Euro		446.00						446.00
United States	Dollar				7,102.04				7,102.04
David Wade:									
Saudi Arabia	Riyal		348.00						348.00
Israel	Shekal		176.00						176.00
Egypt	Pound		162.00						162.00
France	Euro		278.00						278.00
United States	Dollar				8,190.30				8,190.30
Debbie Yamada:									
United Kingdom	Pound		231.00						231.00
Kazakhstan	Tenge		748.00						748.00
Italy	Euro		262.00						262.00
Total			43,760.99		243,639.71		1,866.00		289,266.70

SENATOR JOSEPH R. BIDEN, JR.
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations, July 25, 2008.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS FOR TRAVEL FROM APR. 1 TO JUNE 30, 2008

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Wendy Anderson:									
United States	Dollar				10,080.76				10,080.76
Israel	Shekel		147.58						147.58
Pakistan	Rupee		161.26						161.26
United Arab Emirates	Dirham		14.60						14.60
India	Rupee		178.97						178.97
Saudi Arabia	Riyal		81.00						81.00
Clyde Hicks:									
United States	Dollar				6,590.97				6,590.97

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS FOR TRAVEL FROM APR. 1 TO JUNE 30, 2008—Continued

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Israel	Shekel		104.87						104.87
Pakistan	Rupee		225.74						225.74
United Arab Emirates	Dirham		192.00						192.00
Total			1,106.02		16,671.73				17,777.75

SENATOR JOSEPH LIEBERMAN,
Chairman, Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs,
July 8, 2008.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE FOR TRAVEL FROM APR. 1 TO JUNE 30, 2008

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Andrew Kerr			2,079.00						2,079.00
	Dollar				3,567.40				3,567.40
Gordon Matlock			2,053.00						2,053.00
	Dollar				4,216.73				4,216.73
David Koger			2,008.00						2,008.00
	Dollar				4,730.28				4,730.28
Caroline Tess			1,099.00						1,099.00
	Dollar				5,980.00				5,980.00
Senator Bill Nelson			1,432.00						1,432.00
	Dollar				5,980.00				5,980.00
Eric Pelofsky			1,537.20						1,537.20
	Dollar				7,112.84				7,112.84
Michael Pevzner			1,644.00						1,644.00
	Dollar				8,453.28				8,453.28
Louis Tucker			1,635.00						1,635.00
	Dollar				5,441.30				5,441.30
Bryan Smith			1,529.57						1,529.57
	Dollar				5,478.44				5,478.44
Evan Gottesman			816.00						816.00
	Dollar				7,990.28				7,990.28
Michael Pevzner			1,924.99						1,924.99
	Dollar				7,807.09				7,807.09
Todd Rosenblum			1,924.99						1,924.99
	Dollar				7,807.09				7,807.09
John Maguire			1,924.99						1,924.99
	Dollar				7,807.09				7,807.09
Daniel Jones			1,924.99						1,924.99
	Dollar				7,807.09				7,807.09
Eric Pelofsky			1,387.00						1,387.00
	Dollar				8,543.28				8,543.28
Todd Rosenblum			1,644.00						1,644.00
	Dollar				8,543.28				8,543.28
Total			26,563.73		107,265.47				133,829.20

SENATOR JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER,
Chairman, Committee on Intelligence, Aug. 1, 2008.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP FOR TRAVEL FROM APR. 1 TO JUNE 30, 2008

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Kathleen Frangione:									
United States	Dollar				10,842.56				10,842.56
Thailand	Baht		1,608.00						1,608.00
Virginia Worrest:									
United States	Dollar				10,711.56				10,711.56
Thailand	Baht		1,876.00						1,876.00
Total			3,484.00		21,554.12				25,038.12

SENATOR JOHN F. KERRY,
Chairman, Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship,
July 16, 2008.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), CONGRESSIONAL-EXECUTIVE COMMISSION FOR TRAVEL FROM APR. 1 TO JUNE 30, 2008

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Kara Abramson:									
United States	Dollar				9,357.96				9,357.96
Kazakhstan	Tenge		2,161.00				1,658.58		3,819.58
Kyrgyzstan	Som		1,002.51		115.52		298.29		1,416.32
Total			3,163.51		9,473.48		1,956.87		14,593.86

REPRESENTATIVE SANDER LEVIN,
Congressional-Executive Commission on China, July 23, 2008.

DISCHARGE AND REFERRAL—H.R. 5057

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 5057 and that the bill be referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXTENSION OF CERTAIN AUTHORITIES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Foreign Relations Committee be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 6456, and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 6456) to provide for extensions of certain authorities of the Department of State, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mrs. BOXER. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read three times and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and that any statements relating to this measure be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 6456) was ordered to be read a third time, was read the third time, and passed.

RESOLUTIONS DISCHARGED AND THE CALENDAR

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged and the Senate now proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following Senate resolutions: S. Res. 647, S. Res. 649. I further ask that the Senate then proceed to Calendar No. 922, S. Res. 620, and Calendar No. 923, S. Res. 622, all en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senate proceeded to consider the resolutions en bloc.

Mrs. BOXER. I ask unanimous consent that the resolutions be agreed to, the preambles be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

NATIONAL FETAL ALCOHOL SPECTRUM DISORDERS AWARENESS DAY

The resolution (S. Res. 647) designating September 9, 2008, as ''National Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders Awareness Day'' was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 647

Whereas the term ''fetal alcohol spectrum disorders'' includes a broader range of conditions and therefore has replaced the term ''fetal alcohol syndrome'' as the umbrella term describing the range of effects that can occur in an individual whose mother drank alcohol during pregnancy;

Whereas fetal alcohol spectrum disorders are the leading cause of cognitive disability in western civilization, including the United States, and are 100 percent preventable;

Whereas fetal alcohol spectrum disorders are a major cause of numerous social disorders, including learning disabilities, school failure, juvenile delinquency, homelessness, unemployment, mental illness, and crime;

Whereas the incidence rate of fetal alcohol syndrome is estimated at 1 out of 500 live births and the incidence rate of fetal alcohol spectrum disorders is estimated at 1 out of every 100 live births;

Whereas, although the economic costs of fetal alcohol spectrum disorders are difficult to estimate, the cost of fetal alcohol syndrome alone in the United States was $5,400,000,000 in 2003 and it is estimated that each individual with fetal alcohol syndrome will cost taxpayers of the United States between $1,500,000 and $3,000,000 in his or her lifetime;

Whereas, in February 1999, a small group of parents of children who suffer from fetal alcohol spectrum disorders came together with the hope that in 1 magic moment the world could be made aware of the devastating consequences of alcohol consumption during pregnancy;

Whereas the first International Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Awareness Day was observed on September 9, 1999;

Whereas Bonnie Buxton of Toronto, Canada, the co-founder of the first International Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Awareness Day, asked ''What if . . . a world full of FAS/E [Fetal Alcohol Syndrome/Effect] parents all got together on the ninth hour of the ninth day of the ninth month of the year and asked the world to remember that during the 9 months of pregnancy a woman should not consume alcohol . . . would the rest of the world listen?''; and

Whereas on the ninth day of the ninth month of each year since 1999, communities around the world have observed International Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Awareness Day: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates September 9, 2008, as ''National Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders Awareness Day''; and

(2) calls upon the people of the United States—

(A) to observe National Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders Awareness Day with appropriate ceremonies—

(i) to promote awareness of the effects of prenatal exposure to alcohol;

(ii) to increase compassion for individuals affected by prenatal exposure to alcohol;

(iii) to minimize further effects of prenatal exposure to alcohol; and

(iv) to ensure healthier communities across the United States; and

(B) to observe a moment of reflection on the ninth hour of September 9, 2008, to remember that during the 9 months of pregnancy a woman should not consume alcohol.

NATIONAL ATTENTION DEFICIT DISORDER AWARENESS DAY

The resolution (S. Res. 649) designating September 18, 2008, as ''National Attention Deficit Disorder Awareness Day'' was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 649

Whereas Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (also known as ADHD or ADD), is a chronic neurobiological disorder that affects both children and adults, and can significantly interfere with the ability of an individual to regulate activity level, inhibit behavior, and attend to tasks in developmentally-appropriate ways;

Whereas ADHD can cause devastating consequences, including failure in school and the workplace, antisocial behavior, encounters with the criminal justice system, interpersonal difficulties, and substance abuse;

Whereas ADHD, the most extensively studied mental disorder in children, affects an estimated 3 to 7 percent (4,000,000) of young school-age children and an estimated 4 percent (8,000,000) of adults across racial, ethnic, and socio-economic lines;

Whereas scientific studies indicate that between 10 and 35 percent of children with ADHD have a first-degree relative with past or present ADHD, and that approximately ½ of parents who had ADHD have a child with the disorder, suggesting that ADHD runs in families and inheritance is an important risk factor;

Whereas despite the serious consequences that can manifest in the family and life experiences of an individual with ADHD, studies indicate that less than 85 percent of adults with the disorder are diagnosed and less than ½ of children and adults with the disorder receive treatment and, furthermore, poor and minority communities are particularly underserved by ADHD resources;

Whereas the Surgeon General, the American Medical Association, the American Psychiatric Association, the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, the American Psychological Association, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the National Institutes of Mental Health, among others, recognize the need for proper diagnosis, education, and treatment of ADHD;

Whereas the lack of public knowledge and understanding of the disorder play a significant role in the overwhelming numbers of undiagnosed and untreated cases of ADHD, and the dissemination of inaccurate, misleading information contributes as an obstacle for diagnosis and treatment;

Whereas lack of knowledge combined with issues of stigma have a particularly detrimental effect on the diagnosis and treatment of the disorder;

Whereas there is a need for education of health care professionals, employers, and educators about the disorder and a need for well-trained mental health professionals capable of conducting proper diagnosis and treatment activities; and

Whereas studies by the National Institute of Mental Health and others consistently reveal that through proper comprehensive diagnosis and treatment, the symptoms of ADHD can be substantially decreased and quality of life can be improved: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates September 18, 2008, as ''National Attention Deficit Disorder Awareness Day'';

(2) recognizes Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) as a major public health concern;

(3) encourages all Americans to find out more about ADHD, support ADHD mental health services, and seek the appropriate treatment and support, if necessary;

(4) expresses the sense of the Senate that the Federal Government has a responsibility to—

(A) endeavor to raise awareness about ADHD; and

(B) continue to consider ways to improve access and quality of mental health services dedicated to improving the quality of life of children and adults with ADHD; and

(5) calls on Federal, State, and local administrators and the people of the United States to observe the day with appropriate programs and activities.

NATIONAL POLYCYSTIC KIDNEY DISEASE AWARENESS WEEK

The resolution (S. Res. 620) designating the week of September 14–20, 2008, as National Polycystic Kidney Disease Awareness Week, to raise public awareness and understanding of polycystic kidney disease, and to foster understanding of the impact polycystic kidney disease has on patients and future generations of their families, was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 620

Whereas polycystic kidney disease (known as ''PICD''), one of the most prevalent life-threatening genetic diseases in the United States, is a severe, dominantly inherited disease that has a devastating impact, in both human and economic terms, on people of all ages, and affects equally people of all races, sexes, nationalities, geographic locations, and income levels;

Whereas this devastating disease comes in 2 hereditary forms, with autosomal dominant polycystic kidney disease (ADPKD) affecting 1 in 500 worldwide, including 600,000 PKD patients in the United States, according to prevalence estimates in the National Institutes of Health;

Whereas families in which 1 or both parents have ADPKD have a 50 percent chance of passing the disease on to each of their children;

Whereas autosomal recessive polycystic kidney disease (ARPKD), a rarer form of PKD, affects 1 in 20,000 live births and too often leads to death early in life;

Whereas parents who carry the gene for ARPKD pass on the disease to 25 percent of the children the parents conceive;

Whereas, in addition to patients directly affected by PKD, countless friends, loved ones, family members, colleagues, and caregivers must shoulder the physical, emotional, and financial burdens that polycystic kidney disease causes;

Whereas polycystic kidney disease, for which there is no treatment or cure, is the leading genetic cause of kidney failure in the United States and the fourth leading cause overall;

Whereas the vast majority of polycystic kidney disease patients reach kidney failure at an average age of 53, causing a severe strain on dialysis and kidney transplantation resources and on the delivery of health care in the United States, as the largest segment of the population of the United States, the ''baby boomers'', continues to age;

Whereas end stage renal disease is one of the fastest growing components of the Medicare budget, and polycystic kidney disease contributes to that cost by an estimated $2,000,000,000 annually for dialysis, kidney transplantation, and related therapies;

Whereas polycystic kidney disease is a systemic disease that causes damage to the kidney and the cardiovascular, endocrine, hepatic, and gastrointestinal organ systems and instills in patients a fear of an unknown future with a life-threatening genetic disease and apprehension over possible genetic discrimination;

Whereas the severity of the symptoms of polycystic kidney disease and the limited public awareness of the disease cause many patients to live in denial and forego regular visits to their physicians or to avoid following good health management which would help avoid more severe complications when kidney failure occurs;

Whereas people who have chronic, life-threatening diseases like polycystic kidney disease have a predisposition to depression and the resulting consequences of depression due to their anxiety over pain, suffering, and premature death;

Whereas the Senate and taxpayers of the United States desire to see treatments and. cures for disease and would like to see results from investments in research conducted by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and from such initiatives as the NIH Roadmap to the Future;

Whereas polycystic kidney disease is a verifiable example of how collaboration, technological innovation, scientific momentum, and public-private partnerships can generate therapeutic interventions that directly benefit polycystic kidney disease sufferers, save billions of Federal dollars under Medicare, Medicaid, and other programs for dialysis, kidney transplants, immunosuppressant drugs, and related therapies, and make available several thousand openings on the kidney transplant waiting list;

Whereas improvements in diagnostic technology and the expansion of scientific knowledge about polycystic kidney disease have led to the discovery of the 3 primary genes that cause polycystic kidney disease and the 3 primary protein products of the genes and to the understanding of cell structures and signaling pathways that cause cyst growth that has produced multiple polycystic kidney disease clinical drug trials;

Whereas there are thousands of volunteers nationwide who are dedicated to expanding essential research, fostering public awareness and understanding of polycystic kidney disease, educating polycystic kidney disease patients and their families about the disease to improve their treatment and care, providing appropriate moral support, and encouraging people to become organ donors; and

Whereas these volunteers engage in an annual national awareness event held during the third week of September, and such a week would be an appropriate time to recognize National Polycystic Kidney Disease Awareness Week: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week of September 14–20, 2008, as ''National Polycystic Kidney Disease Awareness Week'';

(2) supports the goals and ideals of a national week to raise public awareness and understanding of polycystic kidney disease;

(3) recognizes the need for additional research into a cure for polycystic kidney disease; and

(4) encourages the people of the United States and interested groups to support National Polycystic Kidney Disease Awareness Week through appropriate ceremonies and activities, to promote public awareness of polycystic kidney disease, and to foster understanding of the impact of the disease on patients and their families.

NATIONAL HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES WEEK

The resolution (S. Res. 622) designating the week beginning September 7, 2008, as ''National Historically Black Colleges and Universities Week'' was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 622

Designating the week beginning September 7, 2008, as ''National Historically Black Colleges and Universities Week''.

Whereas there are 103 historically Black colleges and universities in the United States;

Whereas historically Black colleges and universities provide the quality education essential to full participation in a complex, highly technological society;

Whereas historically Black colleges and universities have a rich heritage and have played a prominent role in the history of the United States;

Whereas historically Black colleges and universities have allowed many underprivileged students to attain their full potential through higher education; and

Whereas the achievements and goals of historically Black colleges and universities are deserving of national recognition: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week beginning September 7, 2008, as ''National Historically Black Colleges and Universities Week''; and

(2) calls on the people of the United States and interested groups to observe the week with appropriate ceremonies, activities, and programs to demonstrate support for historically Black colleges and universities in the United States.

REMOVAL OF INJUNCTION OF SECRECY—TREATY DOCUMENT NO. 110–21

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, as in executive session, I ask unanimous consent that the injunction of secrecy be removed from the following treaty transmitted to the Senate on September 8, 2008, by the President of the United States: Hague Convention on International Recovery of Child Support and Family Maintenance, Treaty Document No. 110–21. I further ask consent that the treaty be considered as having been read the first time; that it be referred, with accompanying papers, to the Committee on Foreign Relations and ordered to be printed; and that the President's message be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The message of the President is as follows:

To the Senate of the United States:

I transmit herewith the Hague Convention on the International Recovery of Child Support and Other Forms of Family Maintenance, adopted at The Hague on November 23, 2007, and signed by the United States on that same date, with a view to receiving the advice and consent of the Senate to ratification, subject to the reservations

and declaration set forth in the report of the Secretary of State. The report of the Secretary of State, which includes an overview of the Convention, is enclosed for the information of the Senate.

The United States supported the development of the Convention as a means of promoting the establishment and enforcement of child support obligations in cases where the custodial parent and child are in one country and the non-custodial parent is in another. The Convention provides for a comprehensive system of cooperation between the child support authorities of contracting states, establishes procedures for the recognition and enforcement of foreign child support decisions, and requires effective measures for the enforcement of maintenance decisions. It is estimated that there are over 15 million child support cases in the United States and that an increasing number of these cases will involve parties who live in different nations. United States courts already enforce foreign child support orders, while many countries do not do so in the absence of a treaty obligation. Ratification of the Convention will thus mean that more U.S. children will receive the financial support they need from both their parents.

The Department of State and the Department of Health and Human Services, which leads the Federal child support program, support the early ratification of this Convention. The American Bar Association and the National Child Support Enforcement Association have also expressed support for the Convention. Although some new implementing legislation will be required, the proposed Convention is largely consistent with current U.S. Federal and State law. Cases under the Convention will be handled through our existing comprehensive child support system, which involves both Federal and State law. The Departments of State and Health and Human Services have been working on preparation of the necessary amendments to Federal law to ensure compliance with the Convention, and that legislation will soon be ready for submission to the Congress for its consideration. The National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws has worked closely with the Departments of State and Health and Human Services to develop the necessary amendments to uniform State child support legislation.

The Convention requires only two contracting states for entry into force. No state has yet ratified the Convention. Early U.S. ratification would therefore likely hasten the Convention's entry into force. This would be in the interests of U.S. families, as it would enable them to receive child support owed by debtors abroad more quickly and reliably. I therefore recommend that the Senate give prompt and favorable consideration to the Convention and give its advice and consent to ratification, subject to the reservations and declaration described in the accompanying report of the Secretary of State, at the earliest possible date.

GEORGE W. BUSH.

THE WHITE HOUSE, *September 8, 2008*.

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2008

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 10 a.m. tomorrow, Tuesday, September 9; that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and that there be a period of morning business for up to 1 hour, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each, with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees, with the Republicans controlling the first half and the majority controlling the second half; that following morning business, the Senate resume consideration of the motion to proceed to S. 3001, the Department of Defense authorization bill; that the Senate recess from 12:30 p.m. until 2:15 p.m. to allow for the weekly caucus luncheons to meet; and that time during any recess, adjournment, or morning business count postcloture.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:43 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, September 9, 2008, at 10 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

MISSISSIPPI RIVER COMMISSION

ROBERT B. ELEY, OF MISSISSIPPI, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER COMMISSION FOR A TERM OF NINE YEARS, VICE SAM EPSTEIN ANGEL, TERM EXPIRING.

NATIONAL BOARD FOR EDUCATION SCIENCES

PATRICK J. WOLF, OF ARKANSAS, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE NATIONAL BOARD FOR EDUCATION SCIENCES FOR A TERM EXPIRING MARCH 15, 2012, VICE CRAIG T. RAMEY, TERM EXPIRED.

JOHN L. WINN, OF FLORIDA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE NATIONAL BOARD FOR EDUCATION SCIENCES FOR A TERM EXPIRING NOVEMBER 28, 2012, VICE GERALD LEE, TERM EXPIRING.

PAUL E. PETERSON, OF MASSACHUSETTS, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE NATIONAL BOARD FOR EDUCATION SCIENCES FOR A TERM EXPIRING NOVEMBER 28, 2011, VICE HERBERT JOHN WALBERG, TERM EXPIRED.

DOUGLAS J. BESHAROV, OF MARYLAND, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE NATIONAL BOARD FOR EDUCATION SCIENCES FOR A TERM EXPIRING NOVEMBER 28, 2011, VICE RICHARD JAMES MILGRAM, TERM EXPIRED.

ELIZABETH ANN BRYAN, OF TEXAS, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE NATIONAL BOARD FOR EDUCATION SCIENCES FOR A TERM EXPIRING NOVEMBER 28, 2012. (REAPPOINTMENT)

LYNN S. FUCHS, OF TENNESSEE, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE NATIONAL BOARD FOR EDUCATION SCIENCES FOR A TERM EXPIRING NOVEMBER 28, 2012, VICE JOSEPH K. TORGESEN, TERM EXPIRING.

ROBERT C. GRANGER, OF NEW JERSEY, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE NATIONAL BOARD FOR EDUCATION SCIENCES FOR A TERM EXPIRING NOVEMBER 28, 2012. (REAPPOINTMENT)

CAROLINE M. HOXBY, OF MASSACHUSETTS, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE NATIONAL BOARD FOR EDUCATION SCIENCES FOR A TERM EXPIRING NOVEMBER 28, 2012. (REAPPOINTMENT)

FEDERAL MINE SAFETY AND HEALTH ADMINISTRATION

MICHAEL YOUNG, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE FEDERAL MINE SAFETY AND HEALTH REVIEW COMMISSION FOR A TERM OF SIX YEARS EXPIRING AUGUST 30, 2014. (REAPPOINTMENT)

HARRY S TRUMAN SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION

DAVE HEINEMAN, OF NEBRASKA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE HARRY S TRUMAN SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION FOR A TERM EXPIRING DECEMBER 10, 2011, VICE MEL CARNAHAN.

PRIVACY AND CIVIL LIBERTIES OVERSIGHT BOARD

JAMES X. DEMPSEY, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE PRIVACY AND CIVIL LIBERTIES OVERSIGHT BOARD FOR A TERM OF FIVE YEARS EXPIRING JANUARY 29, 2013. (NEW POSITION)

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT AS THE CHIEF OF THE NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU AND FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 601 AND 10502:

To be general

LT. GEN. CRAIG R. MCKINLEY

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be general

GEN. DAVID D. MCKIERNAN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

LT. GEN. WILLIAM G. WEBSTER, JR.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be brigadier general

COL. MARGARET W. BOOR

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major general

BRIGADIER GENERAL DANIEL B. ALLYN
BRIGADIER GENERAL RODNEY O. ANDERSON
BRIGADIER GENERAL JAMES O. BARCLAY III
BRIGADIER GENERAL ARTHUR M. BARTELL
BRIGADIER GENERAL JOHN R. BARTLEY
BRIGADIER GENERAL JOHN M. BEDNAREK
BRIGADIER GENERAL DONALD M. CAMPBELL, JR.
BRIGADIER GENERAL JOHN F. CAMPBELL
BRIGADIER GENERAL CHARLES T. CLEVELAND
BRIGADIER GENERAL JEFFREY J. DORKO
BRIGADIER GENERAL KENNETH S. DOWD
BRIGADIER GENERAL GINA S. FARRISEE
BRIGADIER GENERAL MICHAEL FERRITER
BRIGADIER GENERAL MICHAEL T. FLYNN
BRIGADIER GENERAL WILLIAM B. GARRETT III
BRIGADIER GENERAL JAMES L. HODGE
BRIGADIER GENERAL JAMES L. HUGGINS, JR.
BRIGADIER GENERAL JOHN D. JOHNSON
BRIGADIER GENERAL NICKOLAS G. JUSTICE
BRIGADIER GENERAL SUSAN S. LAWRENCE
BRIGADIER GENERAL KEVIN A. LEONARD
BRIGADIER GENERAL GREGG F. MARTIN
BRIGADIER GENERAL JAMES M. MILANO
BRIGADIER GENERAL JOHN W. PEABODY
BRIGADIER GENERAL DAVID G. PERKINS
BRIGADIER GENERAL JAMES L. TERRY
BRIGADIER GENERAL MICHAEL S. TUCKER
BRIGADIER GENERAL JOSEPH L. VOTEL
BRIGADIER GENERAL FRANCIS J. WIERCINSKI
BRIGADIER GENERAL TERRY A. WOLFF

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO PASTOR KENNETH L. BARNEY, SR.

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2008

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Madam Speaker, I rise before you today to honor Pastor Kenneth L. Barney, Sr., upon the celebration on his 30th pastoral anniversary.

In July 1978, Pastor Barney and his wife, Sister Ellen Barney, accepted a pastorship at the Oakcrest Community Baptist Church in Laurel, Maryland. At the time, their congregation consisted of approximately seven members. As time went on, the membership began to grow, with worshippers coming from areas across the region. As an increasing number of members hailed from Baltimore, Pastor Barney and the congregation relocated to Randallstown in Baltimore County.

In March 1988, 10 years after becoming pastor at the Oakcrest Community Baptist Church, Pastor Barney and his congregation officially changed its name to the New Antioch Baptist Church. New Antioch Baptist Church is currently ministering to over 4,000 members through Pastor and Sister Barney and other church leaders.

In addition to his pastoral duties, Pastor Barney has delivered addresses at national councils and participated as a ''Discussion Leader'' in the 2008 Oxford Round Table held in Oxford, England. In addition, Pastor Barney traveled to Morocco as part of a 2004 U.S. delegation invited by King Mohammed VI. Along with his fellow delegates, Pastor Barney participated in a Muslim-Evangelical Christian dialogue with Moroccan heads of government and university students to help develop a friendship between the Muslim community in Morocco and the Christian community in the United States.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join with me today to honor Pastor Kenneth Barney on the occasion of his 30th pastoral anniversary. The small congregation with whom he began his pastorship thirty years ago has multiplied into a membership of over 4,000 under his guidance. It is with great pride that I congratulate Pastor Barney on his significant contributions to the faith community in Maryland and around the world.

HONORING WILLIAM CERIONI

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2008

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the life and accomplishments of William ''Bill'' Cerioni and to recognize him upon being named the ''Memorial Honoree'' by the Madera Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Cerioni was honored at a reception on Thursday, August 21, 2008, at the Fourth Annual Lifetime Achievement Awards and Board of Directors Installation Dinner.

Mr. Bill Cerioni was born and raised in Madera, California. His father owned and operated Cerioni's Clothing Store. As a child he would work in the store sweeping floors and washing windows earning 25 cents per week. Mr. Cerioni graduated from Madera High School and attended Fresno State University, now California State University, Fresno. He was in school for 2 years before he joined the military during World War II. He had dreams of becoming a Navy pilot; however, with poor vision, the Navy and the Army Air Forces turned him away. He did enlist with the Army Air Forces as a gunner and served in the 8th Air Force Division just outside of London, England.

In 1946, Mr. Cerioni became a partner at Cerioni's Clothing Store with his father. He had new ideas and wanted to broaden the clientele by providing a wider selection of merchandise and building a new store. In 1947 construction began and in 1949 the new store opened, which included a ladies' department. The family business experienced tremendous success. Mr. Cerioni's father passed away in 1962 and the business was left to him to operate. Remembering the family history of the store, Mr. Cerioni put his own sons to work in the store to continue the tradition of a father-son partnership.

Mr. Cerioni was an avid golfer. He and his golf partners, Attorney Denny Green and Dr. Ray Miles, decided to develop a private golf and country club. They purchased land with backing from a number of community members. With some hard work and perseverance, the doors of the Madera Golf Country Club were opened in 1954. He always took pride in what he did, and felt that his success was the result of providing quality services and products. Since he understood that success came from the community, it was important for him to show the same support to the community.

Beyond his business, golf and his family, he gave to his community. Mr. Cerioni was a member of the Madera Rotary Club for over 30 years, with perfect attendance for 28 of those years. He was a charter member of the 20/30 Club, involved in his church, member of the Madera Elks and was very active in the Madera Merchants Association and the Madera Chamber of Commerce. He assisted in launching the Downtown Parking Commission. Over the years, Mr. Cerioni was financially supportive to numerous local charities, including school activities.

As a young man, Mr. Cerioni met and married Francis Miller from Sanger, California. They have two children, Jeff and Craig; and four grandchildren Ryan, Tisha, Rori, and Bart.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to posthumously honor William ''Bill'' Cerioni for his dedication to his family, his business and his community. I invite my colleagues to join me in honoring his life and wishing the best for his family.

A TRIBUTE TO MARRITJE GREENE, RECIPIENT OF THE ST. MADELEINE SOPHIE AWARD

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2008

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Marritje Greene, a recipient of the prestigious St. Madeleine Sophie Award from Sacred Heart Schools. Established in the year 2000, the St. Madeleine Sophie Award honors individuals in the Sacred Heart community who have made a sustained and significant contribution to the schools and embody the goals and criteria of a Sacred Heart education. The individuals honored are selected by a committee comprised of the senior administrative team in conjunction with the chair of the board of trustees and are honored at a reception and at the Mass of the Holy Spirit, the first all-school liturgy of the school year. The recipients will be VIP guests at various SHS events throughout the year and featured in their alumni magazine, The Heart of the Matter, for their commitment to the mission of Sacred Heart education.

Marritje Greene was chosen along with three other distinguished recipients to be recognized with the award for her dedication to the goals and criteria of Sacred Heart Schools. Mother of three young adult children, Lindsay, Jamie (SHP 2004), and Charlie (SHP 2006), Ms. Greene has been a strong leader, supporter and resource within the Sacred Heart community, especially in her service on the SHS Board of Trustees. While her sons were students at SHS, she was active with the SHP Parents Association, where she actively participated in the annual auction, parent education seminars, and community building. Ms. Greene also initiated a gathering of the northern peninsula families to form a support community for those students and families that would be commuting to school. Wherever she saw a need, she filled it. She is entering her fifth year on the board of trustees and has served as the head of the major gifts committee and is a member of the development committee and the committee for trustees. She is a very ''quiet'' donor and never seeks praise or recognition. One friend says, ''her zest for life and charm makes others feel like participating and giving—all while enjoying themselves.''

Madam Speaker, I ask the entire House of Representatives to join me in honoring Ms. Marritje Greene as she is recognized by the St. Madeleine Sophie Award. Through her many contributions to her family and friends, and especially the Sacred Heart community, she has more than earned the St. Madeleine Sophie Award. Through her special leadership and commitment to excellence, she has established a lasting legacy at Sacred Heart Schools and in the life of every student who comes through its distinguished halls. Our community and our country have been

strengthened by Marritje Greene and it is a privilege to honor her and her work.

TRIBUTE TO THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF AFRO-IN BOOKS AND CAFÉ, INC.

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2008

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize the 30th year of operation of the Afro-In Books and Café, Inc. in Miami, Florida. Three decades ago, founders Dr. Earl A. Wells and his wife Eursla Wells envisioned a community where people of all ages could congregate with hunger and thirst for the wisdom of their ancestors and explore all there is to know about the great people from which they come. All the while, the Afro-In Books and Café, Inc. has retained its prominence as Miami's oldest and largest black book store.

Founded in 1978, Afro-In Books and Things served as a meeting place for artists and intellectuals to discuss the important issues of the day. Both founders are retired educators from the Miami-Dade County Public School System and fulfilled their dream of bringing quality books, periodicals, and literature to the inner city community of Greater Miami. Since its opening, the bookstore always made it a point to feature books written by and about people of color. Additionally, Dr. and Mrs. Wells were instrumental in the development of the Miami International Book Fair which has grown tremendously over the years. The Afro-In Books and Café, Inc. remains an annual participant in the book fair.

From 1996 to December 2005, the operation of Afro-In Books and Things was managed by Mr. William D.C. Clark and his wife Stephana, who is the grand-daughter of Miami pioneer Dr. D.A. Dorsey. They significantly expanded the selections offered in the bookstore. In February 2006, Afro-In Books and Things was obtained by Ms. Jamila Capp and her father, Dr. Larry Capp. The bookstore was renamed, Afro-In Books and Café, Inc. and was remodeled to include a café, patio dining, and Internet services.

Currently, the new Afro-In Books and Café, Inc., has hosted many book-signings by such luminaries as Dr. Rudy Crew, Paul Robeson Jr. and many local authors. In addition, lectures, poetry readings, political, and community meetings are held regularly at the bookstore. Over the years, the Afro-In Books and Café, Inc., has hosted many celebrities including Maya Angelou, Jada Pinkett Smith, Will Smith, Bernadette Stanis, and many others.

Madam Speaker, please join me in applauding the Afro-In Books and Café, Inc. as it celebrates 30 years of synonymous quality and exceptional public service. From its early days, the bookstore has possessed a commitment to preserving history, educating the community, and upholding a determination to create an environment that welcomes all who are prepared to enrich their knowledge.

HONORING THE DRIVE FOR SUPPLIES PROJECT

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2008

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievement of the Drive for Supplies project, a community service program developed by Learn Shop, Inc., and implemented in conjunction with Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS).

Since its creation in 1999 by Kevin and Louis Newcomer, founders of Learn Shop, Inc., the Drive for Supplies project has collected over $100,000 in school supplies. In 2008, thanks to the efforts of dedicated student and adult volunteers, Drive for Supplies collected and distributed over 15,000 pounds of school materials.

The supplies will be delivered to nonprofit agencies, county schools with a large number of low-income students, and needy schools in Washington, DC. With the help of international aid organizations, supplies will also make their way to needy children overseas.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to commend MCPS Superintendent Dr. Jerry Weast, Kevin and Louis Newcomer, and everyone involved in the Drive for Supplies project. At a time when it is critical for our country to be a leader in conservation and community service, Drive for Supplies is leading the way in instilling these important values in our students and throughout our community.

HONORING DR. RAO MUSUNURU

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2008

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor one of my outstanding constituents, Dr. Rao Musunuru, for receiving a Point of Light award from Florida Governor Charlie Crist.

The Governor's Point of Light program recognizes Florida residents who demonstrate exemplary service to their communities. Dr. Musunuru deserves this award for his long-standing and ongoing efforts to raise health awareness in my west central Florida district.

Dr. Musunuru, who is one of my State's top cardiologists, has been a long-time proponent of promoting heart health and education. He has helped pass important State laws to improve health care, including the Florida Stroke Act, legislation I worked on in the State legislature before coming to Congress.

Dr. Musunuru has received many awards for his good work. The American Heart Association named him its ''National Volunteer Advocate of the Year'' in 2007 and its ''National Physician of the Year'' in 2005. Last year, Dr. Musunuru was appointed to serve on the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Advisory Council at the National Institutes of Health.

Madam Speaker, Dr. Musunuru's work has improved the lives of many of those I represent and is an example of what volunteerism and community service are all about. I congratulate him and wish him success in his future efforts.

CONGRATULATING DELAY MIDDLE SCHOOL FOR EXCELLENCE IN MATHEMATICS

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2008

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate DeLay Middle School of Lewisville, Texas, for being the recipient of the 2008 Intel Schools of Distinction Award for Mathematics Excellence.

DeLay Middle School has been honored as one of two middle schools in the United States to win a 2008 Intel Distinction Award, and was the only middle school nationwide recognized for excellence in math by Intel. For this prestigious award DeLay Middle School will be given a package of a $10,000 cash grant and curriculum supplies including hardware and software valued at more than $160,000.

The Intel Schools of Distinction Award is given annually to six schools that have demonstrated exemplary instruction in the subjects of mathematics and science. By winning this award, DeLay Middle School marks itself as an institution committed to providing outstanding education, a role model to other schools in our Nation.

I commend DeLay Middle School of Lewisville. Their hard work and desire to excel deserves the highest recognition and congratulations. I'm very proud to represent these students, teachers, and faculty in the U.S. House of Representatives.

HONORING ISAAC LEE HAYES, JR.

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2008

Ms. LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart and great sadness. On August 10, 2008, our Nation lost one of its greatest artists, composers, and actors. Mr. Isaac Lee Hayes, Jr., was a bright light who inspired many and contributed immensely to the fabric of our society. Although his energy and love for life will be sorely missed, there is no doubt that his legacy will continue far into the future and motivate generations of people from all walks of life for years to come.

Mr. Hayes was born on August 20, 1942, in Covington, TN. An acclaimed singer-songwriter, musician, producer, composer, and actor, he was admired and loved by all who knew him. Mr. Hayes was a self-taught musician who, at the age of 22, was hired by Stax Records of Memphis to play backup piano and saxophone for the legendary Otis Redding. Isaac literally helped bring southern soul music into the 20th century, writing such hits as ''Hold On, I'm Coming'' and ''Soul Man'' with his partner, Mr. David Porter. His recording success continued with such timeless albums as Hot Buttered Soul and Black Moses. His 1971 ''Theme from Shaft'' won the Oscar for Best Original Song, making him the first African-American singer-songwriter to win this coveted award. He also won several Grammy Awards for his work.

By the early 1970s, Mr. Hayes was working with chart-topper Barry White. As an actor,

Hayes played the title character in the 1974 action film Hot Truck Turner and he had a recurring role in the 1970s TV police drama The Rockford Files. Most recently, he appeared in the 2005 film Hustle & Flow. In 2002 Isaac Lee Hayes, Jr., was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

Isaac was talented beyond belief, however this was only one of his monumental attributes. At his core, Isaac Hayes was a humanitarian, activist, and tireless advocate for what is good and right in the world. He was a man of deep convictions and even deeper compassion for those most in need. In 1992, he was crowned an honorary king of Ghana's Ada District as a token of thanks for his humanitarian work in the region. His limitless contributions to African-American society and the diverse populations of the continent of Africa simply can not be overestimated.

With the sad loss of Isaac Hayes, today the world has a little less soul. His work as head of the Isaac Hayes Foundation serves as an inspiration to us all. Those who knew him personally will forever be grateful for having Isaac in our lives.

I met Isaac in the early 1990's during a visit to Ghana. We became close friends and had many discussions about our love for and connections to our motherland. He shared with me his excitement about the many things he was doing for his village in Ghana and his deep commitment to making life better for the people there, especially the children of his village. Later, Isaac became a dedicated supporter of my efforts in Congress and for that I am deeply grateful. The world has lost a wonderful, brilliant warrior and many have lost a genuine friend. I know that his legacy and his memory will live on through the lives that he touched.

A family man, Isaac had many loving children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. He leaves behind innumerable friends and loved-ones, including his wife, Adjowa, and his two-year old son, Nana Kwadjo Hayes. My thoughts and prayers are with Isaac's family. I know how much he loved his family and words can not express my sympathy over this tremendous loss. On behalf of California's Ninth Congressional District, we salute this great talent and spirit by honoring his legacy. Isaac Lee Hayes, Jr., will be sorely missed. May his soul rest in peace.

HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CENTRAL FAIRFAX CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

HON. TOM M. DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2008

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Central Fairfax Chamber of Commerce as it celebrates its 50th anniversary.

Since its inception in 1958 as the Court House Square Businessmen's Association, the chamber has grown from 27 members to over 900. Despite its tremendous growth, the Central Fairfax Chamber of Commerce has continued to focus on the prosperity of small businesses, community involvement and being a liaison between business and government throughout the Fairfax region.

The Fairfax Boulevard Partnership, sponsored by the Central Fairfax Chamber of Commerce, is a perfect example of the organization's foci. The plan for this partnership is to stimulate new energy and development along the Fairfax Boulevard and Lee Highway (Rtes. 50/29) business corridor. Ultimately, this would increase economic viability, create an identity for the corridor, improve the aesthetic environment and foster business development. Vitalization of this area will turn ''commuters into consumers'', enticing those passing through to see the area not only as their route home but as an economic center.

The Central Fairfax Chamber of Commerce also takes an active role in enhancing the surrounding community through local events. The chamber sponsors events such as: The Margaret Kilpatrick Adams Scholarship Program, Cox's Movies under the Moon, George Mason University Halloween Child Safety Program and Robinson Secondary School DECA Intern Day. Their level of community involvement not only makes them a leader in local business but a leader in their community as well.

According to the Washington Business Journal, the Central Fairfax Chamber of Commerce is among the top 10 chambers in the country. The chamber facilitates a bond between local business leaders and State and local officials. This creates unique opportunities to interact while invigorating the economy of Fairfax.

Madam Speaker, in closing, I would like to congratulate the Central Fairfax Chamber of Commerce on 50 years of success. They have become a strong organization committed to serving the interests of their members and their communities. I call upon my colleagues to join me in applauding the chamber members' past accomplishments and in wishing them the best of luck in the many years to come.

HONORING MAURICE CAPPELLUTI

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2008

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the achievements of Maurice Cappelluti and to congratulate him upon being honored with the ''Lifetime Achievement Award'' by the Madera Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Cappelluti was honored on Thursday August 21, 2008, at the Fourth Annual Lifetime Achievement Awards and Board of Directors Installation Dinner.

Mr. Maurice Cappelluti was born on February 23, 1930, in Madera, CA. He attended Lincoln Elementary School and graduated from Madera Union High School in 1947. A year later he graduated from the National Institute of Dry Cleaning in Silver Spring, MD. In November 1948, Mr. Cappelluti enlisted in the California Army National Guard and graduated from Officer Candidate School in 1953. He became a second lieutenant and commanded the Madera unit for 3 years. He then transferred to the Army Reserve 6237th School as an instructor for Command and General Staff Studies. He was promoted to Assistant Commandant for the Fresno School and served in that position for 4 years. He was then promoted to colonel and transferred to standby reserve. In 1965 he was awarded a Medal of Merit for his instrumental role during the Watts Riots. In 1966 he joined the Army Reserve. Mr. Cappelluti retired as a Colonel in 1990.

During his time with the California National Guard, Mr. Cappelluti married Marie Bonandrini. Later, he entered into a family business with his parents, Madera Dry Cleaners. His brother joined the business and in 1965 he and his brother purchased the business from their parents. This business was sold to his son in 1999.

Mr. Cappelluti is an active member of Saint Joachim's Church. He served on the Parish Council, was cochairman of the Thanksgiving Dinner Dance, cochairman of the Harvest Festival and has served on numerous other church committees. He also serves outside of the church. Once a week for the past 4 years, Mr. Cappelluti, has cooked at the Holy Family Table, which provides meals for homeless families in Madera. He is a charter member of the 20–30 Club and he was a member of the Madera Kiwanis Club for 35 years. He served as a board member for 5 years for the Red Cross Madera board. Mr. Cappelluti was a trustee for the Madera Cemetery Board for 23 years, and was named the 2008 ''Trustee of the Year'' by the California Association of Public Cemeteries. He has also served on the boards of San Joaquin Memorial High School, Madera Hospital Foundation and was a member of the Young Men's Institute for over 60 years.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Maurice Cappelluti upon being awarded with the ''Lifetime Achievement Award.'' I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Mr. Cappelluti many years of continued success.

TECHNICAL CORRECTION OF H.R. 6385 ORIGINAL COSPONSORSHIP

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2008

Mr. KIRK. Madam Speaker, please let the record show that Representative DAVE REICHERT was an original cosponsor of the Apollo Energy Independence Act, H.R. 6385, and was integral to the introduction of this legislation. Congressman REICHERT was left off of the original cosponsor list due to administrative error.

HONORING SEAN ROONEY AND THE U.S. OLYMPIC MEN'S INDOOR VOLLEYBALL TEAM

HON. PETER J. ROSKAM

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2008

Mr. ROSKAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the remarkable accomplishments of Sean Rooney of Wheaton, Illinois, and his contributions to the 2008 U.S. Olympic Men's Indoor Volleyball Team's triumph to win the gold medal in the 2008 Olympics in Beijing.

At Wheaton-Warrenville South High School in my district, Sean was a standout player who

garnered Illinois State Player of the Year honors and led his team to a State championship in 2001. He then went on to Pepperdine University, where he became one of their top players and helped lead them to a national championship in 2005. After graduating in 2005, Sean continued to pursue his love of the sport, playing professionally for 2 years.

Then, Sean was selected to represent his country on the international stage as a member of the United States' Men's Indoor Volleyball Team in the Games of the XXIX Olympiad in Beijing, China. As the competition was beginning, though, the team faced a tragic setback when Todd Bachman, the father-in-law of the team's coach, Hugh McCutcheon, was fatally stabbed and his wife was seriously injured following an act of random, senseless violence.

In the face of this adversity, the team rallied behind their coach and his family to win three games. When their coach returned for the remainder of the tournament, the team won five more games, including an incredible upset victory over the top-ranked team from Brazil to win the Gold Medal.

The Olympic Games are a time for countries to come together in the spirit of competition and sportsmanship. They are a time to showcase the best our country has to offer. Sean Rooney and the Men's Volleyball Team showed outstanding courage, commitment and athleticism at the Beijing Olympics and our country couldn't be more proud.

Madam Speaker and distinguished colleagues, please join me in recognizing Sean Rooney and the entire Men's Indoor Volleyball Team for their remarkable performance in the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games.

HONORING THE DEDICATION OF RUDDER HIGH SCHOOL IN BRYAN, TEXAS

HON. CHET EDWARDS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2008

Mr. EDWARDS of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor James Earl Rudder High School in the community of Bryan-College Station, Texas.

It was a privilege to take part in the dedication ceremony because the Rudder family has had a very personal impact on my life. Mrs. Earl Rudder was like a second mother to me, although in fairness, I should point out that she effectively adopted thousands of Aggies over several generations. That did not make her any less special to me, and I want to thank the Rudder children—Ann, Linda, Bud and Bob—for sharing for so many years your mother and father with all of us in your extended Aggie family.

I never met General Rudder, because he died just months before I enrolled at A&M in 1970, but like every American and every citizen of the world who benefited from the defeat of Nazi forces in World War II, I am the beneficiary of his indomitable courage on D-day, which marked the beginning of the end for Hitler's plan of world domination.

In a more personal way, I paid for my graduate school education with the scholarship I received when I was awarded the Earl Rudder Award upon my graduation from A&M in 1974. Nevertheless, receiving that award has always been a source of deep humility to me, because I know that I could not even walk in the shadows of this great American's shoes.

I want to salute the school board members, Superintendent Cargill, Principal Piatt, and all who made this new school possible. James Earl Rudder High School is far more than brick, glass, and mortar, because a school represents the very best of our values as a community. This school represents the commitment of one generation to the next. It represents this community's willingness to tax itself to ensure that its children have a fair chance to reach their highest God-given potential.

It is in our schools and houses of worship that we witness our best sense of community, a sense that we truly are our brothers' keepers. It is in our schools that we Americans strive to provide for equality of opportunity for all. Ours is an imperfect, never ending journey, but in that march toward equality for all, we show our greatness and goodness as a nation.

Thomas Jefferson was the 33-year-old author of our Declaration of Independence. He was our third and one of our greatest Presidents. Yet, before he died, he made it clear that he wanted it etched on his gravestone that he was the founder of a university. In his wisdom, Thomas Jefferson understood the importance of education to our democracy.

Two centuries later, I believe that each of you who played a role in founding James Earl Rudder High School shares the right to be proud of your accomplishment. It is my hope that the life and values of Earl Rudder will be an inspiration to every student here from this day forward. We should never forget the story of Earl Rudder, because his is the story of the American spirit. It is a story from which we can all learn.

Born in the small town of Eden, Texas, Earl Rudder did not inherit material wealth, but his family, faith and education helped mold a true leader. Like so many Americans, he dedicated his life to helping others, to serving his country.

After graduating from Texas A&M in 1932, Earl Rudder was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army Reserve. He then chose the noble profession of teaching—first as a coach and teacher at Brady High School and later at Tarleton State College. In 1941, his country called him to duty, and did he ever answer that call. Rising through the ranks because of his integrity, courage and leadership skills, he was chosen to lead the 2nd Ranger Battalion by one of the most respected generals to ever serve in the U.S. Army, GEN Omar Bradley.

His D-day mission was to lead the best of the best up the 100-foot cliffs of Pointe du Hoc to disarm massive German guns that could have killed thousands of American G.I.s and put the Allied invasion of France at risk.

General Bradley said this about the responsibility given then LTC Earl Rudder: "No soldier in my command has ever been wished a more difficult task than that which befell the thirty-four-year-old Commander of this Provisional Ranger Force."

Two hundred and twenty-five Rangers began their mission on that perilous day when literally the fate of the world was in their hands. Only 99 survived, but because of the heroism of Earl Rudder and Rudder's Rangers that day, our world survived the tyranny of Adolf Hitler. Lieutenant Colonel Rudder, this great Aggie and American, didn't stop there. He went on to lead a unit in the Battle of the Bulge and became one of the most decorated veterans of World War II.

Having every right to say his public service was completed at the end of World War II, Earl Rudder did what so many of America's veterans have done throughout our history. He spent the rest of his life in service to others and to the country he loved. He moved back to Brady, Texas, and became its mayor. He was elected Land Commissioner of Texas, a position he used to clean up abuses in veterans' land programs.

When he became the president of Texas A&M University, his beloved alma mater, Earl Rudder told his close classmate of '32 and my mentor, Congressman Olin E. Teague, that he had to make a decision that in some ways brought more heat on him than German guns at Pointe du Hoc. He decided to allow women into A&M and to make the Corps of Cadets voluntary for A&M students.

Some Aggies didn't talk to President Rudder ever again. But, just as he did on D-day, Earl Rudder showed the courage of his conviction. Just as D-day literally helped save the world as we know it, President Rudder's decision in the 1960s saved the future of Texas A&M. It was, perhaps, the most important decision ever made by any president of Texas A&M, and I am not sure if any other person but Earl Rudder could have made it. In 1967, President Lyndon Johnson presented Earl Rudder with the Distinguished Service Medal, our Nation's highest civilian award.

Love of faith, family, and country; courage under fire; integrity; and lifelong service to others—these were the values of Earl Rudder. They are the quintessential American values that have made ours the greatest Nation in the world.

My hope is that the story and values of Earl Rudder will inspire the lives of everyone who walks through these doors for generations to come. If so, then ours will be a better community and a better country, and we will have truly honored the service of this American hero.

May God bless James Earl Rudder High School and all who will serve there.

TRIBUTE TO MARGARET HOELZER

HON. ROBERT E. (BUD) CRAMER, JR.

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2008

Mr. CRAMER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding individual from my district, Ms. Margaret Hoelzer.

Ms. Hoelzer, an accomplished swimmer, recently competed in the 2008 Summer Olympic Games in Beijing where she earned a Silver Medal in the women's 200m backstroke and a Bronze Medal in the women's 100m backstroke. In addition, she and her teammates were awarded a Silver Medal in the women's 4xl00m medley relay. A two-time Olympian, Ms. Hoelzer also competed in the 2004 Summer Olympic Games in Athens, where she placed fifth in the 200m backstroke.

While her Olympic successes are certainly impressive, Ms. Hoelzer's swimming career includes numerous other medals and honors,

both in U.S. and international competition. She is the former world record holder and world champion in the 200m backstroke. She was the silver medalist in the 200m backstroke at both the 2003 and 2005 World Championships, and she won her first U.S. national title in the 200m backstroke at the 2005 World Championship Trials.

In addition to her many accomplishments in the sport of swimming, her activities outside the pool truly distinguish Margaret Hoelzer as a champion. When she's not swimming, Ms. Hoelzer is a mentor and role model to the young people who take part in her youth swim clinics. As a motivational speaker, she takes her "if you put your mind to it, anything is possible" message of perseverance to countless children in her community. In addition, Ms. Hoelzer volunteers at the National Children's Advocacy Center in Huntsville, where she works with abused children. Upon completion of her master's degree in sociology at Auburn University, she hopes to continue her work with abused children as a psychologist.

On Thursday, September 4, 2008, Ms. Hoelzer was honored with a reception in her hometown of Huntsville, Alabama. There Ms. Hoelzer's family, friends, and community celebrated her accomplishments and contributions to the sport of swimming. I rise to join them in their tribute and to thank Ms. Hoelzer for her service to our community.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 4040, CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2008

Mr. HOLT. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the Conference Report for H.R. 4040, the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act.

Over the last year we have read distressing reports in the newspapers of tainted pet food, toothpaste, and other products from China. These are troubling revelations, made even more disconcerting by the reports of lead tainted toys; lead is a substance which can stunt the mental and physical development of children. Toys are meant to entertain, educate, and inspire the imagination. It is greatly unsettling that some toys are not safe. In fact, some toys can seriously injure children and cause sickness. Last year, products like Barbie accessories, Thomas the Tank Engines, toy magnets, and jewelry were recalled after it was found that some of these products contained up to 200 times the legal amount of lead. Over 45 million toys and children's products were recalled in 2007 due to their danger to the health of our Nation's children. Disturbingly, the number of recalled products continues to increase. In fact, this year the number of recalls of toys and children's products is up 29 percent over the first half of 2007.

The events of the past year have demonstrated the danger that American consumers face when the government does not give regulatory agencies the tools they need in order to protect consumers from unsafe products. During this time of record product recalls, the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), the Government agency responsible for monitoring and enforcing product safety, has been starved for resources. Since 2004, the CPSC has lost 15 percent of its workforce and now 420 people are responsible for overseeing over 15,000 types of consumer goods. This means that a single person is responsible for testing all toys at the CPSC. Leadership at the highest levels of the CPSC has been asleep at the switch and has shown little interest in addressing the serious threat that tainted toys pose to our Nation's children. This is a disservice to American children and their families, and I am pleased that we are finally taking up legislation that would help to give the CPSC the tools that it needs to keep our children and families safe.

The conference report for H.R. 4040 would help empower the CPSC to become a more effective force for regulating the consumer marketplace by increasing its budget and regulatory authority. It would protect our children by requiring the pre-market testing in certified laboratories of children's products for lead and other harmful chemicals. H.R. 4040 would ban even trace amounts of lead in any product intended for children under the age of 12, and prohibit phthalates in children's products. Phthalates are known to cause reproductive and developmental harm. This legislation would also make it easier to recall tainted products by requiring manufacturers to place distinguishing marks on products and packages. It would provide whistleblower protections for private sector employees regarding alleged violations of any CPSC-enforced product safety requirements. Finally, this bill would establish better means of communicating to consumers and States when products are recalled.

I am proud to support the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act, and I urge my colleagues to support the Conference Report.

HONORING RICHARD GRIFFIN

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2008

Ms. LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life of longtime Richmond City Councilmember Richard Griffin. A tireless public servant and proud resident of the East Bay, Mr. Griffin passed away Wednesday, August 13, 2008. He was 74 years old.

Richard Griffin was born in 1934. He lived in the city of Richmond for 37 years, and served in the United States Armed Forces. Mr. Griffin served as a public school teacher and principal in Oakland before embarking on a formal political career. As an educator, he was an active union member in the United Administrators of Oakland Schools, Local 83.

Richard was a strong believer in the importance of good mentors for our young people, and an unwavering advocate for the right to a quality education for all. Richard was an excellent role model for our youth, especially African-Americans. He never tired of working to level the playing field so that the bright, young, talented students whom he taught would have the best opportunities to pursue fulfilling and successful lives.

Mr. Griffin held degrees in both chemistry and biology biology from San Francisco State University. He later earned a master's degree in Education. In addition to teaching, his career included diverse experiences, such as working as a microbiologist for Schlitz Brewery and as chief chemist for General Dynamics Corporation. An expert in his field, Richard was awarded three National Science Foundation Scholarships.

He later went on to spend more than two decades tirelessly serving the residents of Richmond as an esteemed member of their city council. He was appointed to his position on the city council in 1981 to fill a vacancy. His last term ended in 2006, when he decided not to seek re-election. During his tenure on the city council, he also served as vice-mayor.

His colleagues on the Richmond City Council remember him as extremely affable, charismatic, and passionate about the needs of the constituency he represented. Residents and city employees have described him as one of the most accessible elected officials, always available to listen and reach out to residents and city agencies and interested in addressing complex issues in a hands-on and collaborative fashion.

Mr. Griffin was widely known as a champion for the rights of senior citizens and was a strong advocate of redevelopment projects which would improve access for those with special mobility needs. He was also keenly involved in the development of Richmond's crime-prevention programs. Richard understood, however, that being "tough on crime" was not enough. He aimed, instead, to protect the populace and encourage the healthy development of city neighborhoods. During the early 1980s, his support helped firmly establish the police commission, which investigates allegations of police brutality and works to ensure that every person, even those who have been accused of committing a crime, are treated humanly and with dignity.

A man of faith, Richard was a dedicated member of St. John's Missionary Baptist Church. He always made time for community service and, in addition to contributing to the good work of his church, also served as the director of both the Richmond Girls Club and the Greater Richmond Social Service Corporation, respectively.

Richard was a man of great wisdom. He provided tremendous support to me when I ran for the State Senate in 1996. I am deeply grateful for his counsel, his assistance, and his friendship.

Today, California's 9th Congressional District salutes and honors Mr. Richard Griffin. Our deepest condolences go out to his loving wife, two sons, three grandchildren, and many friends and colleagues. We thank his family for sharing this exuberant and compassionate spirit with us. May his soul rest in peace.

RECOGNIZING THE DEDICATION OF DENNIS M. BARRY

HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2008

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Dennis M. Barry, as he retires as the Interim Director of Contra Costa County's Department of Conservation and Development, after 30 years of service.

Dennis M. Barry's career with the county encompasses 20 years with the Planning Department, later established as the Community Development Department, 10 years as Community Development Director, and 4 months as Interim Director of the Department of Conservation and Development.

In his role as Contra Costa County General Plan Review Program Manager in 1987, Barry led the General Plan Congress, which produced the first comprehensive update to the General Plan in over 25 years. As Director of Community Development, Barry spearheaded the Urban Limit Line through the County process including public hearings and adoption by voters. Throughout his career, Dennis M. Barry has been dedicated as a consummate planner and innovative leader.

Throughout his illustrious career, Dennis M. Barry received several awards for his service to the residents of Contra Costa County. These awards include the following: the Contra Costa County Employee of the Year in 1991, CSAC Challenge Award for the County Growth Management Program 1990, and for the Countywide General Plan in 1991; and CSAC Circle of Service Award.

Dennis M. Barry's outstanding service to Contra Costa County also included several policy changes that significantly impacted land use, housing projects and public safety. He assisted in drafting and placing Measure C on the ballot in 1990, which established the Contra Costa County 65/35 Land Preservation Plan. He drafted and brought Ordinance 96–50, Land Use Permits for Development Projects involving Hazardous Materials and Hazardous Wastes, for hearings. Barry was involved in the formation of the Dougherty Valley General Plan Amendment and Specific Plan, which requires 25 percent of the units to be occupied by low and moderate income families.

As Dennis M. Barry retires, I would like to thank him for his dedication to the quality of life for the residents of Contra Costa County, and his leadership in the field of planning. I wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors.

HONORING PAULA BARALDI

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2008

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the achievements of Paula Baraldi and to congratulate her upon being honored with the "Lifetime Achievement Award" by the Madera Chamber of Commerce. Mrs. Baraldi will be honored at a reception on Thursday, August 21, 2008 at the Fourth Annual Lifetime Achievement Awards and Board of Directors Installation Dinner.

Mrs. Baraldi was born and raised in Madera, California to Enrico and Armanda De Cesario She has one younger brother, Robert. She graduated from Madera High School in 1946 and immediately began working for a public accountant. In 1951, she married Ralph Baraldi and moved to Huron, California. In 1954, they moved back to Madera. At this time, she, her husband and Louie Mariani started a redi-mix concrete plant. Her brother Robert had also opened his own business, De Cesari Stationery. Robert was called to service in Vietnam, so they sold the redi-mix business and acquired the stationery store. Mrs. Baraldi owned and operated De Cesari Stationery for many years. She believes her success has been due to her family, friends, great customers and strong work ethic.

Mrs. Baraldi has concentrated many of her efforts in community service to ensure that Madera would continue to grow as a friendly city and a solid place to raise a family. She served as director and treasurer for the board of directors of the Madera Chamber of Commerce. She participated in the Retail Merchants and Governmental Affairs Committee. She was heavily involved in the women's movement of the 1960s and 1970s. She has also been involved with the Soroptimist Club of Madera, Madera Historical Society, American Cancer Society, National Association of Republican Women, Association of Stationers, San Joaquin Paleontology Association and a member of Saint Joachim's Church.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Paula Baraldi upon being awarded with the "Lifetime Achievement Award." I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Mrs. Baraldi many years of continued success.

A TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL MURPHY, RECIPIENT OF THE ST. MADELEINE SOPHIE AWARD

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2008

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Michael Murphy, a recipient of the prestigious St. Madeleine Sophie Award from Sacred Heart Schools. Established in the year 2000, the St. Madeleine Sophie Award honors individuals in the Sacred Heart community who have made a sustained and significant contribution to the Schools and embody the goals and criteria of a Sacred Heart education. The individuals honored are selected by a committee comprised of the senior administrative team in conjunction with the Chair of the Board of Trustees and are honored at a reception and at the Mass of the Holy Spirit, the first all-school liturgy of the school year. The recipients will be VIP guests at various SHS events throughout the year and featured in their alumni magazine, The Heart of the Matter, for their commitment to the mission of Sacred Heart education.

Michael Murphy was chosen along with three other distinguished recipients to be recognized with the award for his dedication to the goals and criteria of Sacred Heart Schools. Michael (Mike) Murphy; father of Patrick (SHP 2007), has been teaching at St. Joseph's School of the Sacred Heart for 16 years as a middle school teacher. Mr. Murphy was also ordained a permanent deacon for the Archdiocese of San Francisco in 2006. As classroom teacher and deacon, Mr. Murphy has provided spiritual guidance for his students while encouraging them to examine their spiritual lives. He challenges his students to be aware of social justice issues and to engage in service learning. Through discipline, humor and hard work, Mr. Murphy makes a difference in the lives of his students. He stepped in as interim principal for St. Joseph's for the 2007–08 school year and he accepted the role graciously and proved an effective leader for a community in need. Under his strong leadership, the St. Joseph's community reestablished many of its outreach efforts, developed a master plan for new construction and began the first year of a five-year strategic plan.

Madam Speaker, I ask the entire House of Representatives to join me in honoring Michael Murphy as he is recognized by the St. Madeleine Sophie Award. Through his many contributions to his family and friends, and especially the Sacred Heart community, he has more than earned the St. Madeleine Sophie Award through his special leadership and commitment to excellence. He has established a lasting legacy at Sacred Heart Schools in the life of every student who comes through its distinguished halls. Our community and our country have been strengthened by Michael Murphy and it is a privilege to honor him and his work.

HONORING REVEREND CHARLES BELCHER

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2008

Ms. LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the wonderful life of Reverend Charles Belcher. His vibrant spirit, insatiable commitment to service, and his unwavering compassion for the human family will be sorely missed by all those who had the honor of knowing him and coming in contact with his ministry. We lost this exceptional community leader and dedicated man of God on August 9, 2008.

Reverend Charles Belcher was born on January 17, 1939, in Schaal, Arkansas, to his loving mother, Lottie Belcher, and her husband, the late Reverend Jim Belcher. At the young age of 5, Charles' family moved to California. Although this was in some way the adopted home of his family, the contributions Reverend Belcher and his parents made to the Greater Bay Area are humbling in their sincerity and magnitude.

Education and personal growth were always extremely important values to Reverend Belcher, which he fostered throughout his life and promoted among the many young people that looked up to him. Charles Belcher graduated with honors from El Cerrito High School. He earned his bachelor's degree from Utah State University and later received a master's degree in divinity from San Francisco Theological Seminary. He would go on to earn a prestigious PhD from Ashland Theological Seminary. Reverend Belcher married Ms. Ethel Scott with whom he had a daughter, Kimberly, and a son, Charles II. At age 57, he married Ms. Doris Denson, and his loving family grew with the addition of Doris' children Bonita, Tony, Dana, and Sheila.

Reverend Belcher was widely known as a spiritual leader with great integrity and honor. In the Bay Area he served at numerous churches, including the St. Peter CME Church in El Cerrito, the Bee Bee Memorial CME Cathedral in Oakland, and most recently the Resurrection AME Church of Richmond.

Reverend Belcher was a man of great faith and energy. He enthusiastically embraced every opportunity to serve congregations and communities throughout our Nation, bringing with him a keen empathy for the local community. His service extended to churches throughout the country including CMEs in Los Angeles, Oklahoma City, and Cleveland. Under the leadership of Bishop Vernon Byrd, Reverend Belcher became an Itinerate Elder in the African Methodist Episcopal Church at Bethel AME in San Francisco in 1997. Reverend Belcher served as the organizing pastor at two churches in California, the Upper Room Christian Church in Los Angeles and the Resurrection AME Church in Richmond. Reverend Belcher dedicated every day of his adult life to his passion for God and community development. At the time of his passing, the Reverend was serving as pastor of St. John AME Church in St. Louis, Missouri.

Reverend Belcher fought for justice and equality for African Americans, low-income families, and communities of color, and he worked tirelessly to make this a better world. His dedication to public service throughout the Bay Area is both diverse in its capacities and remarkable in its scope. In 2001, he was elected to the Richmond City Council where he served a 4-year term. In addition to serving the city of Richmond, Reverend Belcher worked as an administrative assistant to Oakland Mayor Lionel Wilson. He was a member of the Peralta Community College District board and served on the board of the NAACP's Richmond branch.

I met Reverend Belcher while a student at Mills College in the early 1970s. I attended a class he taught and was amazed by his keen intellect, his deep insight, and his determination to teach and speak the truth.

The contributions Reverend Belcher made to his community throughout his life are innumerable. He was a true inspiration, and an exceptional role model, especially for young men and women of color striving to build up their communities, contribute to their neighborhoods, and improve their opportunities so that they may pursue productive and full lives. His legacy will surely live on through the lasting impact he made on so many lives.

Today, California's 9th Congressional District salutes and honors Reverend Charles Belcher. We extend our deepest condolences to his family and loved ones, especially his mother, Ms. Lottie M. Belcher, his wife, Ms. Doris Denson-Belcher, his children Kimberly and Charles II, his step-children Bonita, Tony, Dana, and Sheila, his grandchildren, and the many special members of his close and devoted family as well as his countless friends. May his soul rest in peace.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF DAN PACKER, CHIEF OF THE EAST PIERCE FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2008

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the memory of Dan Packer, chief of the East Pierce Fire Department, who recently died in the line of duty as he was helping to save lives and property from the wildfires burning in northern California. Dan was a veteran firefighter, respected leader, wildfire expert, as well as a father and a friend to many. His service to our community and his friendship will be sorely missed.

Originally from Montana, Dan was an avid rodeo bull rider and first joined the fire service in Burien, Washington, in 1981. He began serving as chief of the fire department in Bonney Lake in 1995 and was instrumental in joining several jurisdictions into an organization now known as the East Pierce Fire District. Today, East Pierce serves over 75,000 citizens across nearly 150 square miles with the support of more than 100 firefighters and staff members and 40 volunteers. Dan Packer also served as a president of the Washington Fire Chiefs.

As a part of a Washington State-based incident response team, Chief Packer was called to service to respond to wildfires that have affected more than 600 acres of Siskiyou County in northern California. In this role, he combated the Panther Fire and was preparing to assume the duties of the division supervisor for time—battling the blazes in the Klamath National Forest near the town of Happy Camp. Reports indicate that on Saturday, July 26, 2008, while scouting the fire, flames suddenly overcame Chief Packer and, tragically, he was not able to escape.

I extend my heartfelt condolences and prayers to the East Pierce Fire Department, the many firefighters who had the honor of serving at Dan Packer's side in both California and Washington State, and particularly to his wife, four daughters, two grandchildren, and his mother in this time of terrible grief and loss.

RECOGNIZING INTERNATIONAL LITERACY DAY

HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2008

Mr. TIBERI. Madam Speaker, today we commemorate International Literacy Day, a day that provides us an opportunity to assess the status of literacy and adult learning both in our country and around the world.

While much progress has been made since the first Literacy Day 42 years ago, much remains to be done. According to United Nations estimates, some 774 million adults lack minimum literacy skills. One in five adults is still not literate and two-thirds of them are women.

Fortunately, there are countless organizations and individuals dedicated to ensuring that every man, woman and child has an opportunity to learn basic skills. In my home state, the Ohio Literacy Network has been meeting the needs of adult learners for 21 years. Since its inception in 1987, the network has played a leading role in promoting awareness of adult literacy needs, advocating on behalf of adult learners and service providers, encouraging public-private literacy efforts and facilitating the exchange of literacy information. In short, the Ohio Literacy Network is dedicated to building stronger communities by providing opportunities to any adult wanting to learn basic literacy skills.

I salute the Ohio Literacy Network, and similar organizations throughout the world, as they man the front lines in the battle to better the lives of individuals by improving their basic skills.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF CAPTAIN RUSSELL L. SHAFFER FROM THE UNITED STATES NAVY

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2008

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Captain Russell L. Shaffer, Judge Advocate General's Corps, United States Navy, who is retiring after more than 21 years of faithful service to our Nation, culminating in his service as the Department of the Navy's Director of Legislation.

After earning a bachelor of arts degree from Ohio Wesleyan University in 1983, Captain Shaffer was commissioned in 1985. He earned his juris doctorate degree from Case Western Reserve University School of Law in 1987, and began his active duty service in the Navy JAG Corps Student Program.

He served on three occasions in the Naval Legal Service Command, as Commanding Officer of the Naval Legal Service Office North Central at the Washington Navy Yard, as the Executive Officer of the Europe and Southwest Asia office in Naples, Italy, and as a prosecutor, defense counsel, and claims attorney in Norfolk, Virginia.

He also served several tours in the Office of the Judge Advocate General, as an attorney in the General Litigation Division, as the Deputy Executive Assistant to the JAG and as the Executive Assistant to the JAG.

He served as the Staff Judge Advocate for Commander, Amphibious Group TWO in Norfolk, Virginia, and for the Commander, THIRD Fleet in San Diego, California. His other assignments have included tours on the staff of the Chief of Naval Operations, with the Commander, South Atlantic Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet, and as a Legislative Counsel in the Navy's Office of Legislative Affairs.

During his distinguished career, Captain Shaffer earned master of laws in environmental law from the George Washington University in 1996 and he has been an active member of the Ohio Bar. His personal decorations include the Legion of Merit, 3 awards, the Meritorious Service Medal, 5 awards, the Navy-Marine Corps Commendation, 2 awards, and the Navy-Marine Corps Achievement Medal.

It is through the commitment and sacrifice of Americans like Captain Shaffer that our Nation is able to continue upon the path of democracy and strive for the betterment of mankind. I am proud, Madam Speaker, as a fellow Virginian, to thank him and his family for his honorable service to our Nation in the United States Navy. I wish him fair winds and following seas as he concludes a distinguished naval career.

HONORING WILLA DELLUMS

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2008

Ms. LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor one of the most inspiring and compassionate individuals in the rich and vibrant history of Oakland, California. On Sunday, August 17, 2008, Willa Dellums, the mother of my dear friend and predecessor in the U.S. House of Representatives, the Honorable Ronald V. Dellums, passed away at the age of 89. Although Willa lived a full and beautiful life, this is a tremendous loss to our community. Her presence will be sorely missed.

Willa Mae Terry was born December 11, 1918 to the union of Willie Terry and Estelle Poole in Houston, Texas. Willa was the youngest of three children born to this union, including siblings Bessie Blount and James Terry, who preceded her in death. At the age of 5, her parents moved west to California in search of a better life.

Willa lived in Oakland for 85 years, where she was known for her independence, ease of making friends, and unlimited kindness. Her compassion was one of strength, however, and she became equally known for her bravery and steadfast resiliency.

Willa Dellums was the first African American to be hired at the J.C. Penney store in downtown Oakland, California. Full of determination and resolute, Willa eventually became a clerk in Oakland's central government offices. Daily, Willa was faced with the incredible challenges of being a woman of color at a time when the glass ceilings of racism and sexism were blatant and unapologetic. Rather than cower in the face of harrowing prejudice, Willa used every challenge as an opportunity to reinforce her strong character, morals, and humanity toward others.

Willa, who was unable to attend college, was an unwavering advocate of the importance of education. She closely mentored her children throughout their school age years, and was a constant advocate for their continued learning and growth, even when they were well into their careers and were successful leaders in their own right. Throughout their lives, her children continuously credited Willa with instilling a sense of pride and responsibility in them. Many other members of our community, including myself, were also able to look up to Willa to solidify these values within our lives—in this way, we were all members of her family.

Mrs. Dellums was my friend and confidant for many years. She guided me through many troubling moments in my life. I will always remember her as a kind and brilliant woman who was non judgmental, yet totally honest with her feedback and insights. We talked for hours on the telephone and I was always amazed at her energy and clarity.

I have many personal wonderful memories of Mrs. D. She knew I needed more exercise and invited me to walk with her on many occasions. Those walks were invigorating. She walked very fast and I could hardly keep up with her. After our walks we'd go eat, and my last meal with her was at a sandwich shop on Lakeshore Boulevard. We both had half a sandwich and a cup of soup.

One day we went to the farmer's market at Jack London Square and then drove around West Oakland. I drove by her former home on Wood Street where she raised her son Ron and daughter Theresa. I told her that I thought this house should be designated as an historic site and she was excited about the idea.

Mrs. D. loved to travel. Oftentimes she would invite me to go with her and Theresa on one of their adventures in far off lands, generally on a boat cruise. My one regret is that my life was so hectic, I could never find the time for a vacation. She always wanted me to slow down and take a break, and it was out of her love and concern that she recognized I needed more rest and balance in my life.

Many have spoken of Mrs. D's culinary abilities. She was a wonderful cook and I loved her chili. Some of my most fond memories are going by her house, eating chili and looking at photo albums. I have had the privilege to visit many countries, primarily on official business, and would take photo albums of these trips to Mrs. D. She was especially interested in the ones from Africa and Israel.

There are very few people who have touched my life in such a magnificent manner. Mrs. Dellums was a shining light in my life and was a great role model for me and other African American women. She was brilliant, kind, sensitive, loving and tough.

It is with deep sorrow, yet gratitude that we say good-bye to Mrs. Willa Dellums. However, her legacy lives through her loving children, Mayor Ron Dellums and Ms. Theresa Simmons. Countless Oaklanders benefited from her love and mentorship and on their behalf, I say thank you.

Mrs. Dellums was married to Vernie Dellums for 43 years. He preceded her in death in 1978. Our deepest condolences go out to her children Ron and Theresa, grandchildren, and her entire family.

On behalf of the residents of the 9th Congressional District, I salute the incredible life of this remarkable and courageous woman. May her soul rest in peace.

HONORING DARWIN SHEBELUT

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2008

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the achievements of Darwin Shebelut and to congratulate him upon being honored with the "Lifetime Achievement Award" by the Madera Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Shebelut was honored at a reception on Thursday, August 21, 2008, at the Fourth Annual Lifetime Achievement Awards and Board of Directors Installation Dinner.

Mr. Shebelut was born on August 8, 1920, in Madera, California. He graduated from Madera High School in 1938 as the senior class president. After high school he attended Stanford University and received a degree in mechanical engineering. He also served in the United States Army for 4 years during World War II. Upon returning to Madera, Mr. Shebelut became a businessman and an opportunist. His father owned and operated a Chevrolet dealership in Madera that he eventually took over. Under his leadership the dealership grew to include Oldsmobile and Toyota. Mr. Shebelut purchased 182 acres of subdivided land in what is now the center of Madera. He formed a water company through the public utilities commission and developed the area into a residential and commercial area. He built Madera's first shopping center in 1954 on that land. During the late 1970s Mr. Shebelut purchased 50 more acres of land and rezoned the area to include residential, multiple housing and commercial properties. He developed another shopping center and was the co-owner of an adjacent apartment complex. He also owned and operated the Credit Bureau during the 1940s and 1950s. Mr. Shebelut was the president and director of American Standard Life Insurance Company, was the director of the Northern California Automobile Dealers Association for 20 years and a member of the National Automobile Dealers Association.

Outside of owning and operating numerous businesses, Mr. Shebelut was very involved in the community. He served the city of Madera as a director of the development agency and in the early 1950s he served as a Madera City councilman. In the County of Madera he served as a director of the joint development agency, commissioner of the Juvenile Justice Commission and was the director for 18 years of the Transportation Authority. He served as the director for numerous organizations, including Madera Businessmen's Association, Madera Industrial Development Corporation and Boy Scouts of America Sequoia Council. He has served as trustee for the University of California, San Francisco's Fresno Foundation, California-Nevada Methodist Homes and Hospitals, San Joaquin River Conservation Trust and the Queen of the Valley High School. Mr. Shebelut was one of the founders of Madera Community Hospital in 1964 and later served as a trustee and chairman of the board. He has also been involved in Madera Noon Rotary for 42 years (and served as president), Elks Lodge 1918 (charter member), the Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Legion, Fresno Chapter International Wine and Food Society, Fresno Chapter of Skal International, Fresno Owls Club and Madera Golf and Country Club (member of organizing group).

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Darwin Shebelut upon being awarded with the "Lifetime Achievement Award." I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Mr. Shebelut many years of continued success.

WATER USE EFFICIENCY AND CONSERVATION RESEARCH ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. JIM MATHESON

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2008

Mr. MATHESON. Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize Chairman OBERSTAR of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee for working with the Science and Technology Committee in such a cooperative and constructive manner on this bill, and I will insert an exchange of letters between the committees into the RECORD.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE,
Washington, DC, July 22, 2008.

Hon. BART GORDON,
Chairman, Committee on Science and Technology,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN GORDON: I write to you regarding H.R. 3957, the ''Water Use Efficiency and Conservation Research Act.'' This legislation authorizes the Environmental Protection Agency to establish a research and development program to promote water use efficiency and conservation technologies and practices.

H.R. 3957 contains provisions that fall within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. I recognize and appreciate your desire to bring this legislation before the House in an expeditious manner and, accordingly, I will not seek a sequential referral of the bill. However, I agree to waive consideration of this bill with the mutual understanding that my decision to forego a sequential referral of the bill does not waive, reduce, or otherwise affect the jurisdiction of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure over H.R. 3957.

Further, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure reserves the right to seek the appointment of conferees during any House-Senate conference convened on this legislation on provisions of the bill that are within the Committee's jurisdiction. I ask for your commitment to support any request by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure for the appointment of conferees on H.R. 3957 or similar legislation.

Please place a copy of this letter and your response acknowledging the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure's jurisdictional interest in the Committee Report on H.R. 3957 and in the Congressional Record during consideration of the measure on the House Floor.

I look forward to working with you as we prepare to pass this important legislation.

Sincerely,

JAMES L. OBERSTAR, M.C.,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY,
Washington, DC, July 22, 2008.

Hon. JAMES L. OBERSTAR,
Chairman, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN OBERSTAR: Thank you for your July 22, 2008 letter regarding H.R. 3957, the Water Use Efficiency and Conservation Research Act. Your support for this legislation and your assistance in ensuring its timely consideration are greatly appreciated.

I agree that provisions in the bill are of jurisdictional interest to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. I acknowledge that by forgoing a sequential referral, your Committee is not relinquishing its jurisdiction and I will fully support your request to be represented in a House-Senate conference on those provisions over which the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure has jurisdiction in H.R. 3957. A copy of our letters will be placed in the Committee Report on H.R. 3957 and in the Congressional Record during consideration of the bill on the House floor.

I value your cooperation and look forward to working with you as we move ahead with this important legislation.

Sincerely,

BART GORDON,
Chairman.

ON THE RETIREMENT OF LIEUTENANT COLONEL DONALD S. CHAMPION

HON. ROSCOE G. BARTLETT

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2008

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the career and achievements of a great military officer and constituent of the Sixth District of Maryland—LTC Donald S. Champion. After over 29 years of long and distinguished service Colonel Champion will retire from his present position as Chief, Congressional Outreach Program in the Office of Air Force Reserve, Policy Integration Directorate, AF/REI, Pentagon, Washington DC. For the past 3 years Colonel Champion has been responsible for all legislative outreach as well as all legislative matters concerning Reserve Plans and Programs and Operations for the Air Force Reserve and Air Force Reserve Command.

Colonel Champion graduated from Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University receiving a bachelor of arts degree in communications and public relations. He was commissioned a second lieutenant in 1979. He attended undergraduate navigator training at Mather Air Force Base, California. Following graduation he attended F–4 Replacement Training Unit at Homestead Air Force Base, Florida, where he was a distinguished graduate. In 1984 he was selected to attend undergraduate pilot training at Laughlin Air Force Base, Texas.

After earning his wings he attended lead-in fighter training at Hollman Air Force Base, New Mexico, where he was selected as Air to Air Top Gun. He was assigned to Langley Air Force Base, Virginia following training to fly the F–15C. There he served as a flight commander. He returned to the training world where he served as a T–37 Instructor Pilot at Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas. He went on to become a T–38 instructor pilot at Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi.

Throughout his distinguished career, Colonel Champion was consistently recognized for his outstanding performance and dedication to duty. For the past 3 years Colonel Champion has served as a liaison to the United States Congress where he well and faithfully represented the Air Force Reserve to the House and Senate. He was personally helpful to me and my staff during his tenure on the Reserve Staff at the Pentagon. His military awards include the Meritorious Service Medal with one oak leaf cluster and the Air Force Commendation Medal with two oak leaf clusters.

On behalf of a grateful Nation, I thank Colonel Champion, and his daughters Kelsey and Lindsay, for their commitment and sacrifices made throughout his honorable military career. Congratulations on completing an outstanding and successful career in service to our great Country.

HONORING ASBAREZ NEWSPAPER

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2008

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Asbarez newspaper upon the celebration of their 100th anniversary.

Asbarez newspaper began publication in August of 1908 in Fresno, California. The publication began as a weekly paper that was committed to providing news and information to the Armenian-American community. In 1908, the focus of this community was the instability of the homeland. Throughout the years, Asbarez has reported on the ever-changing, and fragile, conditions of the Republic of Armenia. The paper covered the tragedy of the Armenian genocide, the triumph of the first independent republic, the growing pains of a community, the catastrophic earthquake, the fall of the Soviet Union, the Nagorno-Karabakh liberation struggle, the rise of the independent Nagorno-Karabakh Republic and the realities of the people of Javakhk in southern Georgia. Asbarez provides news, information, commentary, criticism, and thought.

On May 1, 1970, Asbarez began publishing its English section. During the early 1970s the offices and publishing headquarters moved to Los Angeles. Today, Asbarez is the largest and only bilingual newspaper serving the 750,000 plus Armenian-Americans in the western United States. It is published five times per week, Tuesday through Saturday. The newspaper also serves as voice for the community and is a source of information for Congress, libraries around the Nation and newsrooms of major media outlets. In 1997 Asbarez launched its Web site, keeping Armenians even more up to date with the issues that interest them the most. Asbarez has become a trusted source for news about the evolving Armenian realities.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Asbarez newspaper on 100 years of business. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Asbarez newspaper many years of continued success.

A TRIBUTE TO BOB THOMAS, SR.

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2008

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Madam Speaker, I rise today to draw our colleagues' attention to a gentleman and outstanding citizen who has demonstrated that long-term success is possible in America if one has a vision and is willing to work hard to turn it into reality. This gentleman has also devoted himself to the principles we celebrate here in our country—freedom to build a successful business, and loyalty to family and community.

Today I pay special recognition and honor to Bob Thomas, Sr., of Baker County, OR, a genuine ''up by the bootstraps'' livestock producer who never lost his vision for what the Angus cattle breed could become; a dedicated husband to his wife, Gloria, with whom he raised four very successful children; a leader

in his church, community, and industry—and a gentleman whose friends and neighbors have always been able to rely on.

Bob and Gloria moved to the Baker Valley of picturesque eastern Oregon in the early 1960's from New York, via Iowa. With them came their treasured seed stock for their line of Angus beef cattle. In the winter, Gloria fed the cows with young son Rob in the pickup. Bob was also working as a sales representative for Powder River Equipment, selling gates and ranch equipment to supplement their ranch income. They worked very hard to achieve their dream—a high quality herd of registered Angus cattle.

Their first purebred Angus sale was held in October, 1973 and throughout the years Bob and Gloria always made everyone feel like they were special to them because, in fact, they were special to them. Now, nearly 35 years later, that same high quality Angus breeding stock is sold in a 2-day sale in October, as well as a spring sale in March.

The Thomas family still shows the same hospitality and personal attention today as they did at their very first sale. Following in the footprints of Bob and Gloria, son Rob and his wife Lori continue the Thomas tradition as highly respected leaders in their industry and community. They maintain the same unwavering commitment to the high quality of their Angus line and service.

Madam Speaker, I want to especially honor Bob for his many years of dedication to and support of the people of Baker County and the rural way of life in eastern Oregon. His fellow citizens greatly appreciate his high principles, commitment to high quality and standards, and his friendship. Please join me in congratulating and thanking Bob Thomas, Sr.

CONGRATULATING POLLY TADLOCK ON BEING THE NAMESAKE OF POLLY TADLOCK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2008

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Polly Tadlock of Frisco, TX for her many contributions as an educator in the North Texas area and Frisco Independent School District. Mrs. Tadlock was recently chosen as the namesake of Polly Tadlock Elementary School, a new facility in Frisco ISD.

Frisco ISD recommended the naming of a new facility for a former employee whose contributions have gone above and beyond the call of duty. Mrs. Tadlock has been noted for going above the call of duty with her willingness to help her students inside and outside of the classroom. She is known for following her students as they left the classroom and entered adulthood, creating lifelong relationships. According to Polly, "the lifelong relationships with students are the greatest rewards of all." Mrs. Tadlock taught for a total of 24 years in the North Texas area. She served the district of Frisco from 1968 to 1989, when she decided to retire.

Mrs. Tadlock was born in Ponder, TX, later moving to Fort Worth to continue her education. After receiving her bachelor's and master's from Texas Women's University, Mrs. Tadlock began her teaching career in Pilot Point, TX, later spending the majority of her 24 years as an educator in the Frisco Independent School District.

Madam Speaker, it is an honor today to rise in recognition of Mrs. Tadlock, whose dedication to the students and families of Frisco has made her truly deserving of such an honor. Her devotion to her community serves as an inspiration and as an example to us all, and I am proud to represent her in the U.S. House of Representatives.

THE POLISH AMERICAN CONGRESS

HON. JIM SAXTON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2008

Mr. SAXTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of The Polish American Congress. On September 28, 2008, The Polish American Congress will hold a "Terrorist Attack Memorial Service" to honor and commemorate the victims of the Katyn Forest Massacre, as well as pay a tribute to those who perished on September 11, 2001.

In addition to carrying out the overall mission of the Polish American Congress, the New Jersey Division chooses to hold a memorial for the victims of both the Katyn Forest Massacre and the September 11, 2001 attacks on our country. The Katyn Forest Massacre occurred during World War 2 as a result of the Soviet Union's persecution of thousands during the communist era. The September 11th attacks on the United States claimed more than 3,000 lives. The New Jersey Division of the Polish American Congress has taken it as their mission to commemorate the lives lost in both incidents.

The Polish American Congress is an umbrella organization, with over 3,000 clubs that exist to serve various levels and aspects of the Polish communities of the United States. They promote different areas of education and cultural programs to further the knowledge of Polish history, as well as to stimulate Polish American involvement in their community .

Madam Speaker, I would like to extend my sincere gratitude for the leadership, commitment, and service that the Polish American Congress has demonstrated in their existence throughout the community.

HONORING SISTER JOAN FOLEY

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2008

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Sister Joan Foley, who is the recipient of the Seven Springs Rotary Club's prestigious Paul Harris Award. Sister Foley has always put service above self in a lifelong commitment and passion to helping the communities around her.

Sister Foley joined the Medical Mission Sisters in 1954 to help solve health care issues in lesser-developed parts of the world. She began her mission in Pakistan, where she supervised a busy clinical lab and trained many young Pakistanis. Sister Foley later became involved in several community health care networks focusing on rural and minority populations in the United States. She then served for 6 years as the Coordinator of Medical Mission Sister's Eastern District and currently is the Sector Coordinator in North America.

In 1991, Sister Foley sought out a new mission in Florida's Pasco County. She saw a need to help local jobseekers find employment regardless of age, income, background, or education. Sister Foley first started the Connections program in her car to help individuals manage their job search and connect with area employers. Today, the program has grown substantially but still offers free one-on-one assistance and many other resources to jobseekers. Sister Foley stepped down as director of Connections this past spring; however, her vision will continue to enrich the community.

Madam Speaker, I am truly honored to recognize Sister Foley's mission that has improved the lives of people all over the world. For nearly 20 years she has made Pasco County a better place by providing new hopes and better futures. The Paul Harris Award is a wonderful recognition of her hard work and devotion.

A TRIBUTE TO MARY ANN ROBBIANO, RECIPIENT OF THE ST. MADELEINE SOPHIE AWARD

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2008

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Mary Ann Robbiano, a dear friend and a recipient of the prestigious St. Madeleine Sophie Award from Sacred Heart Schools. Established in the year 2000, the St. Madeleine Sophie Award honors individuals in the Sacred Heart community who have made a sustained and significant contribution to the Schools and embody the Goals and Criteria of a Sacred Heart education. The individuals honored are selected by a committee comprised of the senior administrative team in conjunction with the Chair of the Board of Trustees and are honored at a reception and at the Mass of the Holy Spirit, the first all-school liturgy of the school year. The recipients will be VIP guests at various SHS events throughout the year and featured in their alumni magazine, The Heart of the Matter, for their commitment to the mission of Sacred Heart education.

Mary Anne Robbiano was chosen along with three other distinguished recipients to be recognized with the Award for her dedication to the Goals and Criteria of Sacred Heart Schools. Mother of three adult children, Kay (SHP 1972), Paul, and Angie (SHP 1976), Mrs. Robbiano began her relationship with Sacred Hearts Schools when her oldest daughter entered kindergarten in 1960. She was the school nurse from 1968 until 1976, and dealt with many different problems and situations including comforting homesick, boarders, tending to skinned knees, broken bones, colds and flues. Each child was treated as if she were her own daughter. Oakwood, the home for the retired Religious of the Sacred Heart, was built in 1976 and Mrs. Robbiano was asked to be

the Director of Nursing at the Oakwood Infirmary. Her philosophy was to treat each woman with respect and dignity. Since her retirement in 1990, she remains dedicated to Oakwood by volunteering her time to the nuns through the Oakwood Auxiliary and the Children of Mary. She and her husband Paul celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary with a Mass at the Oakwood Chapel in September 2007.

Madam Speaker, I ask the entire House of Representatives to join me in honoring Mrs. Mary Ann Robbiano as she is given the St. Madeleine Sophie Award. Through her countless contributions to her family and friends, and most especially the Sacred Heart community, she has more than earned this Award. Her hard work and commitment to excellence are a lasting legacy at Sacred Heart Schools and live on in the life of every student who has come through its distinguished halls. Her deep faith and the practice of it have inspired everyone who knows her. Our community and our country have been bettered because of Mary Ann Robbiano and I consider it a privilege to know her and honor her.

TRIBUTE TO 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CHURCH OF THE OPEN DOOR

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2008

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the 50th anniversary of the Church of the Open Door, United Church of Christ in Miami, Florida. Since its inception, the church has stood in the community as a symbol of perseverance and inspiration. This historic anniversary of the Church of the Open Door, United Church of Christ marks a time of remembrance of a storied past and renewal for a bright future.

In April 1958, Marie Faulkner Brown, daughter of Congregational minister Rev. Dr. William F. Faulkner, sought to fulfill a specific need of her Congregational background through spiritual guidance. She called together a group of 10 people with a Congregational denominational background similar to hers to discuss the possibility of forming an interracial Congregational church in Miami.

The small group continued to meet regularly and chose the name, Congregational Christian Fellowship. The superintendent of the Florida Conference, Rev. Dr. Robbins Ralph was impressed with the honesty and eloquence of this beginning group and appointed Dr. Wiley Scott, pastor of Miami Beach Community Church, to chair a steering committee that provided leadership for the group from local Congregational ministers. Superintendent Ralph and Dr. Scott were instrumental in sharing their favorable impression of this beginning church with the national church. The national church was generous with funds to buy a parsonage on Northwest 9th Avenue, and subsidized the group for 5 years. It also gave financial support to purchase the property where the church is now located, the current edifice and the family life center. The group began meeting in the Florida room of Dr. Kelsey L. Pharr and later moved to Bethany Seventh Day Adventist Union Academy for Sunday morning worship services.

The name Church of the Open Door, Congregational, was voted on September 20, 1959. The church was incorporated on September 28, 1959, with 75 charter members. The first interim pastor, a Congregational minister, was Rev. Dr. Charles Wicks. Rev. Dr. Henry Curtis McDowell, a missionary to Angola, West Africa, for 40 years, served as the founding pastor. The current pastor, who previously served as pastor of Amistad United Church of Christ in Maryland, is Rev. Dr. R. Joaquin Willis.

Madam Speaker, please join me in applauding and honoring the Church of the Open Door, United Church of Christ as it celebrates 50 years of dedicated fellowship. Throughout the past 50 years, the clergy and members have dedicated themselves to providing spirituality, service, and guidance to the church and greater community of Miami, Florida. It is my hope the Church of the Open Door, United Church of Christ continues to stand as a beacon of resolve, inspiration, and worship for many years to come.

HONORING MONTE PISTORESI

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2008

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the achievements of Monte Pistoresi and to congratulate him upon being honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award by the Madera Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Pistoresi will be honored at a reception on Thursday, August 21, 2008, at the Fourth Annual Lifetime Achievement Awards and Board of Directors Installation Dinner.

Monte Pistoresi attended school in Chowchilla, California, and graduated from the University of Santa Clara in 1960 with a business administration degree. Upon graduating, he entered into the United States Army. In 1963, he began to work for his family's Chevrolet dealership in Chowchilla. The dealership had one ambulance that was used to provide services to the Chowchilla area. Mr. Pistoresi helped to drive the ambulance on emergency calls. In 1981, the dealership closed, but he was the successful bidder for the city of Madera ambulance contract. By 1982, the company had 3 ambulances and 10 employees. Today, Pistoresi Ambulance has been serving Madera for 26 years and has 8 ambulances and 45 employees.

Mr. Pistoresi is always giving back to the community, everything from umpiring Little League baseball games to his involvement in the Madera Chamber of Commerce. He was a member of the Madera Community Hospital Foundation from 1990 to 1998, and on the board of trustees for the hospital from 1998 to 2008. Mr. Pistoresi is a member of the Madera Kiwanis Club, Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce, Madera Elks, Madera NAACP, Madera County Emergency Medical Care Community, Women's Prison Citizen Advisory Board, and the city of Madera Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. Mr. Pistoresi also donates time and money to Children's Hospital Central California. Due to his involvement in the community, he has received many awards and recognitions including the Madera Chamber of Commerce Business Person of the Year, Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and Chowchilla Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year, Madera Elks and Kiwanis Distinguished Citizenship Award, and the Martin Luther King Committee Humanitarian Award.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Monte Pistoresi upon being awarded with the Lifetime Achievement Award. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Mr. Pistoresi many years of continued success.

RECOGNIZING ROBERT A. HAND'S 25 YEARS OF SERVICE AT THE COMMISSION ON SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2008

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, today I am pleased to pay tribute to Bob Hand for his 25 years of untiring service to the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Helsinki Commission. Bob joined the Commission's professional staff on August 1, 1983, though his human rights advocacy work began years earlier and included a stint as an intern with the Commission. A man of deep principles and convictions, Bob has approached each challenge with determination and diligence.

Driven by a quiet passion for upholding the human rights commitments enshrined in the Helsinki Final Act, Bob helped compile lists of individuals denied their fundamental freedoms by regimes in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union. His work in promoting free market principles and protection of the environment included efforts specifically aimed at encouraging individual entrepreneurs and strengthening the role of non-governmental organizations. A case in point was his active role in defending environmental activists during the 1989 Sofia Meeting on the Protection of the Environment, an event that paved the way for the ouster of the Bulgarian dictatorship. Bob played a leading role in preparations for the 1990 Bonn Conference on Economic Cooperation in Europe, an historic East-West meeting that embraced key principles, such as rights to private property and the importance of the rule of law in the economic sphere, among others.

For more than two decades, Bob has served as the Commission's point person for the Balkans region. He was an early advocate of raising human rights concerns with Belgrade when Yugoslavia was still included among the ranks of the Neutral and Non-Aligned countries. A keen analyst of developments in the Balkans, Bob began drawing attention to potential flash points like Kosovo long before others. He volunteered to be deployed as an expert on the Mission to Kosovo, Sanjak, and Vojvodina fielded by the then Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe in the early 1990s. With his able assistance, the Helsinki Commission remained at the forefront of efforts to uphold Bosnia's right to self defense in the face of armed aggression and genocide. He has persistently worked to document the human toll suffered by victims, among them those who perished during the massacre at Srebrenica, and to press for

apprehension of indicted war criminals like Ratko Mladić, who remain at large. Elsewhere in the region, Bob has worked particularly hard to promote democracy, human rights and rule of law in Albania, a country he first visited in 1990. Beyond his responsibilities monitoring developments in the Balkans region, Bob ably serves as secretary for the U.S. delegation to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly.

Madam Speaker, as Chairman of the Helsinki Commission, I am pleased to recognize and commend Bob Hand for his faithful, dedicated, and tireless service to me and my colleagues.

HONORING ANGELO DESORBO ON THE OCCASION OF HIS 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2008

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to join family, friends, and the West Haven community in wishing a very special happy birthday to Angelo DeSorbo who is celebrating his 100th birthday.

Angelo DeSorbo might best be known as the gentleman selling plants and flowers at ''Kimberly Open-Air Market on the corner of Ella Grasso Boulevard and Kimberly Avenue in New Haven—a vocation he has enjoyed for more than 65 years. Kind-hearted and generous with a smile, Mr. DeSorbo is well-known throughout the community and has become a good friend to many of his customers. Even today, though he sometimes has difficulty walking, he is driven to his stand every morning, weather permitting. He may be celebrating his centennial anniversary, but Angelo DeSorbo is still young at heart and spry of spirit. In the decades that he has been at the ''Kimberly Open-Air Market,'' Mr. DeSorbo has become a New Haven institution—a community treasure.

Marking decades of hard work, this occasion reflects an important milestone in Mr. DeSorbo's life. Over the years, he has witnessed remarkable changes and extraordinary progress. Living standards have blossomed for most Americans as technology has altered some of our most basic expectations. Indeed he can take pride in having participated in some of the most exciting times in our history, and can look forward to the progress of the new millennium.

I am proud to stand today to pay tribute to the remarkable life of Angelo DeSorbo and to join his daughter, Adelaide; her husband, Michael; his two grandchildren and four great-grandchildren, in wishing him a very happy 100th birthday. Mr. DeSorbo has left an indelible mark on our community and I wish him many more years of health and happiness. Happy birthday.

IN RECOGNITION OF 30 YEARS OF SERVICE BY THE SACRAMENTO CHINESE COMMUNITY SERVICE CENTER

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2008

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and acknowledge the Sacramento Chinese Community Service Center for 30 years of service to immigrants, refugees, and disadvantaged groups in the Sacramento area.

The Sacramento Chinese Community Service Center was founded in 1978 to aid newly arrived Chinese immigrants in dealing with the myriad challenges of immigration and cultural adaptation. Over the last few years, its programs have expanded to help other non-Chinese immigrants, refugees, and other disadvantaged groups that call Sacramento home including those of Hmong, Mien, Vietnamese, Ukrainian, and Russian descent.

The SCCSC assists more than 4,000 clients each year, including 2,400 children in their after school programs. It offers 26 programs, including youth mentoring and counseling, employment assistance, translation, transportation and home health visits for senior citizens, parenting workshops, job skill workshops and paid work experience, and citizenship classes.

The SCCSC has received recognition for its successes, including having received the Gloria Rose Memorial Grant Award from the United Way California Capitol Region for being an agency which achieves outstanding results, and works towards building a stronger, healthier, and more compassionate community. The SCCSC has also received the Spirit of Mentoring Award from the California Mentor Foundation for providing an exemplary community-based mentor program.

Madam Speaker, I wish to congratulate the Sacramento Chinese Community Service Center upon the occasion of its 30th anniversary, and express my gratitude to the center for providing essential services and support to new immigrants, citizens, refugees, at-risk youth, senior citizens, and others in need. The Sacramento Chinese Community Service Center has provided the community with a wide array of opportunities, and I wish its leaders the best of luck as they continue in their service.

HONORING ARMY STAFF SERGEANT ALEX JIMENEZ

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2008

Mr. CROWLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to honor, salute, and pay tribute to one of our brave fallen soldiers.

Army Staff Sergeant Alex Jimenez went to Iraq for the first time in 2005. Already fluent in Spanish, he quickly taught himself Arabic and became a translator for fellow soldiers who needed to communicate with the Iraqi people they had been sent there to protect. Army officials always praised his leadership and strength.

Alex took pride in the Army and his responsibilities as a soldier. He once told his cousin, ''Honestly, I signed the contract, and it doesn't matter what my opinion is. I just think about the guy to my left and the guy to my right making it home. That's all I care about.'' He recognized the importance of his duties, writing, ''I believe that in the United States Army, I may reach my goals which are—making positive differences, bringing peace to the innocent, and making justice my duty as a U.S. soldier.''

Without a doubt, Alex achieved all of these goals.

Without a doubt, Alex made his family, his army, and his hometown community of Corona, Queens very proud.

And, without a doubt, Alex's services to our country was honorable and distinguished.

Sadly, however, on May 12, 2007, Alex Jimenez, along with six of his fellow soldiers, was patrolling a deserted highway south of Baghdad, looking for insurgents planting roadside bombs, when he and the group came under fire. Staff Sergeant Alex Jimenez, who was on his second tour in Iraq, Specialist Byron Fouty, and Private First Class Joseph J. Anzack Jr. were taken prisoner.

The four soldiers who died in the attack were Sergeant Anthony J. Schober, Private First Class Daniel W. Courneya, Private Christopher E. Murphy, and Sergeant First Class James D. Connell, all of Delta Company, 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division. Private First Class Joseph J. Anzack Jr.'s body was recovered on May 23, 2007.

The Queens community mourned for the loss of Alex's fellow soldiers and, together, we prayed for the safe return of Alex and Byron. Despite our wishing and hoping for the best, the bodies of Staff Sergeant Alex Jimenez and Specialist Byron W. Fouty were found on July 8, 2008.

So many worked tirelessly to bring Alex home, and the Queens community and Alex's family are so appreciative and grateful for their efforts. Because now, we have the opportunity to say goodbye to Alex one more time and to lay his body to rest.

As a parent, I know that this loss will stay with Sergeant Jimenez's family forever. But, I hope that in some small way, Alex Jimenez's parents have some relief now that they finally have the opportunity to lay their son to rest. Those closest to him will always remember his love for music and his family, and his loyalty as a soldier and friend. I extend my deepest and most sincere sympathies to the family of Staff Sergeant Alex Jimenez, and thank them for their sacrifice for our country.

I would like to close my remarks by reading a few pieces of the U.S. Army Soldier's Creed, which exemplifies the type of person Staff Sergeant Jimenez was; a man who loved his family and his country.

I am a Warrior, and a member of a team.
I serve the people of the United States, and live the Army Values.
I will always place the mission first.
I will never accept defeat.
I will never quit.
I will never leave a fallen comrade.
I am a guardian of freedom and the American way of life.
I am an American Soldier.

HONORING WILL G. BASS, JR.

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2008

Ms. LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the wonderful life of Mr. Will G. Bass, Jr. of Oakland, CA. We lost this exceptional community leader and dedicated leader and dedicated man of God on July 19, 2008.

Will G. Bass, Jr. was born on May 25, 1939 in Gilbert, LA. His parents were the late Will and Ivory Cameron Bass, and he was baptized under the leadership of Reverend R.N. Teats in the Cuba Baptist Church at a very early age. He remained an active member of this congregation until moving to California as an adult.

Education and personal growth were important values to Mr. Bass, which he fostered throughout his life and promoted among the many young people that looked up to him. As a young man in Louisiana, Will attended and graduated from Franklin Parish Training School. He later graduated with a degree in Business from Grambling University before moving to California where he met and married Ms. Betty J. Dobson on August 6, 1960. Theirs was a loving union which spanned almost five decades and produced two children, DiLeen and Nelda. A family man, Will honored and cherished these three women, and it was very clear to his friends and community that his favorite pastime was spending time with his family, which continued to grow in size and compassion throughout the years.

A dedicated advocate for the prosperous development of his adopted community in California, Will was widely known as an astute businessman. He was the Founder and President of the Integrated Technology Group (ITG), which provides services as an information technology and business assistance firm, as well as a land consultant. As a result of Will's ingenuity, creativity, and personal drive, ITG was involved in some of the major and historic development projects in the Greater Bay Area. This included the 1 billion dollar Hunters Point Shipyard Development Project and the 1.3 billion dollar Oakland Airport Expansion Project.

Will Bass was a man of many talents and accomplishments, reflective of the great diversity and innovation present in the East Bay, where the 9th Congressional District lies. Among one of Will's many great personal attributes was his astute ability to think globally, while acting locally. He was able to foresee major international trends in a way that pushed opportunities for Oakland to the forefront and developed new frontiers for my constituency. An example of this was his pioneering accomplishment as the first African American businessman in the Bay Area to be substantially involved in trade with Russia, China, and South Africa. When my esteemed colleague in the Senate, the Honorable DIANNE FEINSTEIN, was Mayor of San Francisco, Mr. Bass accompanied her to Abidjan, Cote d' Ivoire, west Africa to establish the San Francisco-Abidjan Sister City Committee. This was the first time an African city had been engaged in a sister city endeavor with San Francisco.

Will Bass was a Founding Member and Past President of the 100 Black Men of the Bay Area, Inc. He served on the Board of Trustees of Allen Temple Baptist Church, and was a Founding Member, Treasurer and Board Member of the San Francisco African American Chamber of Commerce. Will was also a Founding Member of the Oakland African American Chamber of Commerce, and he served on the boards of the American Institute of Ethics, the Westside Health Center, and a host of other organizations.

The contributions Will made to his community throughout his life are endless. He was a true inspiration, and an exceptional role model, especially for young men and women of color striving to build up their communities. Thanks to his inspiration, they now contribute to their neighborhoods and work to improve their opportunities so that they may pursue productive and full lives. His legacy will surely live on through the lasting impact he made on so many lives.

Today, California's 9th Congressional District salutes and honors Mr. Will G. Bass, Jr. We extend our deepest condolences to his family and loved ones, especially his wife, Mrs. Betty Bass, his daughters, DiLeen Dean and Nelda Jacobs, his sisters, Bernice Bass and Estelle Bass Harnage, his brother, Lannie Bass, his aunts, Pearl Shaw, Neicie Scott, and Roberta Cameron. He is also survived by his grandchildren Quianna, Annaque, Kameron, Niah and Savana Dean, and Trenton Jacobs, and his nieces and nephews, Ivory Bass, Yyanisha Gregory, Jamie Harnage, Marcus Bass, Chonsae Bass, and Jason Harnage. May his soul rest in peace.

COMMEMORATING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF SAINT MARY OF SORROWS CHURCH

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2008

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 150th anniversary of Saint Mary of Sorrows Church, in Fairfax, VA.

Saint Mary of Sorrows Church was the first Catholic Church in Fairfax County. The original church was erected by Irish immigrants in 1858 and is still in use today.

Throughout its history, St Mary's has been a sanctuary not only for its parishioners but for any person in need of help. During the Civil War, the church and its grounds were used as a field hospital for soldiers wounded from the Second Battle of Manassas and the engagement near Chantilly. Clara Barton, who later founded the Red Cross, was among those who provided medical care. The church also sacrificed some of the wooden pews for firewood while treating those wounded from battle.

Because of St. Mary's distinguished history and devotion to helping those in need, it is registered as a Virginia Historic Landmark and has been added to the National Register of Historic Places. In 1961, the American Red Cross, in conjunction with the Virginia State Historical Commission, placed a plaque on the church memorializing Clara Barton's work at St. Mary's.

During the past 150 years, Saint Mary of Sorrows Church has grown to over 3,000 families and added a second, larger church building. St. Mary's continues to serve its fellow citizens through many social ministry programs including support for members of the armed forces, the homeless, the disabled and the impoverished.

Madam Speaker, in closing, I would like to congratulate Saint Mary of Sorrows Church on its 150th anniversary. It has been a role model for community service throughout its history. I call upon my colleagues to join me in applauding St. Mary's for its past accomplishments and in wishing them the best of luck in the many years to come.

A TRIBUTE TO KEN THOMPSON RECIPIENT OF THE ST. MADELEINE SOPHIE AWARD

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2008

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Ken Thompson, a recipient of the prestigious St. Madeleine Sophie Award from Sacred Heart Schools. Established in the year 2000, the St. Madeleine Sophie Award honors individuals in the Sacred Heart community who have made a sustained and significant contribution to the Schools and embody the Goals and Criteria of a Sacred Heart education. The individuals honored are selected by a committee comprised of the senior administrative team in conjunction with the Chair of the Board of Trustees and are honored at a reception and at the Mass of the Holy Spirit, the first all-school liturgy of the school year. The recipients will be VIP guests at various SHS events throughout the year and featured in their alumni magazine, The Heart of the Matter, for their commitment to the mission of Sacred Heart education.

Ken Thompson was chosen along with three other distinguished recipients to be recognized with the Award for his dedication to the Goals and Criteria of Sacred Heart Schools. Mr. Thompson arrived at Sacred Heart Schools in January 1989 as a long-term substitute physical education instructor at St. Joseph's. An Honors graduate in mathematics from UC Berkeley, as well as a former Cal basketball star, he was hired the following year to serve as the Sacred Heart Prep Athletic Director and to coach basketball and teach math. Three years later, he moved full-time into the academic world as SHP Math Chair, where he markedly strengthened the department and demonstrated the leadership that would lead him to be named Dean of Faculty in 2002. Two years later, he became Academic Dean, a position he has filled with extraordinary intelligence, conscientiousness, and diplomacy. The classic Renaissance Man, Ken is also an actor and a singer. He currently directs and writes musical arrangements for two a cappella groups on campus, one for faculty men and one for both faculty and students. Since the winter of 2005, he has waged a valiant war against leukemia, providing a model of courage and fortitude to the entire Sacred Heart community.

Madam Speaker, I ask the entire House of Representatives to join me in honoring Mr. Ken Thompson as he is recognized by the St. Madeleine Sophie Award. Through his many

contributions to his family and friends and especially the Sacred Heart community, he has more than earned the St. Madeleine Sophie Award and through his special leadership and commitment to excellence, he has built a lasting legacy at Sacred Heart Schools and in the life of every student who comes through its distinguished halls. Our community and our country have been strengthened by Ken Thompson and it is a privilege to honor him and his work.

HONORING BERNARD JARVIS ROBINSON

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2008

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the achievements of Bernard ''Jake'' Robinson and to congratulate him upon being honored with the ''Lifetime Achievement Award'' by the Madera Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Robinson will be honored at a reception on Thursday August 21, 2008 at the Fourth Annual Lifetime Achievement Awards and Board of Directors Installation Dinner.

Mr. Jake Robinson was born on August 19, 1933 in Arkansas. Mr. Robinson was born during a time of great societal barriers, and continually worked to overcome those barriers. As a child he loved to play basketball, and even fabricated a make-shift hoop. As a freshman in high school he wanted to play, but was told that he was not good enough. He continued to practice with his hoop and as a sophomore he made the basketball team at Scipio A. Jones High School. The team was unbeatable and Mr. Robinson was awarded All-State, All-Regional and All-American honors. He was the first African American in Arkansas to make the All-Star basketball team. After high school he continued to play basketball in college at Arkansas AM and N College.

After serving in the U.S. Army, Mr. Robinson went to work for Forehand Motors washing cars. He quickly moved up the ladder and became a parts manager. Mr. Robinson was the only African American in management in the Northern Division of General Motors. During his career he received numerous accolades and awards for his commitment to excellence from General Motors. He retired after 39 years. His commitment to his career was equal to his commitment to his community.

Mr. Robinson served 17 years on the Board of Trustees of Madera Unified School District. The B.J. Robinson Gymnasium at Thomas Jefferson Middle School was erected as a tribute to his dedicated service. He was also a member of the Kiwanis Club, worked on the Citizens Committee for Measure E, is a former member of the Madera Linkage Foundation, involved with the NAACP and an advocate for youth athletics. He worked tirelessly to see the completion of Martin Luther King, Jr. Middle School and successfully lobbied to have the canal by the school covered for the safety of the students and neighborhood.

Due to his endless efforts, Madera High School honored Mr. Robinson as the Grand Marshall for the 1999 Homecoming Parade and Football game. Martin Luther King, Jr Middle School named him as Humanitarian of the Year in 1995. He was recognized by Kiwanis International for Distinguished Service for 1999–2000. Mr. and Mrs. Robinson were named as the Couple of the Year in 1988 during Black History Month and received the NAACP's Curtis Collier Award.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Bernard ''Jake'' Robinson upon being awarded with the ''Lifetime Achievement Award''. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Mr. Robinson many years of continued success.

HONORING THE LIFE OF BOB WAYNE THORTON

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2008

Mr. HALL of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of a great community activist, excellent farmer and friend, Mr. Bob Wayne Thorton of Van Alstyne, Texas.

Bob Thorton was a fourth-generation farmer, working land in Grayson and Collin counties for more than 65 years. Though he could do just about anything from carpentry to plumbing, he loved farming the most. The Thortons were leaders in the farming industry, as they were the first to bring in equipment, the first to mechanize their operations and usually the first to help another farmer get past a rough spot with the loan of money and equipment. As a result of his many contributions, Bob was named Collin County's Conservationist Farmer of the Year in 1986.

Bob was a community activist most of his life, but unless one had firsthand knowledge of his activities, his achievements would have gone unknown because he was such a humble individual. He was one of the original members of the American Agriculture Movement, a grassroots organization to help farmers become involved with government, politics and the public policy that affects their livelihoods, and served as National Vice President and 3 years as National President. He spent many years lobbying at the state and national levels, during which time he participated in the 1979 ''tractor-cade'' that rolled into Washington, DC, more than 6,000 tractors strong. He was a founding member and president of South Grayson Water Supply, a charter member of the Hurricane Creek Country Club, and served on the Van Alstyne Library Board. Through his political activist endeavors, Bob became friends with several elected representatives, such as former U.S. Sen. John Tower, former Speaker of the House Sam Rayburn, and Secretary of Agriculture John Block. Because of Willie Nelson's support of family farmers, Bob and Nelson also became good friends.

Bob is survived by daughters Sheryl Priest of North Little Rock, Arkansas, Brenda Baggett of Friendswood and Linda Wood of Van Alstyne, five grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, and sister JoAnn Cavender of Van Alstyne. He was one who believed in family and held his family heritage as a lifetime priority.

Madam Speaker, we are privileged to have known such an honest man and humble public servant. Please join me today as we honor his memory and celebrate the life of Mr. Bob Wayne Thorton.

HONORING PRAIRIE CREEK GREENWAY

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize the Prairie Creek Greenway in Platte County, MO. On September 8, 2008, the National Recreation Trail (NRT) Dedication and Tour of Missouri Watch Event is publicly announcing Prairie Creek Greenway as the only trail in Missouri to receive NRT designation this year. This distinguished award is one of the highest honors a local government can receive for a trail project.

I would also like to recognize and thank the Platte County Commissioners: Betty Knight, Jim Plunkett, and Tom Pryor. Due to their constant work and dedication, they truly made the Prairie Creek Greenway a success and an asset to the community. The creation of this trail in Platte County will help preserve the natural beauty of Missouri.

This honor for the Prairie Creek Greenway would not have been possible without the help of private partnerships between the county, developers, and homes association connected to the Greenway. I applaud the effort and devotion that has been put into this trail in Platte County, MO and commend the recognition of the Greenway.

CONGRATULATING THE WAR IN THE PACIFIC NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK ON ITS 30TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2008

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the War in the Pacific National Historical Park on Guam on the occasion of its 30th anniversary. In August 1978, the War in the Pacific National Historical Park was established by Public Law 95–348 to commemorate the bravery and sacrifices of those involved in the Pacific Theater of World War II and to preserve the historic sites on Guam. As we join together for this celebration, let us also remember the Park's mission to preserve a unique story in American history that strives to honor not only the courage of our liberators, but the patriotism of the liberated.

For the past 30 years, the War in the Pacific National Historical Park has preserved seven units on Guam. These units include battlefields, trenches, gun emplacements, and historic structures throughout the island. Because of the diligent efforts made by the National Park Service to preserve the story of the occupation and liberation of Guam from December 8, 1941 to July 21, 1944, visitors are able to learn about the battle for Guam by visiting sites at the Asan Bay Overlook, Agat Beach Unit and Ga'an Point, Asan Beach Unit, Fonte Plateau Unit, Mt. Alifan Unit, Mt. Chachao/Mt. Tenjo Unit, and Piti Guns Unit.

During this 30th anniversary, we are especially honored to commend the National Park Service for the 2008 restoration project of the

Memorial Wall at the Asan Bay Overlook. Inscribed on the Memorial Wall are the names of the thousands of individuals, liberators who died in the battle for Guam, and the liberated who died or suffered injury, forced labor, forced march and internment during the occupation of Guam. Through this restoration project, the National Park Service has ensured that our island will have this lasting monument to honor and remember Guam's greatest generation.

We commend the National Park Service on the reopening of the T. Stell Newman Visitors Center. In 2002, the Visitors Center, formerly located in Piti, was destroyed by Supertyphoon Pongsona, but has since been restored for the public at its new location in Sumay. This restoration was made possible through a successful partnership between the National Park Service and the U.S. Navy.

The War in the Pacific National Historical Park is an extraordinary way for the people of Guam and our fellow Americans to recognize the history of Guam and the battles in the Pacific Theater. On behalf of the people of Guam, I congratulate the War in the Pacific National Historical Park for a successful 30 years of service to our island and our Nation and I wish them continued success in the decades to come.

HONORING BENNY FRIEDMAN OF SANTA ROSA, CALIFORNIA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2008

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today with my colleague Rep. LYNN WOOLSEY to honor a local hero from Santa Rosa, CA. Benny Friedman, a beloved philanthropist and the founder of Friedman's Home Improvement, passed away on July 9, 2008, at the age of 90, after a life that touched and inspired many.

''If we don't have it, you don't need it,'' the famous Friedman's slogan, is typical of Benny's way of doing business—with both humor and the needs of his customers in mind. And profits from the business were used to enhance the community through promotion and support of local organizations.

Born in 1918 to a Russian Jewish family that had fled the pogroms, Benny worked hard throughout his youth. After his father's death, he left high school to support the family, learning about the hardware business by working in Mike Cohen's store. In 1940, he married Rosemary Zittin, a Russian immigrant, and shortly thereafter enlisted with his brother Joe to fight in World War II.

After the war, the brothers purchased a junkyard in Petaluma and were later joined by their younger brother Harry. Over the decades, the business grew, thanks to the brothers' philosophy of working hard and treating everyone, customers and employees, with fairness and respect. During this time, their children and grandchildren joined the business, and today there are stores in Santa Rosa, Sonoma, and Ukiah.

Benny retired 20 years ago but continued to delight family, friends, and community with his warmth, humor, and good spirits. His wife Rosemary died in 2001, and in 2006, he married Irene, whom he had met at the senior lodge where they both lived.

In Santa Rosa, Benny will be remembered as the co-founder of the Wells Fargo Center for the Arts, now one of Sonoma's County major venues. With his wife Rosemary and brother Joe, he built the Friedman Center, a community hall at Congregation Beth Ami. He donated generously to other local causes, giving back to the community which had enabled an impoverished immigrant to achieve success for himself and his family.

Benny is survived by his wife Irene, his brother Harry, his children Bill Friedman and Debbie Chapman, four grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, Benny Friedman's life is an example for all of us that hard work, honesty, and caring for others lead to success. But Benny went far beyond that in giving back to this community and to all who knew him. I will miss Benny, but I am thankful to have had the opportunity to be one who knew him.

HONORING JUDGE DERRELL HALL

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2008

Mr. HALL of Texas. Madam Speaker, I am privileged today to express my deep admiration for former Fannin County Judge Derrell Hall, who provided outstanding leadership for his community for over 23 years as Judge, Commissioner and Probation Officer.

Judge Hall's experience and excellence as County Commissioner and Chief of Juvenile Probation led to his appointment as Fannin County Judge in 1997 after a previous Judge's mid-term resignation. Derrell's character and strong sense of responsibility were evident to his community, and he was continually reelected to lead his county and community.

Born in Bonham, Texas, on March 4, 1953, Derrell Hall is a lifelong resident of Fannin County and currently lives as the fourth generation on his family farm that his great-grandfather settled in 1908 in the tiny Mulberry community on the Red River. He and his wife, Judy Patterson Hall, are members of Mulberry Methodist Church, and are parents to five daughters and two sons. Their growing family includes four grandsons and three granddaughters.

Derrell worked for a number of years as a farmer and rancher in his home community. After receiving a Bachelor of Science degree in Political Science from East Texas State University in 1983, Derrell served as County Commissioner of Precinct One in Fannin County and became certified by the state of Texas as a Juvenile Probation Officer. From 1993 through 1996, he served as Chief of Juvenile Probation until his appointment as Fannin County Judge.

Throughout his public life, Derrell always sought to foster a better community for all of the families in Fannin County. He served as Chairman of the Fannin County Juvenile Board and a member of Fannin County's Fair Board, Appraisal District, 4-H and Youth Advisory Board, and Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Fannin County—a program that recruits, screens, trains and supervises volunteers to advocate for abused and neglected children involved in the court system. In addition, he served on the Northeast Texas Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse, as President of both the Texoma Council of Governments and the Rural Rail Transportation District, and served 15 years on the administrative board for Cooke-Fannin-Grayson Juvenile Detention Facility and Boot Camp.

Derrell Hall is a man who understands that for a small community to thrive, it needs strong leaders who are willing to serve in many diverse capacities. As Derrell pursues new career interests, I join his many friends and supporters who look forward to seeing the new achievements Derrell is sure to accomplish. Madam Speaker, as we adjourn today, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute and expressing our gratitude to this outstanding public servant in Fannin County—Derrell Hall.

HONORING BENNY FRIEDMAN OF SANTA ROSA, CALIFORNIA

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2008

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today with my colleague Congressman MIKE THOMPSON to honor a local hero from Santa Rosa, CA. Benny Friedman, a beloved philanthropist and the founder of Friedman's Home Improvement, passed away on July 9, 2008, at the age of 90, after a life that touched and inspired many.

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Madam Speaker, Benny Friedman's life is an example for all of us that hard work, honesty, and caring for others leads to success. But Benny went far beyond that in giving back to this community and to all who knew him. I will miss Benny, but I am thankful to have had the opportunity to be one who knew him.

JOE POWELL: LABOR LEADER OF THE YEAR

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2008

Mr. FILNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a longtime leader in the labor movement, Joe Powell. Joe is the business manager/financial secretary of the Sheet Metal Workers' Local 206 representing approximately 1,300 members. As business manager, Joe serves as the chairman of the committee which negotiates wages, hours, and conditions of employment.

As financial secretary, Joe assumes full responsibility and liability to the local union and the Sheet Metal Workers' International Association for all monies received and recorded. Additionally, Joe serves in numerous capacities with other Local 206 affiliates such as the trustee for the Sheet Metal Workers' Trust Fund, chairman of the San Diego Joint Apprenticeship Training Committee, JATC, executive board member for the AFL–CIO Labor Council, co-chairman for the Local 206 401(a) plan and executive board member of the San Diego Building and Construction Trades Council.

Joe showed his desire to participate in the advancement of his union's labor movement in 1994 when he was elected conductor for Sheet Metal Workers' Local 206. He served in this position until 1997 when he ran for and was elected as a trustee of the Sheet Metal Workers' Local 206. Joe served as a trustee until 2000 and in July 2000, he was elected as business representative of his local. From 2000 to 2004, Joe was responsible for the dispatching and drug testing of members and handling any grievances that may arise. From 2004 to the present, Joe Powell has served as business manager and financial secretary-treasurer of Local 206.

Advancement in education has also been a priority to Joe as he has completed numerous courses and training that has greatly aided his career development. In addition to completing his 4-year apprenticeship training and becoming a certified instructor in CPR and first-aid training, he attended the National Labor College at the George Meaney Center where he received the bachelor's degree in labor studies.

Joe has been a resident of Alpine, California, his entire life along with his wife and daughter. His wife and family have been very supportive of his career choices.

I am very proud to join with the San Diego labor community in honoring Joe Powell as the 2008 Labor Leader of the Year.

TRIBUTE TO BRIDGET McCUE OF CAPE CORAL, FL

HON. CONNIE MACK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2008

Mr. MACK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor an outstanding young hero from my district, Bridget McCue of Cape Coral, Florida, for her extraordinary bravery during a fire.

On July 31, 2008, a small fire broke out in the computer room at the McCue home. Thanks to 13-year-old Bridget's quick thinking, she was able to get her younger brother and sister out of the house and to safety. She then called 911 from a neighbor's house and called her parents, who were returning home from an errand.

Bridget's parents, Randy and Barbara, credit Bridget's training through a Red Cross babysitting class for her quick thinking and bravery. She is a role model for other teenagers across southwest Florida and is very deserving of the Lee County Red Cross' Certificate of Recognition for Extraordinary Personal Action. The people of southwest Florida and I are very proud of Bridget and her accomplishments.

Madam Speaker, it is an honor and a privilege to represent such a courageous young lady as Bridget McCue in Congress. I wish Bridget and her family all the best and congratulate her on a job well done.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF POSTAL SUPERVISORS

HON. JOHN A. YARMUTH

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2008

Mr. YARMUTH. Madam Speaker, it is with great honor that I rise today to recognize the National Association of Postal Supervisors on their 100th anniversary. This organization, which started in my hometown a hundred years ago, has become an international leader in the fight for workers' rights.

In 1908, 50 individuals gathered at the Seelbach Hotel in Louisville, Kentucky, to fight for the working conditions of their fellow employees. These individuals were tired of endless hours without break, deplorable working conditions, low and inequitable pay, and stringent penalties for speaking out. This meeting marked the beginning of a powerful voice in Washington that now represents 34,000 active and retired employees. NAPS has fought hard to provide hard-working people with a decent salary, proper benefits, and the opportunity to work with dignity. And today, on their 100th anniversary, it is safe to say they succeeded.

Generations of postal supervisors have come and gone since that day in 1908, and each has built upon the accomplishments of their predecessors. NAPS continues to fight for reform, taking a stand for full pension and health care benefits, working to bring postal leadership into line with the 21st century, and increasing the revenue for the United States Postal Service. The organization is also leading the call for a vote by mail system so every individual has the opportunity to participate in our democracy regardless of the barriers they face on election day.

With NAPS' long history of success, I feel confident the organization will continue to deliver victories for the next generation of postal supervisors. As the congressional Representative for Branch 1, the first of what will grow into scores NAPS' branches in all 50 States, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and Guam, I offer my sincere thanks for years of hard work and wish you a happy centennial celebration.

HONORING THE LIFE OF GLEN A. SMITH, SR.

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2008

Mr. HALL of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory and accomplishments of a man who dedicated his life to service and seizing the day, Glen A. Smith of Rockwall.

Smith was born on May 24, 1939, in Normal, Illinois to Myers and Marybelle (Miller) Smith. He married Peggy (Pannell) Smith, and they were fortunate to have five wonderful children, Kimberli Geissler Smith of Fort Worth, Glen Allen Smith, Jr. of Dallas and Katy Chesshir of Sachse, and stepchildren Christina Hoff of Forney and Joel Rhorer of Prairie Home, Missouri.

Smith was the owner of Curry Auto Leasing in Dallas for many years until his retirement in September of 2005. In March 2007, he opened Smitty's Roadhouse Bar & Grill in Rockwall, which he owned and operated until his death. Glen enjoyed living life to the fullest, and was a race car driver all of his life, racing in the 24 hours of LeMans in France and receiving the 1986 Formula Atlantic Indy Car Rookie of the Year Award.

Glen was also involved with his community and in civic affairs. He was a member of the Rockwall Breakfast Rotary Club and was also a City of Rockwall Planning & Zoning Commissioner. He also believed in sharing his faith and was a member of the Preston Hollow Presbyterian Church in Dallas.

Madam Speaker, we are privileged to have known such a great public servant and genuine individual. Please join me today as we honor the memory and celebrate the life of Glen A. Smith, Sr.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AND VETERANS AFFAIRS APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. CLIFF STEARNS

OF FLORIDA

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. 6599) making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2009, and for other purposes:

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Chairman, my amendment would make it easier for veterans to find

employment in their communities. While it would be subject to a point of order, I believe it has a great deal of merit. My amendment is simple and inexpensive. It directs the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to use funds from the VA's General Operating Expenses Fund to establish a portal on the VA Web site containing a comprehensive list of employment opportunities throughout the United States so that veterans are better able to secure employment after they return home from combat.

Furthermore, these results could then be updated annually to reflect the current and changing needs in the local job market. With the posting of this information on the VA Web site, veterans could simply plug in their ZIP code and see a list of the occupations that are most in demand within their commuting area, allowing them to use their Federal job training more effectively.

I have received a commitment from Chairman EDWARDS and Ranking Member WAMP to send a letter to the VA Secretary asking him to establish a portal on the existing VA Web site that would contain comprehensive, up to date employment opportunities in various job markets across the country. In addition, I would like to work with the chairman and ranking member to get comparable language in the conference report to ensure this happens.

I would like to thank Chairman EDWARDS and Ranking Member WAMP for their commitment to veterans and for their offers of support for ensuring that the idea of my amendment becomes a reality.

HONORING HM2 (FMF) ANTHONY MARK FEJERAN CARBULLIDO, U.S. NAVY

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2008

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Hospital Corpsman Petty Officer 2nd Class Anthony M. Carbullido, United States Navy. He was assigned to the Naval Hospital Corps School in Great Lakes, Illinois, where he volunteered for his second assignment as a combat medic in July 2007, stationed in Herat, Afghanistan. HM2, FMF, Carbullido died on August 8, in Sangatesh, Afghanistan, from injuries sustained when his convoy vehicle hit an improvised explosive device.

Anthony Carbullido was born on August 25, 1982, and grew up in Agat, Guam. He attended Southern High School and graduated with the class of 2000. After graduation, Tony answered the call to duty and enlisted in the United States Navy on September 28. He reported to Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, Illinois, on November 1, 2000, and afterwards he reported to the Naval Hospital Corps School where he completed training on June 8, 2001. HM2 Carbullido's first duty station was at the Naval Medical Center, San Diego, California. He received additional training at the Fleet Medical Service School at Camp Pendleton, California, and was later assigned to the 1st Marine Logistic Group, Marine Forces Pacific where he deployed with the Marines to Iraq on a 7-month tour. Upon earning his instructor qualification, he was assigned to Naval Hospital Corps School as an instructor at Great Lakes. It was during this tour at Great Lakes that HM2 Carbullido volunteered for a second deployment and was assigned to augment the United States Army at the Afghan Regional Security Integration Command West in Herat, Afghanistan. He provided training and medical assistance to United States and Afghan forces and was recognized by his comrades as a professional and compassionate corpsman. He received many awards and commendations, most notably the Bronze Star for Valor and the Purple Heart.

On behalf of the people of Guam, I offer my condolences to his wife Summer Chaney Carbullido, his daughter Lexie, his parents Anthony Jesus and Aurora Fejeran Carbullido, his siblings Austin Matthew and Ashley Maria, his grandmother Maria Sablan Fejeran, and to his extended family and friends. He will be missed dearly by his family, friends, and our island community. HM2 Anthony M. Carbullido died in the service of our Nation and we honor his patriotism and his dedication. He is a hero who made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom. We will always remember him and we will always be grateful for his service in the United States Navy.

God bless the Carbullido family, God bless our men and women in the Armed Forces, God bless Guam, and God bless our Nation, the United States of America.

CONGRATULATING THE ST. VINCENT DE PAUL KITCHEN FOR 25 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THOSE IN NEED

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2008

Mr. KANJORSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to the St. Vincent de Paul Kitchen in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, which is observing its 25th year of continuous service to those in great need.

In 1983, Catholic Social Services in Wilkes-Barre recognized that a growing number of people in the community were suffering and in need of material assistance. Monsignor Donald McAndrews, the executive director of CSS, laid the groundwork for the kitchen with the belief that if people in need could be fed, they could attend to other needs more easily.

Monsignor believed that the kitchen project would be needed for 2 to 3 years and could then be dissolved once the regional economy improved.

He purchased a vacant automotive garage that was being targeted for sheriff sale due to tax delinquency. Local labor unions donated manpower to accomplish minimal renovations. Used kitchen equipment was purchased and CSS obtained a restaurant license.

Sister Lucille Brislin, the kitchen's first director, recruited volunteers and the first meal served 60 people. The kitchen continued to serve one meal a day 7 days a week. Local supermarkets helped by donating leftover bread and pastries. The kitchen depended on private donations and the community responded to that call for help.

Five years after it opened, the kitchen added a free clinic to assist in caring for the homeless. A used clothing room and a food bank were added later to expand services.

However, the need continued to grow. More than 300 meals a day were being served. In 2003, major renovations were undertaken to accommodate the growing demand. Those renovations were completed in 2005.

In 2007, an evening meal was added 3 nights per week which is served to about 125 people.

Donations are still encouraged and CSS conducts two organized fundraisers each year to help continue the services available at the kitchen. A core group of 60 volunteers come at least once each week and groups of volunteers come once or twice a year.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating those who make possible the humanitarian services that emanate from the St. Vincent de Paul Kitchen in Wilkes-Barre. Without fanfare, demand for recognition, or monetary compensation, the volunteers who dispense nutritional, medical, and clothing services are helping those in the greatest need sustain not only their very lives but also their hope that new opportunities will emerge to end their dependence on others and restore their ability to become self-sufficient.

HONORING THE LIFE OF U.S. ARMY SPECIALIST JONATHAN MENKE

HON. BARON P. HILL

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2008

Mr. HILL. Madam Speaker, on August 4, 2008, the great Hoosier state lost one of its sons. Army SPC. Jonathan Menke was killed in Baghdad, Iraq, when his vehicle was struck by an improvised explosive device. Specialist Menke was born in Columbus, Indiana, and raised in Madison, Indiana.

An honor roll student, Jon graduated from Madison Consolidated High School in 2005, where he played football and ran track. During his senior year, he surprised friends and family by landing the role of Gaston in "Beauty and the Beast."

Jon joined the Indiana National Guard in March 2004. In 2008, while living and attending college in Indianapolis, Menke was activated by the Indiana National Guard and sent to support Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Specialist. Menke served with the 38th Military Police Company, stationed in Rustamiyah, Iraq. During his tour, Specialist. Menke frequently asked his father to send him things for the Iraqi children—namely shoes, toys, and candy. In Jon's mind, the needs ofthe Iraqi children were more important than his own comforts.

SPC Jonathan Menke is a hero and a true example of Hoosier values. His ultimate sacrifice deserves our most sincere thanks. I, along with the towns of Madison and Columbus, mourn the death of SPC Jonathan Menke. His friends and loved ones are in my prayers.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF BYRON BERNARD, B.B., BOON

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2008

Mr. HALL of Texas. Madam Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to the memory of Byron Bernard, B.B., Boon, of Linden, Texas. Mr. Boon was born January 10, 1919, in Carterville, Texas, to Andrew Camp Boon and Eudora Kerr Boon.

B.B. attended East Texas Teachers College with my wife Mary Ellen. He began his career teaching school at Warren Springs. He later became principal at Almira Schools, and from 1940 to 1941 supervised the National Youth Administration in Linden.

He joined the Army on Christmas Day in 1941 and entered the Army Air Corps on the 12th of January in 1942. B.B. ferried all types of airplanes throughout the United States and Canada. He flew BT–13s, AT–6s, B–17s, B–24s, B–25s, P–51s and was involved in the moving of troops and cargo. One of his flying assignments was to keep the route from Alaska to the Hudson Bay open so the Germans could not get a foothold in Newfoundland.

Between 1947 and 1949, he was an instructor in the Pilot's Aircraft Instrument Training School at Barksdale AFB in Shreveport, Louisiana. On one particular flight to Richmond, Virginia, his plane caught on fire. True to his sense of humor, he announced "Byron Bernard Boon says bail out boys, she's burning." All the crew bailed out, and everyone survived.

On February 2, 1949, he was in a midair collision at Barksdale AFB, was critically injured and spent over a year of rehabilitation in Walter Reed Hospital. Captain Boon married Louise Bozeman in the chapel at Walter Reed Hospital on September 24, 1949. Shortly after their marriage he was forced to retire from the Air Force due to injuries sustained in the crash.

In October 1950, B.B. returned to Cass County and bought an insurance agency in Linden. He became active in the community, serving various community and church boards. He was a member of the Linden Masonic Lodge #192, a Shriner, a member of the Linden Lions Club, Linden Chamber of Commerce, former mayor of Linden and served on the Linden Municipal Hospital Board of Directors. He was also an avid pilot, owning and flying airplanes until he was 80.

He is survived by two daughters and one son-in-law, Sue and Larry Hill and Brenda Deming all of Linden; five grandchildren and spouses, Tanya and Kenneth Recer and Chris and Sonya Hill of Longview, Tammy and Andy Kozsuch of Tyler, Justin and Kim Deming of Pflugerville and Jonathan and Katherine Deming of Mesquite; seven great-grandchildren, Ryan Recer, Seth Kozsuch, Sarah Kozsuch, Kate Kozsuch, Kaden Kozsuch, Emma Hill and Payton Deming; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Madam Speaker, please join me in a final salute to Captain Byron Bernard Boone, a man who gave so much to his family, his community and his country.

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF SONOMA CITY HALL

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2008

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today with my colleague Congressman MIKE THOMPSON to honor the 100th anniversary of the Sonoma City Hall. This iconic building has long stood as a symbol of the unique community that is the city of Sonoma.

City Hall sits in the center of the 8-acre Sonoma Plaza, the largest town square in the State of California. Dedicated on September 7, 1908, the city hall was built using local basalt stone and originally designed with four identical facades, allowing merchants from any side of the square to boast that city hall faced their business.

Surrounding the city hall on Sonoma Plaza are many historical buildings, including the Mission San Francisco Solana, Captain Salvador Vallejo's Casa Grande, the Presidio of Sonoma, the Blue Wing Inn, the Sebastiani Theatre, and the Toscano Hotel. Not far from city hall, on the northeast corner of the plaza, John C. Fremont led the Bear Flag Revolt in 1846, which would lead to California becoming the 31st State 4 years later. The plaza has been a National Historic Landmark since 1960 and still serves as the town's focal point, hosting many community festivals and drawing tourists all year round.

In honor of this anniversary, City of Sonoma Historian George McKale has organized a commemoration committee to help celebrate this event with the community. Over the last year, members of the committee have arranged for a photo exhibition, as well as sponsoring a poster contest for local students, a lecture series, and a historic quarry hike, all to honor Sonoma's City Hall.

Madam Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we acknowledge the 100th anniversary of Sonoma City Hall. In years to come, this beautiful and historic structure will continue to be one of the most memorable images of the city of Sonoma to residents and visitors alike.

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF SONOMA CITY HALL

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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TO COMMEMORATE THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF OUR LADY OF SORROWS CHURCH IN GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN

HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2008

Mr. EHLERS. Madam Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to rise today in commemoration of the 100th anniversary of Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Grand Rapids, Michigan. On Saturday, September 13, 2008, a centennial dinner will celebrate this extraordinary milestone, and it is a privilege to recognize and honor Rev. Theodore J. Kozlowski and the congregation of this remarkable church for the model of Christian service and the beacon of hope they have offered to the Grand Rapids community over the past century.

From the first mass celebrated on September 20, 1908, by their young energetic priest, Father Salvatore Cianci, Our Lady of Sorrows was founded primarily to provide for the growing Italian community in Grand Rapids. Meeting in the basement chapel of St. Andrew's Cathedral, this fledgling church offered the opportunity for Italians to worship and continue their faithful prayer life in the language of their childhood. Through the devoted efforts of Fr. Cianci and the small but very dedicated congregation, a dream became reality on Easter Sunday 1921, when a new structure intended as a temporary church, and also a second building intended to house a future school, were blessed and dedicated. Even though the Great Depression prevented the parish from fulfilling its dream of a permanent house of worship for almost 40 years, Our Lady of Sorrows School did open its doors for the first time on September 25, 1922, with 56 students in attendance. Certainly this was an exceptional accomplishment for a church which originated from the hard work and perseverance of just a handful of Italian immigrant families.

A long, faith-filled journey has led the congregation of Our Lady of Sorrows to now carry out the same legacy of their Italian forefathers for the growing Hispanic population in our community. Today, as this parish reaches out to each member and to a larger, more diverse community with loving acts of kindness, they continue to enrich and inspire those who are touched by their works. Our Lady of Sorrows is well known and widely respected for bringing a greater understanding of all cultures within the Catholic Church to others throughout the greater Grand Rapids area.

This extraordinary anniversary reminds all of us that wonderful things do happen when we seek to serve and glorify God. Reflecting on the many struggles and joys Our Lady of Sorrows has faced during its first century of service to the Lord, it is the perfect time to reaffirm and strengthen our own faith, recognize the call to reach out to others, and share the power of God's love. I am proud to represent the many parishioners of various races and ethnic groups who call Our Lady of Sorrows their church home, and am grateful to this congregation for their illuminating example of God's kindness. I am honored to extend my best wishes for a memorable, grace-filled celebration of a century of caring concern and service to the Grand Rapids community.

HONORING THE PUBLIC SERVICE OF HAMMER RESIDENCES

HON. JIM RAMSTAD

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2008

Mr. RAMSTAD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize all the good people at Hammer Residences, who have come to Washington, DC, to take part in the American Network of Community Options and Resources (ANCOR) 2008 Governmental Activities Seminar and "DSPs to DC" events.

Hammer Residences is working in my district to provide direct support and services to individuals with disabilities of all ages. Hammer employs 300 direct support professionals who provide a range of supports services 7 days a week, 24 hours a day, to help further the public policy goal of enabling people with mental and physical disabilities to live and work in their community. This outstanding, highly trained, highly skilled and highly committed workforce supports over 400 people with disabilities in our community.

Hammer's services include residential and in-home services, case management and other support services for both children and adults with disabilities.

For most of this week, people from Hammer Residences and all the attendees at ANCOR's events are meeting with their congressional offices. They are discussing the deepening workforce crisis threatening the quality of support services to people with disabilities throughout the Nation.

Without an adequately paid, trained and dedicated workforce, Americans with disabilities and their families face a less secure future. Without the necessary workforce, providers cannot help our nation fulfill its commitment to people with disabilities embodied in the Americans with Disabilities Act and the U.S. Supreme Court's Olmstead decision.

I applaud the people at Hammer Residences for taking a lead on this workforce issue. This is problem-solving at its best, and I encourage all of my colleagues to examine their commitment to providing the best support possible to people with disabilities in their districts.

There is no better way to recognize this workforce's contribution to the Nation than to ensure that these dedicated direct support professionals are fairly compensated. I ask that my colleagues join me in cosponsoring the bipartisan Direct Support Professionals Fairness and Security Act (H.R. 1279) and urging hearings on this important issue in the coming weeks.

HONORING THE LIFE OF LEONARD BRENT "BUD" DOGGETT

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2008

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a true servant of the greater Washington, DC, region, Leonard Brent "Bud" Doggett.

Bud Doggett was a lifelong resident of the District of Columbia, a leading entrepreneur and philanthropist, and a tireless advocate for a thriving Capital region. Bud was a trusted advisor to both local and Federal elected officials in the District, northern Virginia, and Maryland. As a representative of northern Virginia, I have always believed that you cannot have a healthy region without a healthy Washington; Bud's lifetime of achievement did much to further this goal.

Bud was born on August 25, 1920, and attended Georgetown Prep. Upon graduation, he joined the Army, served in Europe as a World War II infantryman, and was awarded the Bronze Star for heroic actions.

After the war, he returned home and joined the parking business founded by his parents in 1926, working with local businesses and the downtown community to develop a comprehensive plan for parking in the city. During the following years, Bud served as founder and president of both the Washington Parking Association and the National Parking Association, which now boasts more than 1,200 corporate members.

Bud was also a past president and active member of the Greater Washington Board of Trade for more than 50 years, during which he helped develop large segments of the District and secured employment for many in the community's disadvantaged populations. His support was crucial to such Washington landmarks as the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts and the old Washington Convention Center, heralded as the country's fourth largest after it was completed in 1982.

One of Bud's greatest legacies continues today. In 1964, he founded Heroes, Inc., a group of local business leaders who without fanfare have provided millions of dollars to families of police officers and firefighters in the greater Washington area who died in the line of duty.

Heroes, Inc., currently is committed to providing full college scholarships, including tuition, room and board, books, supplies and many other incidental costs, to the 192 dependents of the 157 Heroes appearing on the organization's Honor Roll form.

I was saddened to learn that Bud Doggett passed away on August 13, 2008, at the age of 87. He will surely be missed, but his place in the region's history and his service to the greater DC area, including its police and firefighting heroes, will not soon be forgotten.

HONORING THE LIFE AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF R.E. "EARL" SLAUGHTER

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2008

Mr. HALL of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory and accomplishments of a man who dedicated his life to the health and well being of others, R.E. "Earl" Slaughter of Rockwall.

Earl was born December 6, 1925, in Edgewood to John Arthur, Sr., and Flora Anne (Cox) Slaughter. He was a 1943 graduate of Edgewood High School and a 1949 graduate of the University of Texas School of Pharmacy. He served his country honorably in the United States Army Air Corps during World War II.

Earl married Yvonne McMurray on September 14, 1947, in Denton. Their marriage produced five wonderful children, Cathy Slaughter who lives in Rockwall, Betsy Blundell of Rowlett, Richard Slaughter of Rockwall, Scott Slaughter of Austin, and Dean Slaughter who lives in The Colony.

For 5 decades Earl operated what was the only pharmacy in Rockwall—Rockwall Drug. He and his brother E.K. acquired the business about 3 years after it opened on the square in downtown Rockwall. Then, Rockwall was a small rural community and Earl was a lifeline for so many people. In the beginning he opened the pharmacy at 7 a.m. and stayed open until 10 p.m. Many nights he would return after hours to fill emergency prescriptions.

Rockwall Pharmacy and Earl Slaughter were at the center of most things that happened in Rockwall. With a storefront so close to the Rockwall County courthouse, its employees and elected officials would gather at the fountain before work, at lunch, and after work to discuss the day's events.

Earl was also deeply involved with his community and civic affairs. He was a member of the Texas Pharmacy Association for more than 50 years. He was the past president of the Rockwall Independent School District and the Chamber of Commerce. He was on the City Planning/Zoning Board, and received the Soroptimist Man of the Year Award in 2003. He was also active in the American Legion and Lions Club. Earl believed in sharing his faith and was a member of the First United Methodist Church in Rockwall.

Madam Speaker, one of Earl's former employees summed it up best when she said that Earl helped people every way he could.

I count it an honor to have been friends with this great public servant and his wonderful family. What our world needs today are a few more Earl Slaughters. Please join me today as we honor his memory and celebrate his life's accomplishments.

TRIBUTE TO THE FLORIDA ADDICTIONS INSTITUTE

HON. CONNIE MACK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2008

Mr. MACK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Florida Addictions Institute's second graduating class. These dedicated individuals will go on to become certified drug addiction counselors throughout southwest Florida and the rest of the State.

There's no question that being a drug and alcohol counselor is not an easy job and garners little public recognition. But it's a personally rewarding job, and one that can have a profound impact on shaping addicts' lives to make them productive, giving members of society.

Sadly, 1 in 10 persons is addicted to drugs and/or alcohol at some time in their lives—making substance abuse one of our Nation's top health problems. It is estimated that 5,000 new addictions professionals are needed each year to replace those leaving the field.

That's why the work of the Florida Addictions Institute is so vital. The institute trains the next wave of caring, certified substance abuse counselors to help people from all walks of life overcome substance abuse.

Madam Speaker, it is a true honor and a privilege to represent the staff and graduates of the Florida Addictions Institute in Congress, and I wish this year's graduating class all the best as they set out to make a difference in the lives of others. The people of southwest Florida join me in thanking them for their selfless and dedicated service.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF JAMES CHEN-YU CHIN

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2008

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize Mr. James Chen-Yu Chin, Director General of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Guam for his service and contributions to our island community. Mr. Chin has served as the Director General since 2003 and he has been a valuable member of our island community and an effective advocate for his constituents who reside on Guam.

Director General Chin has promoted cultural and economic exchanges between Taiwan and Guam, particularly through efforts to engage and inform both communities about the growth and opportunities available within each respective economic market.

During his tenure, Director General Chin hosted three successful visits for the President and Vice President of Taiwan, allowing the opportunity to showcase the many attributes of Guam's thriving business and tourism industries. His hospitality extended to other visiting groups over the span of 5 years, which included tourism promoters, performing groups, sports teams, and investors, all of which helped to build Guam's public visibility within the Taiwan community.

Director General Chin also assisted our community by expanding opportunities for cooperation. He assisted the Guam Police Department by sharing Taiwan's expertise and best practices in public security and forensic science. He also facilitated educational and academic exchanges between the University of Guam and the Micronesia Area Research Center with their academic counterparts from Taiwan's national universities. These opportunities included exchanges of experts in the fields of agriculture and marine science to the mutual benefit of both academic institutions.

Director General Chin's extensive background in foreign affairs contributed to enhancing the relationship between the people of Guam and Taiwan. His many contributions to our island community have been appreciated by the nonprofit organizations and the service organizations in which he has been an active participant. Whether it has been responding to regional disasters or assisting in local relief efforts, James and his wife, Grace, have been outstanding members of our island community and they have shown how much they love our island by their involvement.

Director General James Chen-Yu Chin has made a lasting impression on Guam and his leadership and community contributions have improved our island significantly. It is through his many accomplishments that we enjoy a warmer friendship with the people of Taiwan. May God bless James and Grace and their family as we bid them farewell with a heartfelt thank you and Si Yu'os Ma'ase.

RECOGNIZING A.P. MERRITT AS SBA'S 2007 SMALL BUSINESS PERSON OF THE YEAR

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2008

Mr. HALL of Texas. Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to rise today to honor A.P. Merritt of Merritt Tool Company in Kilgore, TX, as the U.S. Small Business Administration's (SBA) regional Small Business Person of the Year 2007 Award Recipient.

Each year, the U.S. Small Business Administration recognizes individuals on a State, district, and national level for their performance, commitment, and support of small businesses in the Nation. Merritt, the president of Merritt Tool, was presented the Small Business Person of the Year Award at a special awards ceremony in April of this year for his diversification efforts, success in earning government contracts, business growth and community service. Merritt Tool Company (MTC) is a modern machine shop manufacturing facility, specializing in complex milling, turning, grinding and assembly, serving customers in the aerospace, energy and commercial industries. The company was founded in 1928 and today employs about 100 workers in its machine shop and metal operation in Kilgore.

In conjunction with the honor of receiving this prestigious award, Gregg County Judge Bill Stoudt proclaimed that the 16th day of May be known as A.P. Merritt Day in Gregg County, Texas, for years to come.

Madam Speaker, I am extremely proud of A.P. Merritt's accomplishments, his consistency in business and his continued leadership in the Kilgore community. I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring a man who represents the best in entrepreneurial spirit, Mr. A.P. Merritt.

AMERICAN ENERGY DEBATE

HON. VIRGINIA FOXX

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2008

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, It's been 5 long weeks since the Democrat majority adjourned for a summer recess without passing legislation to bring down the cost of gas.

But House Republicans have been on the floor of the House discussing solutions to our Nation's energy crisis anyway.

We've been engaging average Americans on this vital issue and we won't stop the debate until Congress takes up real, comprehensive energy legislation.

Republicans have offered a plan—the American Energy Act—to increase the production of American-made energy in an environmentally safe way.

Is it too much to ask for a simple up or down vote on this bill? Isn't this supposed to be the people's Congress?

Today I call on the Speaker to bring this bill up for a vote so we can bring the price down at the pump.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, September 9, 2008, may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

SEPTEMBER 10

10 a.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine ways to improve consumer protection in the prepaid calling card market.

SR–253

Appropriations

Defense Subcommittee

Business meeting to markup Department of Defense appropriations for fiscal year 2009.

SD–192

Environment and Public Works

To hold hearings to examine improving the Federal Bridge Program, focusing on an assessment of S. 3338, to amend title 23, United States Code, to improve the safety of Federal-aid highway bridges, to strengthen bridge inspection standards and processes, to increase investment in the reconstruction of structurally deficient bridges on the National Highway System, and H.R. 3999, to amend title 23, United States Code, to improve the safety of Federal-aid highway bridges, to strengthen bridge inspection standards and processes, to increase investment in the reconstruction of structurally deficient bridges on the National Highway System.

SD–406

Finance

Business meeting to consider S. 3038, to amend part E of title IV of the Social Security Act to extend the adoption incentives program, to authorize States to establish a relative guardianship program, to promote the adoption of children with special needs, S. 1070, to amend the Social Security Act to enhance the social security of the Nation by ensuring adequate public-private infrastructure and to resolve to prevent, detect, treat, intervene in, and prosecute elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation, and S. 1577, to amend titles XVIII and XIX of the Social Security Act to require screening, including national criminal history background checks, of direct patient access employees of skilled nursing facilities, nursing facilities, and other long-term care facilities and providers, and to provide for nationwide expansion of the pilot program for national and State background checks on direct patient access employees of long-term care facilities or providers.

SD–215

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine audits at the Defense Contract Audit Agency.

SD–342

Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine new strategies for combating violent crime, focusing on drawing lessons from recent experience.

SD–562

10:30 a.m.

Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine protocols to the North Atlantic Treaty of 1949 on the Accession of the Republic of Albania and the Republic of Croatia adopted at Brussels on July 9, 2008, and signed that day on behalf of the United States and the other Parties to the North Atlantic Treaty (Treaty Doc. 110–20).

SD–419

1:30 p.m.

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe

To hold hearings to examine Russia, Georgia, and the return of power politics.

HROB–2325

2 p.m.

Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Sung Y. Kim, of California, for the rank of Ambassador during his tenure of service as Special Envoy for the Six Party Talks, C. Steven McGann, of New York, to be Ambassador to the Republic of the Fiji Islands, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador to the Republic of Nauru, the Kingdom of Tonga, Tuvalu, and the Republic of Kiribati, and Carol Ann Rodley, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Kingdom of Cambodia.

SD–419

2:30 p.m.

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Oversight of Government Management, the Federal Workforce, and the District of Columbia Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine managing the challenges of the federal government transition, focusing on assessing the readiness and planning for the transition and identifying critical needs for the new Administration to address.

SD–342

3 p.m.

Environment and Public Works

Transportation Safety, Infrastructure Security, and Water Quality Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the quality and environmental impacts of bottled water.

SD–406

SEPTEMBER 11

9 a.m.

Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Brian H. Hook, of Iowa, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (International Organization Affairs), Gregori Lebedev, of Virginia, to be Alternate Representative of the United States of America to the Sessions of the General Assembly of the United Nations, during his tenure of service as Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations for U.N. Management and Reform, Gregori Lebedev, of Virginia, to be Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations for U.N. Management and Reform, with the rank of Ambassador, and Matthew A. Reynolds, of Massachusetts, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (Legislative Affairs).

SD–419

9:30 a.m.

Indian Affairs

To hold hearings to examine S. 3128, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to provide a loan to the White Mountain Apache Tribe for use in planning, engineering, and designing a certain water system project, S. 3355, to authorize the Crow Tribe of Indians water rights settlement, and S. 3381, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Commissioner of Reclamation, to develop water infrastructure in the Rio Grande Basin, and to approve the settlement of the water rights claims of the Pueblos of Nambe, Pojoaque, San Ildefonso, Tesuque, and Taos.

SD–628

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Investigations Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine dividend tax abuse, focusing on ways that offshore entitites avoid taxes on United States stock dividends.

SD–106

Veterans' Affairs

To hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans Affairs to examine the legislative presentation of the American Legion.

345, Cannon Building

10 a.m.

Judiciary

Business meeting to consider S. 2746, to amend section 552(b)(3) of title 5, United States Code (commonly referred to as the Freedom of Information Act) to provide that statutory exemptions to the disclosure requirements of that Act shall specifically cite to the provision of that Act authorizing such exemptions, to ensure an open and deliberative process in Congress by providing for related legislative proposals to explicitly state such required citations, S. 2838, to amend chapter 1 of title 9 of United States Code with respect to arbitration, S. 3136, to encourage the entry of felony warrants into the NCIC database by States and provide additional resources for extradition, S. 1276, to establish a grant program to facilitate the creation of methamphetamine precursor electronic logbook systems, S. 3197, to amend title 11, United States Code, to exempt for a limited period, from the application of the means-test presumption of abuse under chapter 7, qualifying members of reserve components of the Armed Forces and members of the National Guard who, after September 11, 2001, are called to active duty or to perform a homeland defense activity for not less than 90 days, S. 3325, to enhance remedies for violations of intellectual property laws, S. 3296, to extend the authority of the United States Supreme Court Police to protect court officials off the Supreme Court Grounds and change the title of the Administrative Assistant to the Chief Justice, S.

2052, to allow for certiorari review of certain cases denied relief or review by the United States Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces, H.R. 5235, to establish the Ronald Reagan Centennial Commission, S. 3166, to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to impose criminal penalties on individuals who assist aliens who have engaged in genocide, torture, or extrajudicial killings to enter the United States, and the nominations of Jeffrey Leigh Sedgwick, of Massachusetts, to be an Assistant Attorney General, J. Patrick Rowan, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Attorney General, and William B. Carr, Jr., of Pennsylvania, to be a Member of the United States Sentencing Commission.

SD–562

Small Business and Entrepreneurship

To hold hearings to examine business start-up hurdles in underserved communities access to venture capital and entrepreneurship training.

SR–428A

10:30 a.m.

Aging

To hold hearings to examine 1–800-MEDICARE Information (1–800–633–4227).

SR–325

12 noon

Energy and Natural Resources

Business meeting to consider pending calendar business.

SD–366

2:30 p.m.

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Carol Waller Pope, of the District of Columbia, and Thomas M. Beck, of Virginia, both to be a Member of the Federal Labor Relations Authority.

SD–342

SEPTEMBER 16

10 a.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine reasons that broadband internet access matters.

SR–253

Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine the current state of vehicles powered by the electric grid and the prospects for wider deployment in the near future.

SD–366

2:30 p.m.

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe

To hold hearings to examine the state of democracy and human rights in Belarus and how the Belarusian authorities are complying with their OSCE election commitments in advance of the September 28 parliamentary elections.

B318, Rayburn Building

SEPTEMBER 17

9:30 a.m.

Judiciary

To hold oversight hearings to examine the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

SH–216

Veterans' Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Patrick W. Dunne, of New York, to be Under Secretary for Benefits of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

SR–418

10 a.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine protected marine areas, focusing on federal and state efforts to conserve, manage, and restore marine resources.

SR–253

SEPTEMBER 18

2:30 p.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Surface Transportation and Merchant Marine Infrastructure, Safety and Security Subcommittee

To hold an oversight hearing to examine bus safety.

SR–253

SEPTEMBER 24

9:30 a.m.

Veterans' Affairs

To hold oversight hearings to examine cooperation and collaboration by the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Defense on information technology efforts.

SR–418

10 a.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Interstate Commerce, Trade, and Tourism Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the imbalance in United States-Korea automobile trade.

SR–253

POSTPONEMENTS

SEPTEMBER 10

10 a.m.

Rules and Administration

To hold hearings to examine S. 3308, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to permit facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs to be designated as voter registration agencies.

SR–301

SEPTEMBER 11

2:30 p.m.

Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

To hold hearings to examine transparency in accounting, focusing changes, focusing proposed changes to accounting for off-balance sheet entities.

SD–538

Daily Digest

HIGHLIGHTS

See Résumé of Congressional Activity.

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S8101–S8143

Measures Introduced: Four bills were introduced, as follows: S. 3450–3453. **Pages S8130–31**

Measures Reported:

Reported on Friday, August 22, during the adjournment:

S. 2700, to amend the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 to double liability limits for single-hull tankers and tank barges for 2009, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 110–445)

S. 2728, to establish the Twenty-First Century Water Commission to study and develop recommendations for a comprehensive water strategy to address future water needs, with amendments. (S. Rept. No. 110–446)

S. 3362, to reauthorize and improve the SBIR and STTR programs. (S. Rept. No. 110–447)

Reported on Monday, September 8:

Report to accompany S. 344, to permit the televising of Supreme Court proceedings. (S. Rept. No. 110–448)

S. 3061, to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2008 through 2011 for the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, to enhance measures to combat trafficking in persons, with amendments. **Page S8130**

Measures Passed:

Department of State Authorities Extension: Committee on Foreign Relations was discharged from further consideration of H.R. 6456, to provide for extensions of certain authorities of the Department of State, and the bill was then passed, clearing the measure for the President. **Page S8141**

National Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders Awareness Day: Committee on the Judiciary was discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 647, designating September 9, 2008, as "National Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders Awareness Day," and the resolution was then agreed to. **Page S8141**

National Attention Deficit Disorder Awareness Day: Committee on the Judiciary was discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 649, designating September 18, 2008, as "National Attention Deficit Disorder Awareness Day," and the resolution was then agreed to. **Pages S8141–42**

National Polycystic Kidney Disease Awareness Week: Senate agreed to S. Res. 620, designating the week of September 14–20, 2008, as National Polycystic Kidney Disease Awareness Week, to raise public awareness and understanding of polycystic kidney disease, and to foster understanding of the impact polycystic kidney disease has on patients and future generations of their families. **Page S8142**

National Historically Black Colleges and Universities Week: Senate agreed to S. Res. 622, designating the week beginning September 7, 2008, as "National Historically Black Colleges and Universities Week." **Page S8142**

Measures Considered:

National Defense Authorization Act: Senate resumed consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of S. 3001, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2009 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year. **Pages S8104–10**

During consideration of this measure today, Senate also took the following action:

By a unanimous vote of 83 yeas (Vote No. 197), three-fifths of those Senators duly chosen and sworn, having voted in the affirmative, Senate upon reconsideration agreed to the motion to close further debate on the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill. **Pages S8109–10**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill at approximately 11 a.m., on Tuesday, September 9, 2008, and that time during any recess, adjournment, or morning business count post-cloture. **Page S8143**

Measures Discharged:

Debbie Smith Reauthorization Act: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions was discharged from further consideration of H.R. 5057, to reauthorize the Debbie Smith DNA Backlog Grant Program, and the bill be referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. **Page S8141**

Message from the President: Senate received the following message from the President of the United States:

A message from the President of the United States, transmitted pursuant to law, a message stating that the statutory prerequisite to become effective is no longer satisfied, as required by section 123 b. of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, for the proposed Agreement Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Russian Federation for Cooperation in the Field of Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy transmitted to the Senate on May 13, 2008; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations. (PM–62) **Page S8125**

Removal of Injunction of Secrecy: The injunction of secrecy was removed from the following treaty:

Hague Convention on International Recovery of Child Support and Family Maintenance (Treaty Doc. No. 110–21).

The treaty was transmitted to the Senate today, considered as having been read for the first time, and referred, with accompanying papers, to the Committee on Foreign Relations and ordered to be printed. **Page S8142**

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

Robert B. Eley, of Mississippi, to be a Member of the Mississippi River Commission for a term of nine years.

Patrick J. Wolf, of Arkansas, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the National Board for Education Sciences for a term expiring March 15, 2012.

John L. Winn, of Florida, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the National Board for Education Sciences for a term expiring November 28, 2012.

Paul E. Peterson, of Massachusetts, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the National Board for Education Sciences for a term expiring November 28, 2011.

Douglas J. Besharov, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the National Board for Education Sciences for a term expiring November 28, 2011.

Elizabeth Ann Bryan, of Texas, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the National Board for Education Sciences for a term expiring November 28, 2012.

Lynn S. Fuchs, of Tennessee, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the National Board for Education Sciences for a term expiring November 28, 2012.

Robert C. Granger, of New Jersey, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the National Board for Education Sciences for a term expiring November 28, 2012.

Caroline M. Hoxby, of Massachusetts, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the National Board for Education Sciences for a term expiring November 28, 2012.

Michael Young, of Pennsylvania, to be a Member of the Federal Mine Safety and Health Review Commission for a term of six years expiring August 30, 2014.

Dave Heineman, of Nebraska, to be a Member of the Board of Trustees of the Harry S Truman Scholarship Foundation for a term expiring December 10, 2011.

James X. Dempsey, of California, to be a Member of the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board for a term of five years expiring January 29, 2013.

1 Air Force nomination in the rank of general.

33 Army nominations in the rank of general. **Page S8143**

Messages from the House: **Page S8126**

Measures Placed on the Calendar: **Pages S8102, S8126**

Enrolled Bills Presented: **Page S8126**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S8131–33**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S8133–34**

Additional Statements: **Pages S8120–24**

Notices of Hearings/Meetings: **Pages S8134–35**

Privileges of the Floor: **Page S8135**

Record Votes: One record vote was taken today. (Total—197) **Page S8110**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 3 p.m. and adjourned at 6:43 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, September 9, 2008. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S8143.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

No committee meetings were held.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 8 public bills, H.R. 6832–6839; 2 private bills, H.R. 6840, 6841; and 5 resolutions, H. Res. 1414–1418 were introduced. **Page H7853**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H7853–54**

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

S. 2837, to designate the United States courthouse located at 225 Cadman Plaza East, Brooklyn, New York, as the ''Theodore Roosevelt United States Courthouse'' (H. Rept. 110–823);

S. 2403, to designate the new Federal Courthouse, located in the 700 block of East Broad Street, Richmond, Virginia, as the ''Spottswood W. Robinson III and Robert R. Merhige, Jr. Federal Courthouse'', with amendments (H. Rept. 110–824);

H.R. 6064, to encourage, enhance, and integrate Silver Alert plans throughout the United States, with an amendment (H. Rept. 110–825);

H.R. 5243, for the relief of Kumi Iizuka-Barcena (H. Rept. 110–826);

H.R. 2575, for the relief of Mikael Adrian Christopher Figueroa Alvarez (H. Rept. 110–827);

H.R. 5743, to provide the Secretary of Homeland Security with the authority to procure real property and accept in-kind donations (H. Rept. 110–828);

H.R. 263, to authorize the Secretary of Homeland Security to establish a program to award grants to institutions of higher education for the establishment or expansion of cybersecurity professional development programs, with an amendment (H. Rept. 110–829, Pt. 1);

H. Res. 1207, directing the Chief Administrative Officer of the House of Representatives to provide individuals whose pay is disbursed by the Chief Administrative Officer by electronic funds transfer with the option of receiving receipts of pay and withholdings electronically, with an amendment (H. Rept. 110–830); and

H.R. 6475, to establish the Daniel Webster Congressional Clerkship Program (H. Rept. 110–831). **Page H7852**

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein she appointed Representative Jackson (IL) to act as Speaker Pro Tempore for today. **Page H7811**

Whole Number of the House: The Chair announced to the House that, in light of the passing of Representative Tubbs Jones of Ohio, the whole number of the House is adjusted to 434. **Page H7811**

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

Spottswood W. Robinson III and Robert R. Merhige, Jr. Federal Courthouse Designation Act: S. 2403, amended, to designate the new Federal Courthouse, located in the 700 block of East Broad Street, Richmond, Virginia, as the ''Spottswood W. Robinson III and Robert R. Merhige, Jr. Federal Courthouse'', by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 376 yeas with none voting ''nay'', Roll No. 567; **Pages H7813–16, H7823**

Agreed to amend the title so as to read: ''To designate the United States courthouse located in the 700 block of East Broad Street, Richmond, Virginia, as the 'Spottswood W. Robinson III and Robert R. Merhige, Jr., United States Courthouse'.''. **Page H7813**

Theodore Roosevelt United States Courthouse Designation Act: S. 2837, to designate the United States courthouse located at 225 Cadman Plaza East, Brooklyn, New York, as the ''Theodore Roosevelt United States Courthouse'', by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 375 yeas to 1 nay, Roll No. 568—clearing the measure for the President; **Pages H7816–17, H7824–25**

Amending the Federal Rules of Evidence to address the waiver of the attorney-client privilege and the work product doctrine: S. 2450, to amend the Federal Rules of Evidence to address the waiver of the attorney-client privilege and the work product doctrine—clearing the measure for the President; and **Pages H7817–20**

Child Soldiers Accountability Act of 2008: S. 2135, amended, to prohibit the recruitment or use of child soldiers, to designate persons who recruit or use child soldiers as inadmissible aliens, and to allow the deportation of persons who recruit or use child soldiers, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 371 yeas with none voting ''nay'', Roll No. 569. **Pages H7820–23, H7825**

Meeting Hour: Agreed that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 10:30 a.m. tomorrow for morning hour debate; and further, that when the House adjourns on Wednesday, September 10th, it adjourn to meet at 11 a.m. on Thursday, September 11th. **Page H7823**

Calendar Wednesday: Agreed to dispense with the Calendar Wednesday business of Wednesday, September 10th. **Page H7823**

Recess: The House recessed at 3:10 p.m. and reconvened at 6:30 p.m. **Page H7823**

Moment of Silence: The House observed a moment of silence in memory of the late Honorable Stephanie Tubbs Jones. **Page H7824**

Supplemental Report: Agreed that the Committee on Natural Resources be permitted to file a supplemental report on H.R. 3667, to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate a segment of the Missisquoi and Trout Rivers in the State of Vermont for study for potential addition to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. **Page H7826**

In Memory of the late Honorable Stephanie Tubbs Jones of Ohio: The House agreed to H. Res. 1415, expressing the condolences of the House on the death of the Honorable Stephanie Tubbs Jones, a Representative from the State of Ohio. **Pages H7826–35**

Commission on the Abolition of the Transatlantic Slave Trade—Appointment: Read a letter from Representative Boehner, Minority Leader, in which he appointed Mr. Donald Murphy of Cincinnati, Ohio, to the Commission on the Abolition of the Transatlantic Slave Trade. **Page H7835**

Senate Messages: Messages received from the Senate by the Clerk and subsequently presented to the House today appear on pages H7811–12.

Senate Referrals: S. 3241 was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform; S. 2507 was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce; and S.J. Res. 45 was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. **Page H7849**

Quorum Calls Votes: Three yea-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H7823, H7824–25, H7825. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 2 p.m. and at 10:31 p.m., pursuant to the provisions of H. Res. 1415, it stands adjourned in memory of the late Honorable Stephanie Tubbs Jones.

Committee Meetings

No committee meetings were held.

NEW PUBLIC LAWS

(For last listing of Public Laws, see DAILY DIGEST, *p. D1007)*

H.R. 4841, to approve, ratify, and confirm the settlement agreement entered into to resolve claims by the Soboba Band of Luiseno Indians relating to alleged interferences with the water resources of the Tribe, to authorize and direct the Secretary of the Interior to execute and perform the Settlement Agreement and related waivers, and for other purposes. Signed on July 31, 2008. (Public Law 110–297)

S. 2565, to establish an awards mechanism to honor exceptional acts of bravery in the line of duty by Federal, State, and Local law enforcement officers. Signed on July 31, 2008. (Public Law 110–298)

S. 3298, to clarify the circumstances during which the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency and applicable States may require permits for discharges from certain vessels, and to require the Administrator to conduct a study of discharges incidental to the normal operation of vessels. Signed on July 31, 2008. (Public Law 110–299)

S. 3352, to temporarily extend the programs under the Higher Education Act of 1965. Signed on July 31, 2008. (Public Law 110–300)

S. 3370, to resolve pending claims against Libya by United States nationals, and for other purposes. Signed on August 4, 2008. (Public Law 110–301)

H.R. 2245, to designate the Department of Veterans Affairs outpatient clinic in Wenatchee, Washington, as the "Elwood 'Bud' Link Department of Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic". Signed on August 12, 2008. (Public Law 110–302)

H.R. 4210, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 401 Washington Avenue in Weldon, North Carolina, as the "Dock M. Brown Post Office Building". Signed on August 12, 2008. (Public Law 110–303)

H.R. 4918, to name the Department of Veterans Affairs medical center in Miami, Florida, as the "Bruce W. Carter Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center". Signed on August 12, 2008. (Public Law 110–304)

H.R. 5477, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 120 South Del Mar Avenue in San Gabriel, California, as the "Chi Mui Post Office Building". Signed on August 12, 2008. (Public Law 110–305)

H.R. 5483, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 10449 White Granite Drive in Oakton, Virginia, as the "Private First Class David H. Sharrett II Post Office Building". Signed on August 12, 2008. (Public Law 110–306)

H.R. 5631, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1155 Seminole Trail in Charlottesville, Virginia, as the "Corporal Bradley T. Arms Post Office Building". Signed on August 12, 2008. (Public Law 110–307)

H.R. 6061, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 219 East Main Street in West Frankfort, Illinois, as the "Kenneth James Gray Post Office Building". Signed on August 12, 2008. (Public Law 110–308)

H.R. 6085, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 42222 Rancho Las

Palmas Drive in Rancho Mirage, California, as the ''Gerald R. Ford Post Office Building''. Signed on August 12, 2008. (Public Law 110–309)

H.R. 6150, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 14500 Lorain Avenue in Cleveland, Ohio, as the ''John P. Gallagher Post Office Building''. Signed on August 12, 2008. (Public Law 110–310)

H.R. 6340, to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 300 Quarropas Street in White Plains, New York, as the ''Charles L. Brieant, Jr., Federal Building and United States Courthouse''. Signed on August 12, 2008. (Public Law 110–311)

S. 3294, to provide for the continued performance of the functions of the United States Parole Commission. Signed on August 12, 2008. (Public Law 110–312)

S. 3295, to amend title 35, United States Code, and the Trademark Act of 1946 to provide that the Secretary of Commerce, in consultation with the Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office, shall appoint administrative patent judges and administrative trademark judges, and for other purposes. Signed on August 12, 2008. (Public Law 110–313)

H.R. 4040, to establish consumer product safety standards and other safety requirements for children's products and to reauthorize and modernize the Consumer Product Safety Commission. Signed on August 14, 2008. (Public Law 110–314)

H.R. 4137, to amend and extend the Higher Education Act of 1965, and for other purposes. Signed on August 14, 2008. (Public Law 110–315)

H.R. 6432, to revise and extend the animal drug user fee program, to establish a program of fees relating to generic new animal drugs, to make certain technical corrections to the Food and Drug Administration Amendments Act of 2007, and for other purposes. Signed on August 14, 2008. (Public Law 110–316)

H.R. 6580, to ensure the fair treatment of a member of the Armed Forces who is discharged from the Armed Forces, at the request of the member, pursuant to the Department of Defense policy permitting the early discharge of a member who is the only surviving child in a family in which the father or mother, or one or more siblings, served in the Armed Forces and, because of hazards incident to such service, was killed, died as a result of wounds, accident, or disease, is in a captured or missing in action status, or is permanently disabled, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the dollar limitation on contributions to funeral trusts, and for other purposes. Signed on August 29, 2008. (Public Law 110–317)

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2008

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Armed Services: to hold hearings to examine the current situation in Georgia and implications for United States policy; to be followed by a closed session in SVC–217, 9:30 a.m., SD–106.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: to hold hearings to examine strengthening the ability of public transportation to reduce the dependence of the United States on foreign oil, 10 a.m., SD–538.

Committee on Environment and Public Works: Subcommittee on Transportation and Infrastructure, to hold oversight hearings to examine the Economic Development Administration, Department of Commerce, 10 a.m., SD–406.

Committee on Finance: to hold hearings to examine improving health care quality, focusing on an integral step toward health care reform, 10 a.m., SD–215.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: to hold hearings to examine the nomination of Ruth Y. Goldway, of California, to be a Commissioner of the Postal Regulatory Commission, 3:15 p.m., SD–342.

Committee on the Judiciary: to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Clark Waddoups, to be United States District Judge for the District of Utah, Michael M. Anello, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of California, Mary Stenson Scriven, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Florida, Christine M. Arguello, to be United States District Judge for the District of Colorado, Philip A. Brimmer, to be United States District Judge for the District of Colorado, and Gregory G. Garre, of Maryland, to be Solicitor General of the United States, 10 a.m., SD–562.

Full Committee, to hold oversight hearings to examine the Department of Justice, focusing on protecting the right to vote and preparations for the 2008 general election, 2:15 p.m., SD–562.

CONGRESSIONAL PROGRAM AHEAD

Week of September 9 through September 13, 2008

Senate Chamber

On *Tuesday,* at approximately, 11 a.m., Senate will continue consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of S. 3001, National Defense Authorization Act.

During the balance of the week, Senate may consider any cleared legislative and executive business.

Senate Committees

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Committee on Appropriations: September 10, Subcommittee on Defense, business meeting to mark up Department of Defense appropriations for fiscal year 2009, 10 a.m., SD–192.

Committee on Armed Services: September 9, to hold hearings to examine the current situation in Georgia and implications for United States policy; to be followed by a closed session in SVC–217, 9:30 a.m., SD–106.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: September 9, to hold hearings to examine strengthening the ability of public transportation to reduce the dependence of the United States on foreign oil, 10 a.m., SD–538.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: September 10, to hold hearings to examine ways to improve consumer protection in the prepaid calling card market, 10 a.m., SR–253.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: September 11, business meeting to consider pending calendar business, 12 noon, SD–366.

Committee on Environment and Public Works: September 9, Subcommittee on Transportation and Infrastructure, to hold oversight hearings to examine the Economic Development Administration, Department of Commerce, 10 a.m., SD–406.

September 10, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine improving the Federal Bridge Program, focusing on an assessment of S. 3338, to amend title 23, United States Code, to improve the safety of Federal-aid highway bridges, to strengthen bridge inspection standards and processes, to increase investment in the reconstruction of structurally deficient bridges on the National Highway System, and H.R. 3999, to amend title 23, United States Code, to improve the safety of Federal-aid highway bridges, to strengthen bridge inspection standards and processes, to increase investment in the reconstruction of structurally deficient bridges on the National Highway System, 10 a.m., SD–406.

September 10, Subcommittee on Transportation Safety, Infrastructure Security, and Water Quality, to hold hearings to examine the quality and environmental impacts of bottled water, 3 p.m., SD–406.

Committee on Finance: September 9, to hold hearings to examine improving health care quality, focusing on an integral step toward health care reform, 10 a.m., SD–215.

September 10, Full Committee, business meeting to consider S. 3038, to amend part E of title IV of the Social Security Act to extend the adoption incentives program, to authorize States to establish a relative guardianship program, to promote the adoption of children with special needs, S. 1070, to amend the Social Security Act to enhance the social security of the Nation by ensuring adequate public-private infrastructure and to resolve to prevent, detect, treat, intervene in, and prosecute elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation, and S. 1577, to amend titles XVIII and XIX of the Social Security Act to require screening, including national criminal history background checks, of direct patient access employees of skilled nursing facilities, nursing facilities, and other long-term care facilities and providers, and to provide for nationwide expansion of the pilot program for national and State background checks on direct patient access employees of long-term care facilities or providers, 10 a.m., SD–215.

Committee on Foreign Relations: September 10, to hold hearings to examine protocols to the North Atlantic Treaty of 1949 on the Accession of the Republic of Albania and the Republic of Croatia adopted at Brussels on July 9, 2008, and signed that day on behalf of the United States and the other Parties to the North Atlantic Treaty (Treaty Doc. 110–20), 10:30 a.m., SD–419.

September 10, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Sung Y. Kim, of California, for the rank of Ambassador during his tenure of service as Special Envoy for the Six Party Talks, C. Steven McGann, of New York, to be Ambassador to the Republic of the Fiji Islands, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador to the Republic of Nauru, the Kingdom of Tonga, Tuvalu, and the Republic of Kiribati, and Carol Ann Rodley, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Kingdom of Cambodia, 2 p.m., SD–419.

September 11, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Brian H. Hook, of Iowa, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (International Organization Affairs), Gregori Lebedev, of Virginia, to be Alternate Representative of the United States of America to the Sessions of the General Assembly of the United Nations, during his tenure of service as Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations for U.N. Management and Reform, Gregori Lebedev, of Virginia, to be Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations for U.N. Management and Reform, with the rank of Ambassador, and Matthew A. Reynolds, of Massachusetts, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (Legislative Affairs), 9 a.m., SD–419.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: September 9, to hold hearings to examine the nomination of Ruth Y. Goldway, of California, to be a Commissioner of the Postal Regulatory Commission, 3:15 p.m., SD–342.

September 10, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine audits at the Defense Contract Audit Agency, 10 a.m., SD–342.

September 10, Subcommittee on Oversight of Government Management, the Federal Workforce, and the District of Columbia, to hold hearings to examine managing the challenges of the federal government transition, focusing on assessing the readiness and planning for the transition and identifying critical needs for the new Administration to address, 2:30 p.m., SD–342.

September 11, Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, to hold hearings to examine dividend tax abuse, focusing on ways that offshore entities avoid taxes on United States stock dividends, 9:30 a.m., SD–106.

September 11, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Carol Waller Pope, of the District of Columbia, and Thomas M. Beck, of Virginia, both to be a Member of the Federal Labor Relations Authority, 2:30 p.m., SD–342.

Committee on Indian Affairs: September 11, to hold hearings to examine S. 3128, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to provide a loan to the White Mountain Apache Tribe for use in planning, engineering, and designing a certain water system project, S. 3355, to authorize the Crow Tribe of Indians water rights settlement, and S. 3381, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior, acting

through the Commissioner of Reclamation, to develop water infrastructure in the Rio Grande Basin, and to approve the settlement of the water rights claims of the Pueblos of Nambe, Pojoaque, San Ildefonso, Tesuque, and Taos, 9:30 a.m., SD–628.

Committee on the Judiciary: September 9, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Clark Waddoups, to be United States District Judge for the District of Utah, Michael M. Anello, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of California, Mary Stenson Scriven, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Florida, Christine M. Arguello, to be United States District Judge for the District of Colorado, Philip A. Brimmer, to be United States District Judge for the District of Colorado, and Gregory G. Garre, of Maryland, to be Solicitor General of the United States, 10 a.m., SD–562.

September 9, Full Committee, to hold oversight hearings to examine the Department of Justice, focusing on protecting the right to vote and preparations for the 2008 general election, 2:15 p.m., SD–562.

September 10, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine new strategies for combating violent crime, focusing on drawing lessons from recent experience, 10 a.m., SD–562.

September 11, Full Committee, business meeting to consider S. 2746, to amend section 552(b)(3) of title 5, United States Code (commonly referred to as the Freedom of Information Act) to provide that statutory exemptions to the disclosure requirements of that Act shall specifically cite to the provision of that Act authorizing such exemptions, to ensure an open and deliberative process in Congress by providing for related legislative proposals to explicitly state such required citations, S. 2838, to amend chapter 1 of title 9 of United States Code with respect to arbitration, S. 3136, to encourage the entry of felony warrants into the NCIC database by States and provide additional resources for extradition, S. 1276, to establish a grant program to facilitate the creation of methamphetamine precursor electronic logbook systems, S. 3197, to amend title 11, United States Code, to exempt for a limited period, from the application of the means-test presumption of abuse under chapter 7, qualifying members of reserve components of the Armed Forces and members of the National Guard who, after September 11, 2001, are called to active duty or to perform a homeland defense activity for not less than 90 days, S. 3325, to enhance remedies for violations of intellectual property laws, S. 3296, to extend the authority of the United States Supreme Court Police to protect court officials off the Supreme Court Grounds and change the title of the Administrative Assistant to the Chief Justice, S. 2052, to allow for certiorari review of certain cases denied relief or review by the United States Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces, H.R. 5235, to establish the Ronald Reagan Centennial Commission, S. 3166, to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to impose criminal penalties on individuals who assist aliens who have engaged in genocide, torture, or extrajudicial killings to enter the United States, and the nominations of Jeffrey Leigh Sedgwick, of Massachusetts, to be an Assistant Attorney General, J. Patrick Rowan, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Attorney General, and William B. Carr, Jr., of Pennsylvania, to be a Member of the United States Sentencing Commission, 10 a.m., SD–562.

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship: September 11, to hold hearings to examine business start-up hurdles in underserved communities access to venture capital and entrepreneurship training, 10 a.m., SR–428A.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: September 11, to hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans Affairs to examine the legislative presentation of the American Legion, 9:30 a.m., 345, Cannon Building.

Special Committee on Aging: September 11, to hold hearings to examine 1–800–MEDICARE Information (1–800–633–4227), 10:30 a.m., SR–325.

House Committees

Committee on Agriculture, September 11, hearing to review dramatic movements in agriculture and energy commodity markets, 10:30 a.m., 1300 Longworth.

Committee on Armed Services, September 10, full Committee hearing on Security and Stability in Afghanistan and Iraq: Developments in U.S. Strategy and Operations and the Way Ahead, 9 a.m., 2118 Rayburn.

September 10, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing on transforming the U.S. military's foreign language, cultural awareness, and regional expertise capabilities, 2:30 p.m., 2212 Rayburn.

Committee on the Budget, September 9, hearing on a Weakened Economy: How to Respond?, 2 p.m., 210 Cannon.

Committee on Education and Labor, September 9, Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary and Secondary Education, hearing on Challenges Facing Bureau of Indian Education Schools in Improving Student Achievement, 10 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

September 11, Subcommittee on Healthy Families and Communities, hearing on Examining the Role of Museums and Libraries in Strengthening Communities, 10 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, September 9, Subcommittee on Health, hearing entitled ''NIH Reform Act of 2006: Progress, Challenges and Next Steps,'' 10 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

September 11, Subcommittee on Commerce Trade, and Consumer Protection, hearing on the Economic and Security Concerns in Tourism and Commerce, including the following bills: H.R. 3232, Travel Promotion Act of 2007; and H.R. 1776, Call Center Consumer's Right to Know Act, 11 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

September 11, Subcommittee on Energy and Air Quality, hearing entitled ''Protecting the Electric Grid from Cyber-Security Threats,'' 11 a.m., 2322 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, September 10, Subcommittee on Domestic and International Monetary Policy, Trade, and Technology, hearing entitled ''Sovereign Wealth Funds: New Challenges from a Changing Landscape,'' 2 p.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, September 9, hearing on U.S.-Russia Relations in the Aftermath of the Georgia Crisis, 1:30 p.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Committee on Homeland Security, September 9, Subcommittee on Transportation Security and Infrastructure Protection, hearing entitled ''Ensuring America's Security: Cleaning Up the Nation's Watchlists,'' 2 p.m., 311 Cannon.

September 10, full Committee, hearing entitled ''Mismanagement, Missteps and Missed Benchmarks: Why the Virtual Fence Has Not Become A Reality,'' 10 a.m., 311 Cannon.

Committee on the Judiciary, September 9, hearing on Competition in the Package Delivery Industry, 2 p.m., 2141 Rayburn.

September 10, to mark up the following: Reauthorizing Antitrust Task Force, H.R. 6598, Prevention of Equine Cruelty Act of 2008; H.R. 4780, To enact title 51, United States Code, ''National and Commercial Space Programs,'' as positive law; H.R. 6020, To amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to protect the well-being of soldiers and their families, and for other purposes; H.R. 5882, To recapture employment-based immigrant visas lost to bureaucratic delays and to prevent losses of family-and employment-based immigrant visas in the future; H.R. 5924, Emergency Nursing Supply Relief Act; H.R. 5950, Detainee Basic Medical Care Act of 2008; and to consider a resolution and report recommending to the House of Representatives that Attorney General Michael B. Mukasey be cited for contempt of Congress, 10:15 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

September 11, Subcommittee on Commerce and Administrative Law, hearing on the continuing investigation into the U.S. Attorneys Controversy and Related Matters, 12 p.m., 2237 Rayburn.

September 11, Subcommittee on Courts, the Internet, and Intellectual Property, hearing on the Fair Copyright in Research Works Act, 1 p.m., 2141 Rayburn.

September 11, Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security, hearing on H.R. 4300, Juvenile Justice Accountability and Improvement Act of 2007, 2 p.m., 2237 Rayburn.

Committee on Natural Resources, September 10, Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife and Oceans, hearing and oversight hearing on H.R. 6479, San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge Complex Establishment Act, 10 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

September 11, Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands, hearing on the following bills: H.R. 3114, National Womens's Rights History Project Act; H.R. 4162, San Bernardino Biomass Use Facilitation Act; H.R. 6156, Eastern Sierra and Northern San Gabriel Wild Heritage Act; H.R. 6233, To reinstate the Interim Management Strategy governing off-road vehicle use in the Cape Hatteras National Seashore, North Carolina, pending the issuance of a final rule for off-road vehicle use by the National Park Service; H.R. 6290, Lewis and Clark Mount Hood Wilderness Act of 2008; H.R. 6291, Oregon Treasures Act of 2008; H.R. 6470, River Basin National Battlefield Act; H.R. 6553, To clarify the authority of the Secretary of Agriculture regarding additional recreational uses of National Forest System lands subject to ski area permits; and H.R. 6628,Connell Lake Watershed Protection and Recreation Act, 10 a.m., 1334 Longworth.

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, September 9, hearing on the Impact of Proposed Legislation on the District of Columbia's Gun Laws, 10 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

September 10, full Committee, to consider the following: the National Capital Security and Safety Act; H. Con. Res. 223, Honoring professional surveyors and recognize their contributions to society; H. Con. Res. 351, Honoring the 225th Anniversary of the Continental Congress meeting in Nassau Hall, Princeton, New Jersey in 1783; H. Con. Res. 376, Congratulating the 2007–2008 National Basketball Association World Champions, the Boston Celtics, on an outstanding and historic season; H. Con. Res. 378, Expressing support for the designation of September 6, 2008, as Louisa Swain Day; H. Con. Res. 386, Recognizing and celebrating the 232nd Anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence; H. Res. 1000, To commemorate the 250th Anniversary of the naming of Pittsburgh as the culmination of the Forbes Campaign across Pennsylvania and the significance this event played in the making of America, in the settlement of the Continent, and in spreading the ideals of freedom and democracy throughout the world; H.R. 1356, Celebrating the 221st anniversary of the signing of the Constitution of the United States of America, and for other purposes; a resolution to congratulate Michael Phelps, 2008 Beijing Summer Olympic champion swimmer, on winning eight gold medals in the 2008 Beijing Olympics and becoming one of the most decorated athletes in Olympic history; H.R. 6199, To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 245 North Main Street in New City, New York as the ''Kenneth Peter Zebrowski Post Office Building;'' H. R. 6489, To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 501 4th Street in Lake Oswego, Oregon, as the ''Judie Hammerstad Post Office Building;'' H.R. 6681, To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 300 Vine Street in New Lenox, Illinois, as the ''Jacob M. Lowell Post Office Building;'' and H.R. 6772, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1717 Orange Avenue in Fort Pierce, Florida, as the ''CeeCee Ross Lyles Post Office Building,'' 1 p.m., 2154 Rayburn.

September 10, Subcommittee on National Security and Foreign Affairs, an Oversight hearing on Sexual Assault in the Military—Part 2, 10 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

September 11, Subcommittee on Federal Workforce, Postal Service and the District of Columbia, hearing on H.R. 4272, To amend chapter 15 of title 5, United States Code, to provide for an additional, limited exception to the provision prohibiting a State or local officer or employee from being a candidate for elective office, 2 p.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Committee on Rules, September 9, to consider H.R. 3667, Missisquoi and Trout Rivers Wild and Scenic River Study Act of 2008, 2:30 p.m., H–313 Capitol.

Committee on Science and Technology, September 9, Subcommittee on Investigation and Oversight, hearing on Biobanking: How the Lack of a Coherent Policy Allowed

the Veterans Administration to Destroy an Irreplaceable Collection of Legionella Samples, 10 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

September 10, Subcommittee on Energy and Environment, hearing on the Foundation for Developing New Energy Technologies: Basic Energy Research in the DOE Office of Science, 2 p.m., 2318 Rayburn.

September 11, full Committee, hearing on the Next Generation Air Transportation System: Status and Issues, 10 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Committee on Small Business, September 11, hearing on Examining Expiring Tax Incentives and the Needs of Small Businesses, 10 a.m., 1539 Longworth.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, September 9, hearing on H.R. 6707, Taking Responsible Action for Community Safety Act, 11 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

September 10, Subcommittee on Coast Guard, including Recruitment, Promotion, and Retention of Minority Personnel, hearing on Diversity in the Coast Guard, including Recruitment, Promotion, and Retention of Minority Personnel, 2 p.m., 2167 Rayburn.

September 11, Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management, hearing on FEMA's National Housing Strategy: Housing Citizens in a Post-Disaster Period, 10 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

September 12, Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management, hearing on the Role of the Federal Government in Small Business Disaster Recovery, 10 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs, September 9, Subcommittee on Health, hearing on the following bills: H.R. 3051, Heroes at Home Act of 2007; H.R. 6153, Veterans' Medical Personnel Recruitment and Retention Act of 2008; and H.R. 6629, Veterans Health Equity Act of 2008, 10 a.m., 340 Cannon.

September 11, Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity, oversight hearing of GI Bill Implementation, 1 p.m., 340 Cannon.

Committee on Ways and Means, September 11, Subcommittee on Health, hearing on reforming Medicare's physician payment system, 10 a.m., 1100 Longworth.

September 11, Subcommittee on Income Security and Family Support, hearing on Challenges facing American Workers, 12 p.m., B–318 Rayburn.

Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, September 9, executive, hearing on Intelligence Operations and Al-Qaeda, 1 p.m., H–405 Capitol.

September 10, Subcommittee on Intelligence Community Management, executive, briefing on DOD: Personnel Security and Research Center, 2 p.m., H–405 Capitol.

September 11, Subcommittee on Terrorism, Human Intelligence, Analysis and Counterintelligence, executive, briefing, on Hot Spots, 8:45 a.m., and executive, hearing on Russia, 11 a.m., H–405 Capitol.

Select Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming, September 10, hearing entitled ''Investing in the Future: R & D needs to meet America's Energy and Climate Challenges,'' 10 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

Joint Meetings

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe: September 10, to hold hearings to examine Russia, Georgia, and the return of power politics, 1:30 p.m., HROB–2325.

Joint Hearing: September 11, Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs, to hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs to examine the legislative presentation of the American Legion, 9:30 a.m., 345, Cannon Building.

Résumé of Congressional Activity

SECOND SESSION OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH CONGRESS

The first table gives a comprehensive résumé of all legislative business transacted by the Senate and House. The second table accounts for all nominations submitted to the Senate by the President for Senate confirmation.

DATA ON LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY

January 3 through August 31, 2008

	Senate	*House*	*Total*
Days in session	131	96	..
Time in session	790 hrs., 51′	711 hrs., 27′	..
Congressional Record:			
Pages of proceedings	8,095	7,810	..
Extensions of Remarks	..	1,703	..
Public bills enacted into law	44	80	..
Private bills enacted into law	..	..	..
Bills in conference	5	7	..
Measures passed, total	348	688	1,036
Senate bills	52	42	..
House bills	96	290	..
Senate joint resolutions	4	2	..
House joint resolutions	2	2	..
Senate concurrent resolutions	17	4	..
House concurrent resolutions	29	68	..
Simple resolutions	148	280	..
Measures reported, total *	284	310	594
Senate bills	175	1	..
House bills	84	228	..
Senate joint resolutions	3	..	..
House joint resolutions	1	..	..
Senate concurrent resolutions	2	..	..
House concurrent resolutions	2	5	..
Simple resolutions	17	76	..
Special reports	6	2	..
Conference reports	1	4	..
Measures pending on calendar	538	84	..
Measures introduced, total	1,202	2,555	3,757
Bills	919	1,901	..
Joint resolutions	18	22	..
Concurrent resolutions	32	130	..
Simple resolutions	233	502	..
Quorum calls	3	2	..
Yea-and-nay votes	196	378	..
Recorded votes	..	186	..
Bills vetoed	..	4	..
Vetoes overridden	3	3	..

* These figures include all measures reported, even if there was no accompanying report. A total of 193 written reports have been filed in the Senate, a total of 311 reports have been filed in the House.

DISPOSITION OF EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS

January 3 through August 31, 2008

Civilian nominations, totaling 441 (including 180 nominations carried over from the First Session), disposed of as follows:	
Confirmed	197
Unconfirmed	207
Withdrawn	37
Other Civilian nominations, totaling 1,093 (including 8 nominations carried over from the First Session), disposed of as follows:	
Confirmed	1,084
Unconfirmed	9
Air Force nominations, totaling 4,990 (including 5 nominations carried over from the First Session), disposed of as follows:	
Confirmed	4,979
Unconfirmed	10
Withdrawn	1
Army nominations, totaling 3,679 (including 19 nominations carried over from the First Session), disposed of as follows:	
Confirmed	3,308
Unconfirmed	370
Withdrawn	1
Navy nominations, totaling 3,934 (including 3 nominations carried over from the First Session), disposed of as follows:	
Confirmed	2,417
Unconfirmed	1,516
Withdrawn	1
Marine Corps nominations, totaling 1,558 (including 1 nomination carried over from the First Session), disposed of as follows:	
Confirmed	1,557
Unconfirmed	1

Summary

Total nominations carried over from the First Session	216
Total nominations received this Session	15,479
Total confirmed	13,542
Total unconfirmed	2,113
Total withdrawn	40
Total returned to the White House	0

Next Meeting of the SENATE

10 a.m., Tuesday, September 9

Senate Chamber

Program for Tuesday: After the transaction of any morning business (not to extend beyond 1 hour), Senate will continue consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of S. 3001, National Defense Authorization Act.

(Senate will recess from 12:30 p.m. until 2:15 p.m. for their respective party conferences.)

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

10:30 a.m., Tuesday, September 9

House Chamber

Program for Tuesday: Consideration of the following suspensions: (1) H. Res. 937—Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the emergency communications services provided by the American Red Cross are vital resources for military service members and their families; (2) H. Res. 1069—Condemning the use of television programming by Hamas to indoctrinate hatred, violence, and anti-Semitism toward Israel in young Palestinian children; (3) H. Res. 1159—Recognizing the historical significance of the United States sloop-of-war Constellation as a surviving witness to the horrors of the Transatlantic Slave Trade and a leading participant in America's effort to end the practice; (4) H. Res. 1254—Supporting the values and goals of the ''Joint Action Plan Between the Government of the Federative Republic of Brazil and the Government of the United States of America to Eliminate Racial and Ethnic Discrimination and Promote Equality'', signed by Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and Brazilian Minister of Racial Integration Edson Santos on March 13, 2008; (5) H. Res. 1383—Recognizing the 100th anniversary of the independence of Bulgaria; (6) H. Con. Res. 344—Recognizing that we are facing a global food crisis; (7) H. Res. 1307—Commemorating the Kingdom of Bhutan's participation in the 2008 Smithsonian Folklife Festival and commending the people and the Government of the Kingdom of Bhutan for their commitment to holding elections and broadening political participation; (8) H.R. 5683—Government Accountability Office Act of 2008; (9) H.R. 6168—To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 112 South 5th Street in Saint Charles, Missouri, as the ''Lance Corporal Drew W. Weaver Post Office Building''; (10) H.R. 6169—To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 15455 Manchester Road in Ballwin, Missouri, as the ''Specialist Peter J. Navarro Post Office Building''; (11) H.R. 6575—The Over-Classification Reduction Act; (12) H.R. 6513—Securities Act of 2008; (13) H. Res. 1207—Directing the Chief Administrative Officer of the House of Representatives to provide individuals whose pay is disbursed by the Chief Administrative Officer by electronic funds transfer with the option of receiving receipts of pay and withholdings electronically; (14) H.R. 6608—House Reservists Pay Adjustment Act of 2008; (15) H.R. 6475—Daniel Webster Congressional Clerkship Act of 2008; (16) H.R. 1527—Rural Veterans Access to Care Act; (17) S. 2617—Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2008; (18) H.R. 6832—Veterans' Construction and Extensions Act of 2008; (19) H.R. 6630—To prohibit the Secretary of Transportation from granting authority to motor carriers domiciled in Mexico; and (20) H.R. 4081—Prevent All Cigarette Trafficking Act of 2008.

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