

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### HONORING PHILLIP TORRES

#### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 17, 2008*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Phillip Torres of Kansas City, Missouri. Phillip is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1707, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Phillip has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Phillip has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Phillip Torres for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

### HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

#### HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 17, 2008*

Mr. MARCHANT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Church of the Nazarene on its 100th Anniversary for providing a place to worship, learn, and assist those in need.

In honor of this special anniversary, the Church of the Nazarene has declared October 5, 2008, as The Centennial Sunday. On that day, churches of this denomination will gather across the globe as one body united around a common worship, a common message, and a common scripture. The Centennial Sunday is an organized effort by the church to remember their heritage and those that have gone before them, as well as look to the future, as they continue, through the power of the Holy Spirit, to spread the gospel further throughout the world.

This occasion serves to highlight the Church of the Nazarene's history and their continued commitment to the cause of Christ. The sustained growth of this church and their pledge to holiness stands as a lasting testament to the determination of a small group who overcame prejudices and divisions as they devoted themselves to God and unity with their fellow man.

During and shortly after this country's bloody Civil War, our nation found itself bitterly divided. At that same time, the Wesleyan-Holiness Movement likewise splintered into numerous divisions over race, region and several theological issues such as baptism and wom-

en's role in the church. For the next 40 years the Holiness Movement was reduced to scattered denominations, divided by their location and ideologies.

The year between October, 1907 and October, 1908 marked a significant turning point for the Holiness Movement. Three of the movement's regional denominations made a commitment to put aside past differences and embrace in unity the mutually held convictions of their faith. The culmination of their efforts came to fruition on October 8, 1908 in Pilot Point, Texas, where the denominations met together to form the Church of the Nazarene. Under the leadership of individuals such as Phineas Bresee and Hiram Reynolds, the church again united as one body and began to spread the gospel throughout the world.

Looking back over the past 100 years, the Church of the Nazarene has experienced significant change. Yet, through these years, their mission has remained fundamentally the same. The Church itself has declared that, their "primary objective . . . is to advance God's Kingdom by the preservation and propagation of Christian holiness as set forth in the Scriptures." The Church of the Nazarene has always taken seriously the call to take the Good News to all nations and to fellowship with one another in love. The church continues to serve as a beacon for holiness and Christian community throughout the world.

Madam Speaker, please join me in applauding the Church of the Nazarene as it celebrates 100 years of dedicated fellowship. Clergy and members of the past and present are to be commended for their service to the church and greater community. It is my hope that the Church of the Nazarene continues to stand as symbol of resolve, inspiration, and worship for many years to come.

### IN RECOGNITION OF HISPANIC AMERICAN SOLDIERS AND IN CELEBRATION OF HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

#### HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 17, 2008*

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Hispanic servicemen and women that have chosen honorable paths of public service and devoted themselves to the cause of defending this great Nation.

Since 1968, the United States has set aside a designated period of time to recognize the contributions of Hispanic Americans and to celebrate Hispanic heritage and culture. Our soldiers put themselves in harm's way and make sacrifices to protect the freedoms we enjoy. The uniform they wear knows no gender, no social status, and no political affiliation. It knows that these brave souls share only one thing—a deep love for America.

Master Sergeant Roy Perez Benavidez and Staff Sergeant Marcario Garcia were two re-

markable individuals that proudly served in the U.S. Army. They were awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for their courage and heroic actions; Roy for his service in the Vietnam War and Marcario for his service in Germany during World War II. While these are two notable examples, there are many other Hispanic American soldiers that deserve our gratitude. These are the men and women who leave their loved ones to serve the greater good. They are the ones who put on the uniform everyday knowing that their sacrifices today guarantee us our freedom and safety tomorrow.

Madam Speaker, I ask my esteemed colleagues to join me in expressing heartfelt gratitude to these soldiers.

### TRIBUTE TO MARINE CAPTAIN JESSE MELTON, III

#### HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 17, 2008*

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Madam Speaker, I rise before you today to honor Marine Captain Jesse Melton, III, who died serving his country on September 9th, 2008. Captain Jesse Melton, 29, of Randallstown, Maryland, died as a result of multiple traumatic injuries sustained while conducting combat operations in Afghanistan. Captain Melton was assigned to Headquarters Battery, 12th Marines, 3rd Marine Division, Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii.

Jesse graduated from Randallstown High School in Baltimore County, Maryland, where he played lacrosse and baseball. He then attended Messiah College in Grantham, Pennsylvania, where he studied communications. After his freshman year, however, Jesse decided to join the Marine Corps Reserve and attended Boot Camp in South Carolina, an experience his family says changed his life. Upon completion of his basic training, Jesse's drill sergeant recommended him for Officer Candidate School, training Jesse completed while earning his degree in communications from Messiah College.

Jesse was commissioned as a second lieutenant in June of 2000 and served two tours in Japan. He was promoted to the rank of captain and deployed for a tour in Iraq. In March, Captain Melton was deployed again, this time to Afghanistan. He was supporting combat operations in the Parwan province at the time of his death.

The Randallstown High and Messiah College alumnus is survived by his mother, Mrs. Janice Chance, his younger sister Jenine Melton and brother Joshua Melton, and stepfather Charlton Chance, all of Owings Mills, Maryland, as well as his stepisters Christine and Laura Chance, and his grandmother Ethel Matthews of Baltimore.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join with me today in honoring the life of a man truly dedicated to serving his country.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

SUPPORTING TAIWAN'S FULL  
MEMBERSHIP IN THE U.N.

**HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 17, 2008*

Mr. TANCREDO. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of Taiwan's full membership in the United Nations.

Taiwan is an independent, peace loving, and democratic nation that enjoys formal diplomatic relations with more than twenty other nations. In addition, the island nation maintains informal bilateral relations with more than one hundred other countries, precisely because those other countries know that the government in Beijing does not—as it often asserts—speak for democratic Taiwan.

Beijing often argues that Taiwan's 23 million people are represented by the unelected government of the People's Republic of China in international bodies like the United Nations as well. But the Beijing authorities routinely threaten to attack Taiwan, and have deployed more than 1,000 missiles on its southeastern coast aimed directly at the island. So while it might be politically expedient for China to argue that it represents Taiwan, no fair-minded person or government could honestly be expected to believe such a preposterous claim. And of course, most countries realize this.

As I mentioned earlier, while Taiwan's government enjoys formal diplomatic ties with some two dozen nations, Taipei maintains more than 100 quasi-embassies or "trade offices" in nearly every country in the world. And most of these countries—including the United States—maintain a reciprocal mission in Taiwan's capital, Taipei. Why? The reason is obvious: because we all realize that the totalitarian government of China doesn't really speak for the people of democratic Taiwan.

The United Nations is no different.

Madam Speaker, Taiwan's new government has attempted to strike a more conciliatory tone this year, asking only for Taiwan's participation in U.N. affiliated agencies rather than for full membership. This modest proposal is a good start, and I hope the Bush Administration will direct our U.N. representative to support it.

Should Taiwan be successful in its quest for meaningful participation in the United Nations this year, I sincerely hope that they will build on that success by applying for full U.N. membership next year. After all, Taiwan maintains its own military, elects its own leaders, conducts its own foreign affairs, controls its own territory, has a larger population than Australia, and boasts one of the most dynamic economies in the world.

Simply put, Taiwan is more than qualified for membership, and eager to make a meaningful contribution.

As a democratic friend and ally of Taiwan, the United States should be among those speaking up for Taiwan. We should make it clear to the other member states that we believe it is unfair to exclude Taiwan and its 23 million citizens from the world community—and that Taiwan's membership poses no threat to China, or the achievement of a peaceful and equitable solution to Cross-Strait differences.

A TRIBUTE TO JOHN AMIOTT'S  
"YESTERDAY A VETERAN DIED"

**HON. KEITH ELLISON**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 17, 2008*

Mr. ELLISON. Madam Speaker, I submit the following:

YESTERDAY A VETERAN DIED

John Amriott, USAF 1967-1970

Yesterday a veteran died but the world hardly noticed. Age or race or gender, it made no difference; soldier or sailor, airman or marine, it made no difference.

Yesterday a veteran died. He was one of the millions, who, over the centuries, interrupted his life to serve when his country called.

Yesterday a veteran died. He wore his uniform with pride and sense of purpose. He went where he was asked to go and performed the duties for which he had been trained. He committed to fight their fights and to safeguard their secrets with a solemn oath that remained unbroken.

Yesterday a veteran died. He was changed forever by his experiences but his society also changed. The lines of social consciousness were redrawn, the old morality was altered and by the time of his return he found different standards applied.

Yesterday a veteran died. Like the hundreds of generations before him and the endless roster of those who will follow, he tried to make sense of the chaos and confusion created by the metamorphous of a citizen turned warrior and then returned to the life of a civilian.

Yesterday a veteran died. And, as with far too many of his peers, the real conflict began when the tour of duty ended. His personal battle would become a private hell; a hell born from the memories of the reality of life in a shadow world. A place where a chosen few practiced their craft; a world few outsiders knew existed and even fewer understood. His was that shadow world, the one he could never completely leave; the one from which there was no escape.

Yesterday a veteran died. Now his soul would find the elusive peace of mind and spirit for which he had been searching. No longer will he awake, sweating and screaming in the night, plagued by the nightmares of his past. No longer will the ghosts of war haunt him, no longer will the cries of conflict echo in his ears.

Yesterday a veteran died. When he is laid to rest an honor guard will fire a rifle volley to mark his passing. And for him the mournful wail of a bugle will sound one final time.

Yesterday a veteran died. He will face his God knowing he served his country and did his best. The family and friends he loved will weep and mourn their loss. And the world will hardly notice that we have all been diminished.

Yesterday a veteran died. But with the grace of God and the wisdom of nations, perhaps we are closer to the time when we will no longer need to say, "Yesterday a veteran died."

And then, perhaps, finally, the world will notice.

HONOR TERESA McCABE, CARLA  
HUNTER, AND BETH PETERS  
CURTIN

**HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO**

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 17, 2008*

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Teresa McCabe, Carla Hunter and Beth Peters Curtin, who are being recognized as 2008 Women of Distinction by the Girl Scouts of Shawnee Council in West Virginia.

These three ladies were chosen for their leadership and contribution to the community, their profession, and how they serve as role models for young women. The Girl Scouts of Shawnee Council honor three women annually from the Eastern Panhandle that exemplify these qualities.

The first honoree, Teresa McCabe, was nominated by The United Way of the Eastern Panhandle for the significant impact she has had in her community. McCabe is the vice president of marketing and development for West Virginia University Hospitals—East. She was involved with both the United Way and the City Hospital before their mergers and is also involved with the Rotary, American Cancer Society and both Jefferson and Berkeley Counties Chambers of Commerce. Born and raised in Charles Town, WV, McCabe has been able to give back to the community in which she was raised.

Carla Hunter, the department chair and school counselor at Washington High School, works tirelessly to make her school the best school in the area. She was nominated for Women of Distinction by Asbury United Methodist Church in Shepherdstown. Education is a passion of hers, and she gives much of her free time to ensure young children have a bright future. As a former Girl Scout, Carla knows how much of an impact Girl Scouts can have on a young woman's life.

The final recipient of the 2008 Women of Distinction award is Beth Peters Curtin. In addition to being the executive director of the Berkeley Springs-Morgan County Chamber of Commerce, Beth is also a member of the Economic Development Authority, founding member of the Museum of Berkeley Springs and director of Apple Butter Festival. She spends what little spare time she has serving her community. Beth has learned from her mother's generation what great role models women can be and wants to pass that on to the next generation as well.

It is an honor to represent these three outstanding women who serve as strong leaders and excellent role models for young women in their communities. Congratulations to Teresa McCabe, Carla Hunter and Beth Peters Curtin as the 2008 Women of Distinction.

RECOGNIZING MR. STEVEN SHAPIRO FOR HIS NATIONAL LEADERSHIP IN BUILDING SAFETY AND FIRE PROTECTION

**HON. THELMA D. DRAKE**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 17, 2008*

Mrs. DRAKE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Steven Shapiro, a resident of

Hampton, Virginia, and someone I am especially proud to have as a constituent. In addition to his full-time public service as the Building Official for Hampton, this year Steve has also served as President of the Board of the International Code Council. It is the on-going work of the Code Council that provides the nation with an extensive body of model building and fire safety regulations. His role as the President of the Code Council is the culmination of 30 years of experience, leadership and tireless work in ensuring that we are well protected in the buildings where we live and work.

I would also like to recognize the Code Council's work on Capitol Hill this year in advocating for legislation to build a program to bolster local governmental capacity to ensure compliance with its building and fire codes. A high point of their effort occurred in May when the Code Council's leadership assembled here in Washington, D.C. during Building Safety Week 2008. With focused attention, Mr. Shapiro's delegation worked with over 120 Congressional offices like mine on enactment of the Community Building Code Administration Grant Act. I am proud to be a cosponsor of H.R. 4461, the House version of the Act, and to have worked with my Colleague DENNIS MOORE, the sponsor, and the Code Council and its broad coalition in achieving House passage this July.

Leading a membership association of over nearly 50,000 building safety and fire prevention professionals is, of course, a substantial preoccupation, and the City of Hampton, its Mayor Ross Kearney and City Manager Jesse Wallace are also to be thanked for supporting Steve's volunteer work in leadership of the Code Council. I am proud that local leadership from my District is at work in leading the development and maintenance of the building and fire codes that protect us all across the country. These safety codes, independently modified for adoption by the Commonwealth of Virginia and all across the country, govern construction and maintenance of our residential and commercial buildings, including the homes and the business, schools, and places of worship we use and visit regularly.

So I applaud Steve's three decades as a relentless advocate for building safety; a mission that he is sure to carry on for quite some time. In working on that mission he serves not only Hampton and the Commonwealth, but, in his role as President of the Board of the Code Council, has served the rest of the nation as well. In his non-volunteer job as Director of Codes Compliance for the City of Hampton, he continues to ensure the safety of construction our very historic city of nearly 150,000 residents; a town proud of the title as the first continuous English-speaking settlement in America. Steve is an honored and distinguished citizen of my District, and as a leader of the ICC has shared with the nation his values as an outstanding public safety professional and a truly dedicated public servant.

I would also like to take this opportunity to recognize the rest of the ICC delegation who visited Capitol Hill during Building Safety Week 2008, and thank them for their efforts to promote and defend a safe and sound built-environment. Those individuals include: Board Vice President Adolf Zubia, Board Secretary/Treasurer Ron Lynn, Immediate Past President of the Board Wally Bailey; Board members Gregori Anderson, James Brothers, John

Darnall, Gerald George, Greg Johnson, Stephen Jones, Barbara Koffron, John LaTorra, Ronald Lynn, Doug Murdock, Ronald Piester, James Ryan and Jeff Whitney; International Accreditation Services Board Chair Majed Dabdoub, Vice Chair Ravi Shah and Board Members John Barrios, Guy Tomberlin, Michael Bouse, and Isam Hasenin and IAS President Chuck Ramani; ICC Government Relations Advisory Committee Chair Rebecca Baker, and Committee Members Jim Martin, Lynn Underwood and George Wiggins; ICC Chapter Leaders Tina Rakes, Robert Boyer, Gary Schenk and John Glover; Matthew Wheeler of the California Building Officials; and members of ICC's professional staff including its CEO Richard Weiland, COO Dominic Sims, David deCourcy, Sara Yerkes, Jim Tidwell, Mark Dinneen, Richard Kuchnicki, Laura Scott, Matthew Lightfoot, Gretchen Hesbacher, and Jennifer Gibson.

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HONORING ANDREW O'NEIL

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 17, 2008*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Andrew O'Neil of Kansas City, Missouri. Andrew is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1374, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Andrew has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Andrew has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Andrew O'Neil for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

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PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. J. GRESHAM BARRETT**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 17, 2008*

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, due to my attendance at events in my district and state discussing legislation that will help move our country toward energy independence, I unfortunately missed recorded votes on the House floor on Monday, September 15, 2008.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall vote No. 589, Motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 1200, "yes" on rollcall vote No. 590, Motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Con. Res. 390, and "yes" on rollcall vote No. 591, Motion to suspend the rules and agree to H.R. 6889.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE RETIREMENT OF COLONEL RAY HELTON, UNITED STATES ARMY

**HON. JEFF MILLER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 17, 2008*

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Colonel Ray Helton, United States Army, who is retiring after 33 years of dedicated service to this Nation. Colonel Helton currently serves as the Director of Legislative Affairs for the United States Special Operations Command, MacDill Air Force Base, Florida, with duty in Washington, DC. He is the principal advisor to the commander and senior USSOCOM officials on congressional affairs. In this capacity, I have had the pleasure and honor to come to know Ray well as we have travelled together on various congressional delegations.

Colonel Helton enlisted in the Army in February 1975, completed Special Forces training, and served with the 10th Special Forces Group. After his enlistment ended, he attended the University of Illinois where he graduated as a distinguished military graduate. He returned to active duty in January 1981 as an infantry officer. His Infantry assignments included leading two platoons in the 3d Infantry Division and commanding two companies in the 101st Airborne Division. He served as a company commander, battalion executive officer and battalion commander in the 3d Special Forces Group. He has conducted training and operations with soldiers on five continents. Colonel Helton also served as the chief of assignments of the Combat Arms Division in United States Personnel Command, as a strategic planner and writer on the Joint Staff and as the Garrison Commander of Fort Drum, New York.

Colonel Helton's military education includes the infantry officer basic course, airborne school, combat divers course, air assault school, ranger school, Special Forces qualification school, and the joint psychological operations course, just to name a few. He also received a master of arts degree in national strategy and policy from the Naval War College and a master of science degree in national resource strategy from the Industrial College of the Armed Forces.

Madam Speaker, few can match the dedication and professionalism of Ray Helton. He is a man of honor and a man of principle. On behalf of the United States Congress, I wish to thank Ray for his years of dedicated service. Vicki and I wish him, his wife Jane, and their children and grandchildren the best wishes for continued success.

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PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 17, 2008*

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Madam Speaker, unfortunately on September 16, 2008, I was unable to cast my votes on the Motion to Adjourn. Had I been present for rollcall No. 592, on the Motion to Adjourn, I would have voted "nay."

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. MICHAEL T. McCAUL**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 17, 2008*

Mr. McCAUL of Texas. Madam Speaker on rollcall No. 598 I was unable to cast my vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

## HONORING MITCHELL APPLEMAN

**HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 17, 2008*

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today in memory of Mitchell Appleman, a south Florida veteran of World War II and President-Emeritus of the Hallandale Jewish Center. Mr. Appleman was a well-known member of our community, involved with numerous causes and organizations. He was born in Brooklyn, New York and attended Princeton University before enlisting and fighting in General Patton's army in Europe during World War II. Upon his discharge from the U.S. Army, Mr. Appleman made a living in architectural woodworking, lending his skills to schools, hospitals, courtrooms, and religious institutions. After retiring to south Florida in 1976, he began his second career of service in his new community. Mr. Appleman became active at the Hallandale Jewish Center, serving as its longest acting president for many years and most recently as Chairman of the Board and its President-Emeritus. He was also Treasurer of the South Florida Chapter of Friends for Life. Through his work at the Hallandale Jewish Center, Mr. Appleman went on to support Jewish day schools in the south Florida community, American Friends of Bar-Ilan University, the Anti-Defamation League, and the Jewish Federation. In addition to his wife of 12 years, Riki, Mr. Appleman is survived by his two children, Nanci Vassil and Mark Appleman, and their spouses Nick and Billie; his grandchildren, Aslan, Michael, Layla and Jason; his great-grandson, Brighton; and a very close cousin, Howard Appleman. Mitchell Appleman was a kind, wonderful man whose presence will be greatly missed.

## HONORING MICHAEL KREKELER

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 17, 2008*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Michael Krekeler of Blue Springs, Missouri. Michael is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1362, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Michael has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Michael has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Michael Krekeler for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

## FLOODING IN ILLINOIS

**HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 17, 2008*

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the heroic efforts of all those in my district who have responded to the destruction that Hurricane Ike left in its path. After ravaging Texas and Louisiana, Hurricane Ike's rains made their way through the Midwest, devastating the area with record-level rainfall and causing massive flooding in northeastern Illinois, including parts of my district. Throughout the Chicagoland area, the amounts of rain broke records—almost 7 inches of rain fell in my district on just 1 day, the most in history. More than 90 billion gallons of rain were dumped on the area.

Governor Blagojevich declared seven counties in Illinois disaster areas. This will set in motion a process that will allow the Federal Government to make a major disaster declaration so that Illinois can be eligible for Federal assistance to help individuals, families, and businesses and help local governments; and hazard mitigation assistance so affected areas can implement projects to reduce future flood damage. In the meantime, I have encouraged my constituents to avoid flooded areas, to report instances of price gouging, and to be prepared with a solid inventory of the items they have lost when they contact their insurance companies to report damage.

Every single community in my district was affected, particularly the towns of Des Plaines and Park Ridge. I would like to thank and commend the Illinois Emergency Management Agency, local first-responders, the American Red Cross, and local elected officials like my friend Des Plaines Mayor Arredia—who has been a leader in the effort to prevent flooding in the region—for quickly mobilizing the response and providing relief for the flood victims. I also want to recognize the neighbors who helped their neighbors, and all of the people who came together in the face of hardship. Their response to Hurricane Ike was a great example of the heart of the people of my district.

Yesterday, I joined Governor Blagojevich and other State, county, and local elected officials at the Prairie Lake Community Center in Des Plaines, which is serving as a relief and relocation shelter, to visit with people displaced from their homes with nowhere to go and thank the Red Cross volunteers who are doing such great work. I promised those people taking shelter that I won't stop working with the Army Corps of Engineers to complete the Des Plaines River Project. Those parts of the project that have already been completed made a difference and saved homes from being flooded. I will also keep working to ensure that local municipal projects that address flood prevention get the funds they need.

Congress needs to appropriate funds to respond to the devastation that Hurricane Ike and Hurricane Gustav left in their wake. I urge

all of my colleagues to join me in making sure that we allocate sufficient resources to help FEMA, the Army Corps of Engineers, and States and communities across the country rebuild in a coming spending package.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. TIM MAHONEY**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 17, 2008*

Mr. MAHONEY of Florida. Madam Speaker, on September 16, 2008, I was unavoidably detained and unable to vote on rollcall votes 592 and 594.

Had I been able to vote, I would have voted "nay" on rollcall votes 592 and 594.

## TRIBUTE TO STANTON THOMPSON

**HON. IKE SKELTON**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 17, 2008*

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, it has come to my attention that a long and exceptionally distinguished career will soon come to an end. RADM Stanton Thompson of Higginsville, Missouri, will retire from his position as the county executive director for the Farm Service Agency on November 14, 2008.

Rear Admiral Thompson grew up in Saline County, where he graduated from Slater High School. Following that, Mr. Thompson received two degrees from the University of Missouri—Columbia.

In 1977, Rear Admiral Thompson began his career with the Farm Service Agency as the Caldwell County executive director. With the support of his family and friends, he was able to carry on a successful career spanning 30 years as the county executive director of both Lafayette and Caldwell counties. In 2002, Rear Admiral Thompson's office was nationally recognized when it received the FSA Administrator's Award for efforts to educate women landowners. Thompson has directed a comprehensive overhaul of the state's management training program, utilizing his experience of training over 100 county operations trainees. As director of the Farm Service Agency, Rear Admiral Thompson helped issue millions of dollars in Federal agricultural program benefits to over 3,000 customers.

In addition to his accomplished business career, Rear Admiral Thompson is a retired two-star Admiral in the U.S. Navy Reserve, providing our Nation with over 35 years of service. He is a veteran of the Vietnam war, First Gulf war, and the global war on terrorism.

Madam Speaker, I know the Members of the House will join me in paying tribute to RADM (Ret.) Stanton Thompson for his outstanding career and dedication to his country and in wishing him all the best as he enters the next stage of his life with his wife, Sandy, and with his loving children and grandchildren.

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR GENERAL  
WALTER WOJDAKOWSKI

**HON. LYNN A. WESTMORELAND**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 17, 2008*

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great American soldier who has dedicated his life to our country. Maj. Gen. Walter Wojdakowski will retire from the U.S. Army Jan. 1 after more than three decades of service, capping his career as the commanding general at Fort Benning in Columbus, Ga.

A native of Colorado, Wojdakowski found a welcoming home in Georgia. In this way he is no different than thousands of soldiers who've come before him. The people of west Georgia are deeply proud of Fort Benning; they hold the soldiers in high esteem and treat them like part of the family.

Wojdakowski felt that family feeling strongly in 1976 when he was first stationed at Fort Benning. On one fateful July night that year, a young Columbus woman named Candy Cooper caught his eye at the officers' club. It wasn't long before they were off on their first date at a local Shoney's Big Boy and a year later Candy Cooper would become Candy Wojdakowski. The soldier's lifelong love would become his lifelong partner in service to their nation and to fellow military families.

As a military family, the Wojdakowskis have moved their family to points across the nation and across the globe—from Georgia to Alaska to Germany and Kuwait. The Wojdakowskis' road, however, often pointed back toward Georgia. In 1993, then a colonel, Wojdakowski assumed command of the 11th Regiment at Fort Benning. He returned in 1996 as a brigadier general.

Wojdakowski's final tour of duty at Benning began in 2005 when the major general took charge of the entire base. Wojdakowski's crowning achievement in the military would come at the same base where his own family began, Fort Benning, GA. There, at the world's largest infantry training center, Wojdakowski kept the focus on training our nation's warriors and supporting the War on Terror. At the same time, his leadership prepared Benning for a massive expansion that will greatly transform the base.

While it was the general alone who wore the uniform that got a little heavier every year with military hardware, Wojdakowski's career was anything but a solo mission. It was a family affair. Candy volunteered at every port of call. For example, she ran a family support group at Fort Hood during the first Gulf War. At Fort Benning, she worked as a master trainer for Army Family Team Building and she began a leadership seminar. Their son Steven followed in his father's footsteps. After graduating from Columbus High School in 1998, Steven entered West Point—where his 6 foot 4 inch father played on the basketball team under coach Bobby Knight 30 years before. Steven, now a captain, is currently serving in Iraq as a Troop Commander to the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment. Their daughter Ami may have started a family tradition when she got married earlier this year in the same Fort Benning chapel where her parents tied the knot.

The American people owe the Wojdakowskis a debt of gratitude for a lifetime

of service and sacrifice, a lifetime of duty before self. Maj. Gen. Wojdakowski has worn his nation's uniform with honor, dignity and pride since the day he graduated from West Point. On behalf of the U.S. House of Representatives, I want to thank the general and his wife Candy for everything they have given us. I congratulate them on their many accomplishments and wish them years of happiness as they retire to beautiful Harris County in Georgia's 3rd Congressional District.

POSTHUMOUS TRIBUTE TO JOHN  
S. PERAGALLO

**HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 17, 2008*

Mr. PASCRELL. Madam Speaker, I would like to call to your attention the life of an outstanding individual, John S. Peragallo, who passed away on September 12, 2008 at the age of 76. He will be remembered for his life long dedication to his family, friends, and his family business.

It is only fitting that he be honored in this, the permanent record of the greatest democracy ever known, for he brought joy and peace, through his craft, to many others throughout his lifetime.

John was born in New York, but was a lifelong resident of Paterson, NJ. He graduated from Eastside High School in 1949 and went on to take several classes at Newark College of Engineering. He served our country in the United States Army during the Korean Conflict and was a chaplain's assistant and a member of the honor guard.

Since John's childhood, he helped his father in the family business of building and servicing pipe organs. The Peragallo Pipe Organ Company was founded by his father, John Peragallo, Sr., in 1918, after learning the craft as an apprentice with the famous E.M. Skinner Organ Company. John Jr. joined the company in 1949 and made the business stronger with a close father-son relationship. John Peragallo, Jr. was President of the company. He was responsible for the construction and care of many of the pipe organs throughout New Jersey, and for the complete renovation of the organs at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City. John Jr.'s sons, John III and Frank, have been actively involved in the business since the 1980's and now a fourth generation of Peragallos, Janine, Anthony, and John IV, work alongside them. The company has installed almost 700 new organs and currently maintains about 400 along the east coast, including those at St. Patrick's Cathedral.

John was a member of the American Guild of Organists, Northern NJ Chapter, St. John Vianney/St. Elizabeth of Hungary Fraternity and was active with the Boy Scouts of America when his sons were younger.

John and his wife Christine met at the St. Anthony's Church Carnival in Paterson in 1955, and he took her to the Plaza Theatre in Paterson on their first date. Christine was indoctrinated into the family business on their second date, which was to a church so John could check the organ. They married eleven months after meeting and had a dynamic, spontaneous, loving marriage of fifty-two years.

He will be dearly missed by his wife, Christine, his children John III and his wife Kathleen, Frank and his wife Josephine, Stephen and his wife Debra, and Christine Egan and her husband Christopher, his 10 grandchildren and one great-grandson, and his sister Catherine Miller and her husband Charles.

Although John passed away, his spirit will always be with us. John will forever be remembered for the love he shared with his family and friends, and for the music that is made with the grand instruments that John spent his life constructing and maintaining.

The job of a United States Congressman involves much that is rewarding, yet nothing compares to learning about and recognizing individuals like John S. Peragallo.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, John's family and friends, all those who have been touched by the sacred music that he helped to create, and me in recognizing the contributions of John S. Peragallo.

HONORING CHRISTOPHER MORROW

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 17, 2008*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Christopher Morrow of Blue Springs, Missouri. Christopher is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1138, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Christopher has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Christopher has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Christopher Morrow for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

IN SUPPORT OF THE 37TH RYDER  
CUP AT VALHALLA

**HON. JOHN A. YARMUTH**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 17, 2008*

Mr. YARMUTH. Madam Speaker, today my hometown of Louisville continues to recover from windstorms that battered our region, leaving hundreds of thousands without power. Still, the resilient residents of our community will rise to host the 37th Ryder Cup at Valhalla Golf Course, and in turn, the Ryder Cup will generate tens of millions of dollars for our local economy over the next five days.

This is the culmination of Dwight Gahn's vision when he commissioned Jack Nicklaus to design a Louisville golf course. The course has twice held the PGA championship and today ascends to new heights with the 80-year-old, biennial summit of sports. Here, Europe's best golfers will compete against America's greatest, not for personal wealth but for the spirit of competition. More than three million dollars will be donated to charity on behalf of the Ryder Cup.

Among the 12 American players, I proudly welcome home two Kentuckians, Kenny Perry and JB Holmes. I know they, along with their other American teammates, will represent our country well.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the Ryder Cup and the people of Louisville who overcome adversity this week to host one of the world's greatest sports traditions.

TRIBUTE TO LONGTIME WIREGRASS BROADCASTER, HOWARD PARRISH, JR.

### HON. TERRY EVERETT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 17, 2008*

Mr. EVERETT. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to longtime Wiregrass broadcaster and servant of his community, Mr. Howard Parrish, Jr., of Ozark, Alabama, who passed away July 28 at the age of 82.

At the same time that local radio established itself as a vital link between rural America and the world, Parrish became a familiar and trusted voice for Ozark, Alabama listeners.

A veteran of the U.S. Army Air Corps, a graduate of Georgia Southern and a native of Atlanta, he moved to southeast Alabama in 1955, leaving the growing Atlanta radio scene and that city's first commercial FM station to help run the relatively new broadcast station in Ozark, WOZK, 900 AM.

To his many Dale County listeners, Howard was the voice of WOZK. But he was much more than a friendly announcer. He was general manager, sales manager and chief engineer for WOZK and its FM counterpart, WOAB, for the better part of 45 years.

Parrish likely delivered over 16,000 newscasts over the Ozark airwaves during his tenure at WOZK and WOAB-FM. Despite his continual Ozark broadcast duties, he also found time to construct radio station WELB in neighboring Elba in 1959 and he served as general manager of WDHN-TV 18 in Dothan, Alabama in the early 1970s, returning the struggling TV station to financial stability. He retired from WOZK/WOAB and all local broadcasting in 2002.

Parrish leaves a long legacy of community service, both on the air and through volunteerism. Parrish was an active member of the Ozark Rotary and Kiwanis clubs and was a charter member of the local Civitan Club.

Parrish was one of the Wiregrass's longest serving broadcasters and he shared a great love for communications. He was also well known in local amateur radio circles for his devotion to the hobby. He was a licensed radio amateur, W4IEO, for over 65 years.

I wish to extend my condolences to his wife, Jane, and his children and grandchildren for their loss. Ozark's long-time "voice" may now be silent, but he will be long remembered.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. CANDICE S. MILLER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 17, 2008*

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 598, I was unavoidably delayed.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

SUPPORTING THE SECOND AMENDMENT RIGHTS OF DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA RESIDENTS

### HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 17, 2008*

Mr. ISSA. Madam Speaker, I am pleased that the House of Representatives has voted to hold the District of Columbia accountable for violating the civil rights of D.C. residents for decades. Making the District adhere to the Constitution now is better than waiting 180 days. Once the District comes into compliance with the Supreme Court decision, D.C. residents will finally be able to defend themselves against armed criminals. The District's anti-gun law created a bastion for crime. Our action here today puts D.C. residents first and criminals second.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. THOMAS H. ALLEN

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 17, 2008*

Mr. ALLEN. Madam Speaker, on September 15, 2008, I was unavoidably absent from the House.

If I had been present, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall vote No. 591, a motion by Mr. SCOTT of Virginia to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 6889, a bill to extend the authority of the Secretary of Education to purchase guaranteed student loans for an additional year, and for other purposes.

I ask unanimous consent that this statement be inserted in the appropriate place in the RECORD.

#### HONORING JESSE ANDERSON

### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 17, 2008*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Jesse Anderson of Grain Valley, Missouri. Jesse is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1246, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Jesse has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Jesse has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Jesse Anderson for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 17, 2008*

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and missed rollcall vote 598 on September 16, 2008. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

#### INTRODUCTION OF MANIILAQ ASSOCIATION ACT

### HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 17, 2008*

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to introduce legislation today which will transfer property from the Department of Health and Human Services to the Maniilaq Association in Kotzebue, Alaska. This transfer would occur through the Indian Health Service, the current owners of the properties.

Since 1995, Maniilaq Association, a Native non-profit entity in Kotzebue, Alaska has carried out a comprehensive health care delivery program to residents in Kotzebue, Alaska and the Northwest Arctic Borough. They have carried out these responsibilities under the Alaska Tribal Health Compact and Funding Agreement negotiated annually with the Indian Health Service. These agreements give Maniilaq Association the right to acquire title to all federal property that they have utilized to provide these health care services.

Currently, the Indian Health Service owns the properties that Maniilaq Association uses to carry out its health care delivery services. While there is an administrative process in place for them to acquire these properties, the process is cumbersome and sometimes may take years to accomplish the goal of acquiring these properties. Thus, Maniilaq Association is asking for legislation to acquire the properties listed in my legislation.

Madam Speaker, we are not setting a precedent with this legislation. Congress, in the past, has enacted legislation which transfers excess government properties to non-profits such as Maniilaq Association.

My legislation would authorize the Secretary of the Health and Human Services, through the Indian Health Service, to transfer to the Maniilaq Association by a warranty deed to a number of parcels of land legally described in my legislation.

I am pleased to introduce this legislation on behalf of Maniilaq Association to allow them to continue with their health care delivery programs and to provide better services to their patients and residents of the Northwest Arctic Borough.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 17, 2008*

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, due to official business in New York related to the anniversary of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, I was unable to travel to Washington,

DC. As a result, I missed votes on September 11, 2008. I ask that the RECORD reflect that had I been able to, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall vote No. 585 approving the Journal; "aye" on rollcall vote No. 586 commemorating the anniversary of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks; "aye" on rollcall vote No. 587 restoring the Highway Trust Fund balance; and "aye" on rollcall vote No. 588 motion to adjourn.

HONORING NEBRASKA'S WORLD  
WAR II VETERANS

**HON. ADRIAN SMITH**

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 17, 2008*

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of the men and women who served our country during World War II, and the national non-profit organization dedicated to helping World War II veterans visit the World War II Memorial here in Washington D.C.

I have had the honor of meeting with these veterans—in Nebraska and at the memorial built to thank them for their strength, bravery, and sacrifices.

It has been over 60 years since World War II ended with the surrender of the Japanese, bringing to the close a war in which 16 million American men and women served.

Less than five million are still with us.

This week, nearly 250 Nebraska World War II vets visited D.C. They came from Omaha, Scottsbluff, and towns in between. They came from small towns like Thedford and Nebraska's capital city, Lincoln.

I know their visit to Washington was a trip of a lifetime for each and every one of them, and I know I speak for all of us when I thank them for their service to our country.

I also want to thank the Heartland Honor Flight for their efforts to make this trip a reality. During the past four years, honor flights have transported more than 5,000 veterans to our nation's capital.

I'm proud to live in a country which honors our heroes.

2008 POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY

**HON. JOHN SHIMKUS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 17, 2008*

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the 2008 National Observance of POW/MIA Recognition Day.

In each conflict since the Revolution, brave Americans have found themselves prisoners of the enemy. Far from home and country, cut off from news of loved ones for months or even years, sometimes subjected to physical and mental abuse, these Americans held out the hope that they would one day see home again. Through the horrors of Andersonville and the Bataan Death March, American prisoners of war have endured the cruelest of humanity. Some did not survive to have their much awaited reunion with loved ones. All have earned our Nation's abiding respect and admiration for the sacrifices they made for our Nation.

It is my privilege to join this day with my colleagues in honoring the 2008 National Observance of POW/MIA Recognition Day. Let us never forget these great Americans and all that they have done for us.

HONORING CONNOR BLOSS

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 17, 2008*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Connor Bloss of Blue Springs, Missouri. Connor is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1332, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Connor has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Connor has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Connor Bloss for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SPACE  
COMMERCE ACT OF 2008

**HON. MARK UDALL**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 17, 2008*

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the "Space Commerce Act of 2008." This legislation would modify the Technology Administration Act of 1998 and provide for the establishment of an Office of Space Commerce in the Department of Commerce. As chairman of the Space and Aeronautics Subcommittee with jurisdiction over commercial space activities, I am introducing this bill as a courtesy to the Department, which requested it.

While I think the legislation that I am introducing today requires review and potentially modification before it is ready to come back to this floor for further consideration, I believe that introducing the Department's proposed legislation will help us move forward in seeking the best ways to encourage the vitality of this growing industry. This bill will help stimulate discussion on what is the best approach to enhancing the development and competitive posture of America's commercial space sector. That discussion will help Congress craft the best path forward in addressing this important topic.

I feel quite passionate about the important role that the commercial space sector plays—and will continue to play in the coming years—in ensuring the sustained vitality of the U.S. economy and its competitiveness in world markets. My home State of Colorado is home to some of the Nation's leading commercial space companies and is serving as an incubator for more every year. I am proud of that fact, and I am proud of the companies that are

contributing so much to the nation's strength in civil, commercial, and military aerospace.

As chairman of the Space and Aeronautics Subcommittee, I have seen firsthand the growing impact that the commercial space sector is having, both in enhancing the Nation's economic strength and improving the quality of life of all our citizens. Whether it is advancing U.S. geospatial applications, maximizing the benefits to be gained from U.S. space-based positioning, navigation, and timing capabilities, or numerous other endeavors, America's space commerce sector is leading the way, and I want to do all I can to see that that continues to be the case.

That is why I believe it is important to fully examine how the Federal Government can best provide additional useful tools to help expand and develop the space commerce sector. We in Congress should do all we can to address space commerce policy issues and help encourage the growth of the U.S. commercial space sector. I look forward to hearing from all interested stakeholders as we move forward to fully examine this proposal.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS  
OF THE DEDICATED VOLUNTEERS  
OF THE BOY SCOUTS OF  
WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA

**HON. HEATH SHULER**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 17, 2008*

Mr. SHULER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the 2,000 committed and dedicated volunteers who advise, educate and inspire over 4,000 Boy Scouts in Western North Carolina.

The Boy Scouts of America was incorporated on February 8, 1910, chartered by Congress in 1916, and organized in Western North Carolina as the Daniel Boone Council since 1920. The Boy Scouts of America strives to develop good traits of character in young people and to instill in them values of good citizenship. The Boy Scouts program is available to all youth regardless of race, religion, or socioeconomic level.

The Daniel Boone Council of Western North Carolina serves 4,088 youth in 14 counties through 173 Cub Scout Packs, Boy Scout Troops, Venturing Crews, Sea Scout Ships, and Explorer Posts.

The youth are supported by 2,000 dedicated volunteer leaders who recruit, raise funds, serve on the executive board and committees, and educate and inspire the youth of the program. The Scouting volunteers report that their involvement with the Boy Scouts has raised their environmental awareness, aided them in ethical and moral decision-making, and helped them become better parents and citizens. The benefits to the volunteers, however, are slight in comparison to the life altering experiences that their work provides to the Scouts.

The Boy Scouts of America has designated 2008 as the "Year of the Volunteer" to honor the volunteers who serve across the Nation. In Western North Carolina, the Daniel Boone Council has set apart September 13 as their special day to honor their volunteers through a Volunteer Recognition Banquet. It is my hope, however, that we continue to honor the tremendous contributions of the Daniel Boone

Council's 2000 volunteers throughout 2008 and for years and decades to come.

It is with great respect and gratitude that I commend these dedicated and committed volunteers. I am honored to be able to stand with the Daniel Boone Council in recognizing their hard work and service.

CONGRATULATING CARLOS BOOZER, COREY COGDELL, AND MATT EMMONS ON THEIR OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE 2008 SUMMER OLYMPIC GAMES

**HON. DON YOUNG**

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 17, 2008*

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Carlos Boozer, Corey Cogdell, and Matt Emmons, three Alaskans who recently returned from competing in the 2008 Summer Olympic Games in Beijing. These three Alaskans, joined by their fellow athletes from across the country, traveled to Beijing, and represented the United States in an extraordinary manner. The U.S. Olympic team distinguished the United States from other nations by winning 110 medals, the most of any country. Carlos Boozer, Corey Cogdell, and Matt Emmons each won medals, and boldly represented the United States in their specific competitions.

I truly believe that the importance of the contributions of these three talented Alaskan athletes to our country cannot be overstated, which is why it is important that we honor their great accomplishments. For this reason I am introducing the following resolution to honor these three athletes for their accomplishments and representation of our country.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. TED POE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 17, 2008*

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, due to preparations for and recovery from Hurricane Ike, which impacted my district, I unfortunately missed the following votes on the House floor on Thursday, September 11th and Monday, September 15th.

I ask that the RECORD reflect that had I been able to vote that day, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall Nos. 586, 587, 589, 590, and 591.

HONORING JOSEPH MOORE

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 17, 2008*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Joseph Moore of Blue Springs, Missouri. Connor is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of Amer-

ica, Troop 1332, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Joseph has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Joseph has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Joseph Moore for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

WELCOMING THE 37TH RYDER CUP TO KENTUCKY

**HON. RON LEWIS**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 17, 2008*

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I rise today to welcome athletes, fans, and sponsors of the PGA Tour to the City of Louisville for the 37th Ryder Cup. The competition will take place at the Valhalla Golf Club September 16–21, 2008.

The Ryder Cup matches the 12 best American golf professionals against the best 12 from Europe. The competition will be seen by hundreds of millions of golf enthusiasts throughout the world.

In the spirit of Olympians, athlete participation is grounded in the prestige of representing their country rather than prize money. I would like to make special note of two fellow Kentuckians, Kenny Perry and J.B. Holmes, joining the American team. Their competitive spirit and good sportsmanship will make our state and country proud.

I applaud the PGA of America, the PGA Tour, and First Tee for the charitable contributions they will generate through this event. The Ryder Cup will directly raise over \$780,000 in funds for charity. An additional \$2.6 million will be donated on behalf of the U.S. Ryder Cup captain and team.

It is my great privilege to recognize the athletes, sponsors, and hosts of the 37th Ryder Cup for their collective contributions to charity and international goodwill through this special event.

FOSTERING CONNECTIONS TO SUCCESS AND INCREASING ADOPTIONS ACT

**HON. EARL POMEROY**

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 17, 2008*

Mr. POMEROY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act, important legislation that improves and strengthens the Federal programs that assist foster care and adoption assistance programs.

Under current law, States are reimbursed by the Federal Government for eligible foster care or adoption assistance programs through Title IV–E of the Social Security Act. Unfortunately, these very same services are not directly reimbursed when provided by an American Indian tribe. This was not a deliberate adoption

policy decision, but instead a drafting error that has meant that some tribes have been left without the Federal resources they need to support services for these priceless children.

My bill would provide parity to Native American children living on tribal land by allowing Indian tribes to have the same direct access to Federal funding for foster care and adoption services that States currently receive via Title IV–E. This legislation improves the Native American child welfare system by requiring tribal adoption and foster care programs to meet the same requirements that are required of States to ensure the safety of children placed in tribal foster care programs, while entrusting the establishment and maintenance of these programs to tribes.

The critical importance of this legislation was driven home to me when I met recently with the Mitzel family from West Fargo, ND. They have served as foster parents for 13 children throughout the years and are now adopted parents for a sibling group of five precious Native American children who were scattered from one another in the foster care system. For their persistent efforts to reunite this sibling group, I nominated the Mitzels this year for the Congressional Coalition on Adoption's Angels in Adoption Award.

I am deeply grateful for the commitment of tribal leaders to make certain that these children were united and raised as a family even though in this particular case it means that these children will be raised off of the reservation. Meeting these children powerfully drove home to me just how important it is that all of our children, including American Indian children receiving services from a tribe, have the same level of support.

This compromise bill with the Senate puts tribal adoption and foster care one step closer to being on equal footing with States and gives tribes the ability to provide their children with the culturally appropriate care they deserve. I am hopeful that this bipartisan legislation will quickly pass the Senate and be signed into law.

I urge my colleagues to support the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act to ensure that all children in foster care get the services, education and healthcare that they need.

RECOGNIZING THE YORK COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION FOR 50 YEARS OF COMMUNITY SERVICE

**HON. TODD RUSSELL PLATTS**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 17, 2008*

Mr. PLATTS. Madam Speaker, I rise to commend the York County Economic Development Corporation, YCEDC, for providing economic development leadership to the York community for 50 years.

YCEDC was established in 1958 to attract new industry, promote industrial development, and create new jobs. Since its inception, YCEDC has facilitated funding in excess of \$73 million toward an estimated 150 economic development projects, creating and retaining more than 10,200 jobs throughout York County.

YCEDC has facilitated effective community and business partnerships and has evolved its

leadership role in economic development to advance a positive vision for York County's economic future. York County will continue to experience the positive effects of the organization's commitment for years to come.

Madam Speaker, the observance of the 50th anniversary of YCEDC provides a special time to express our appreciation and gratitude to its employees, board members, and members for their work and dedication to York County's continued economic well-being and quality of life. Therefore, it is with heartfelt wishes that I congratulate YCEDC for their continued success.

#### HONORING ALEXANDER WILLIAMS

### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 17, 2008*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Alexander Williams of Kansas City, Missouri. Alexander is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1314, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Alexander has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Alexander has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Alexander Williams for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

#### 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SINTO SENIOR ACTIVITY CENTER

### HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 17, 2008*

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the 50th anniversary of the Sinto Senior Activity Center in Spokane, Washington. Early in the 1950's a group of enthusiastic senior citizens and community leaders began building a dream, a dream that has grown into an integral part of the Spokane community serving over 600 members.

The Sinto Senior Activity Center offers a variety of activities for members which include ballroom dancing, pool, crafts, educational opportunities, lunches, social clubs, entertainment, square dancing, music, speakers, holiday events, pinocchio, cribbage, exercise and aerobic classes, round dancing, clogging, community service projects, short trips and tours, and many, many more.

Madam Speaker, the Sinto Senior Activity Center has been a staple of the Spokane community for over 50 years and through its leadership and steadfast commitment has provided senior citizens of the Spokane area a safe and comfortable place to engage in social activities. It is an honor and privilege to invite my colleagues to join me in congratulating the

Sinto Senior Activity Center on its 50th anniversary.

#### TRIBUTE TO COLONEL EMORY "RAY" HELTON

### HON. ROBIN HAYES

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 17, 2008*

Mr. HAYES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and pay tribute to Colonel Ray Helton, United States Army, on the occasion of his retirement from active duty. Colonel Helton has served our great Nation for more than 30 years as a truly exceptional officer and I am extremely proud to call him my friend.

Over the past several years, as Co-Chair of the House Special Operations Forces Caucus, I have had the honor of working with Colonel Helton during his tenure as the Director of Legislative Affairs for United States Special Operations Command (USSOCOM). Soldier, leader, scholar, statesman, gentleman—Ray truly personifies what a warrior should be and he has been an outstanding ambassador for Special Operations.

Colonel Helton's dedication to his work on behalf of the warfighter has been unwavering. There is no doubt that Ray has been instrumental in educating the House Armed Services Committee, other defense-related committees, and Members of Congress on a variety of issues critical to our Special Operators and their missions. His tireless efforts working with Members of Congress and the military perspective he brings to the table have undoubtedly resulted in a better understanding of the Special Operations community and its unique missions, requirements, and needs. He has been a tireless advocate for all of his fellow Special Operators. Though much of it has been behind the scenes, there is no doubt that his work has furthered our nation's goals in the continued Global War on Terror and saved lives in the field.

Colonel Helton graduated as a Distinguished Military Graduate from the University of Illinois Army ROTC and began serving as an Infantry Officer in January 1981. His Infantry assignments include leading two platoons in the 3d Infantry Division and commanding two companies in the 101st Airborne Division. He was transferred to the Special Forces Branch in 1988 and served as a Detachment Commander, Battalion Personnel Officer and Battalion Operations Officer in the 10th Special Forces Group. He served as a Company Commander, Battalion Executive Officer and Battalion Commander in the 3rd Special Forces Group. He has conducted training and operations with Soldiers on five continents. Colonel Helton also served as the Chief of Assignments of the Combat Arms Division in United States Personnel Command, as a Strategic Planner and Writer on the Joint Staff and as the Garrison Commander of Fort Drum, New York. Colonel Helton's military education includes the Infantry Officer Basic Course, Airborne School, Combat Divers Course, Air Assault School, Ranger School, Special Forces Qualification School, Infantry Officer Advanced Course, Survival Escape Resistance and Evasion Course, Combined Arms Services Staff School, Joint Psychological Operations

Course, Command and General Staff College, and the Industrial College of the Armed Forces. He received a bachelor's degree in History from the University of Illinois, a Master of Arts degree in National Strategy and Policy from the Naval War College and a Master of Science degree in National Resource Strategy from the Industrial College of the Armed Forces.

On behalf of Congress and the United States of America, I express our appreciation of Colonel Helton for his tireless service and support of the warfighter. His professionalism, expertise, and efforts showcase his patriotism, and his dedication to his Special Operators in the field. Though the following phrase is often used, I can say without reservation that it is rarely as appropriate as it is in this case: Colonel Ray Helton is truly a great American.

I want to personally thank Colonel Ray Helton, his wife Colonel Jane Helton, USA, and his entire family for their commitment, sacrifice, and the contributions they have all made throughout his honorable and distinguished military service. I congratulate Ray on completing an exceptional and extremely successful military career and am humbled by his dedicated service to our nation. I wish Colonel Helton and his family many blessings and much success as he begins his future endeavors and embarks on new adventures.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. J. GRESHAM BARRETT

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 17, 2008*

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, due to my attendance at events in my district and state discussing legislation that will help move our country toward energy independence, I unfortunately missed some recorded votes on the House floor on Tuesday, September 16, 2008.

Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on rollcall vote No. 592 (Motion to adjourn), "no" on rollcall vote No. 593 (question of consideration on H. Res. 1433), and "no" on rollcall vote No. 594 (Motion to adjourn).

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF JOHN F. SEIBERLING

### HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 17, 2008*

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I wish to honor the life and legacy of Congressman Seiberling, an eight-term Congressman from Akron, Ohio. John Seiberling won Ohio's 14th Congressional District in 1970. He ran for Congress because of his strong opposition to the Vietnam War and a belief that the system could be made to work in favor of a more livable world, a peaceful world. His desire for peace was his primary reason for running.

In a speech at the University of Akron on May 6, 1970, just two days after the tragic shootings at Kent State University John Seiberling said that "the system can be made to work . . . 25 years ago I never thought that a peace candidate would win a congressional

election in this district, even a primary election, in which the principal issue is the cause of peace." He went on to speak about the importance of Gandhi's accomplishments in India; how Gandhi used non-cooperation to bring his cause to the attention of the world and non-violence to win the hearts of his enemies.

During his time in Congress he had many major accomplishments. Among them was the creation of Ohio's first national park, the Cuyahoga Valley National Park and his coauthorship of the War Powers Act. He was elected to and served as Chairman of the Members of Congress for Peace Through Law Caucus. It is reported that he opened his office to Vietnam veterans protesting against the war by allowing them to sleep there.

He was committed to a world that resolved conflict through peaceful means. And as such, throughout his 16 years in the House he prioritized disarmament. When he announced his retirement in 1986 he reportedly told the Plain Dealer newspaper that it was the job of Congress to "maintain a livable world, free of nuclear disaster, a world that we have not polluted to the point where we can't breathe and where we preserve some natural beauty so that we can have the solace and the experience of being out in God's world." Following his retirement he dedicated himself to teaching law at the University of Akron and for a number of years was the head of the university's Center for Peace Studies.

Since his passing on August 2, 2008 he has been sorely missed and will be missed well into the future.

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HONORING JACOB FUENFHAUSEN

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 17, 2008*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Jacob Fuenfhausen of Liberty, Missouri. Jacob is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1320, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Jacob has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Jacob has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Jacob Fuenfhausen for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

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PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. RANDY NEUGEBAUER**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 17, 2008*

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Madam Speaker, due to a family emergency I was absent for the following rollcall votes held on September 15, September 16 and September 17, 2008. Had

I been present, I would have voted as indicated for each rollcall listed.

Rollcall vote 589: "yea"; rollcall vote 590: "yea"; rollcall vote 591: "yea"; rollcall vote 592: "nay"; rollcall vote 593: "nay"; rollcall vote 594: "nay"; rollcall vote 595: "nay"; rollcall vote 596: "nay"; rollcall vote 597: "nay"; rollcall vote 598: "yea"; rollcall vote 599: "nay"; rollcall vote 600: "yea"; and rollcall vote 601: "yea."

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IN RECOGNITION OF THE RETIREMENT OF COLONEL MICHAEL SHUPP, UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

**HON. JEFF MILLER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 17, 2008*

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the service of Colonel Michael Shupp, United States Marine Corps, who is retiring after 27 years of dedicated service to this Nation. I came to know Colonel Shupp well as we travelled together on various Congressional delegations. As a consummate professional, he did an outstanding job representing the United States Marine Corps.

Colonel Shupp graduated from the Virginia Military Institute in 1981. In 1985, he reported to the U.S. Naval Academy and was recognized by President Bush and others for his outstanding performance.

In 1990, as a company commander, he deployed to Saudi Arabia for Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm where his unit served with distinction. He also deployed twice to Bosnia-Herzegovina in the late-1990s. Since 2001, I have had the pleasure and honor to come to know Michael well during his assignment as the Marine Corps' Liaison to the U.S. House of Representatives.

Colonel Shupp assumed command of Regimental Combat Team—1 (RCT—1) on 15 September 2004 at Camp Fallujah, Iraq while deployed on Operation Iraqi Freedom II. There he led the Regiment through counter-insurgency operations, the Battle of Fallujah (Operation Al Fajr), humanitarian assistance efforts and the reconstruction of Fallujah, and the first free Iraqi national election in January 2005. In early 2008, he became Legislative Assistant for the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

His personal decorations are numerous and include the Legion of Merit with Combat "Valor" Distinguishing Device and gold star in lieu of second award, the Bronze Star with Combat "Valor" Distinguishing Device, and the Combat Action Ribbon with gold star in lieu of second award.

Madam Speaker, few can match the dedication and professionalism of Colonel Michael Shupp. He epitomizes the values and traditions of the United States Marine Corps. On behalf of the U.S. Congress, I would thank him for his years of dedicated service. Vicki and I wish him and his family best wishes for continued success.

SUPPORTING TAIWANESE MEMBERSHIP IN UNITED NATIONS SPECIALIZED AGENCIES

**HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 17, 2008*

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, On August 14, 2008, seventeen of the Republic of China's diplomatic allies once again submitted a proposal to the United Nations General Assembly supporting Taiwan's request "to examine the fundamental rights of the 23 million people of the Republic of China (Taiwan) to participate meaningfully in the activities of the United Nations specialized agencies." The 63rd session of the U.N. General Assembly opened yesterday, September 16, and, therefore, my comments today are especially relevant.

I strongly support Taiwan's request because I believe there is a compelling need for the country to add its expertise, wealth, and dynamism to the U.N. specialized agencies. For example, Taiwan has been campaigning for participation in the World Health Organization (WHO) for years, but has been unable to access or communicate with WHO regarding global disease prevention. Membership in the WHO should not be a political matter. Disease and illness know no boundaries, and we must not let political disputes stand in the way of utilizing all tools available to improve basic health care and fight pestilence. This effort to fight disease takes global solidarity, not isolation campaigns.

Fortunately, Taiwan is ready, willing, and able to contribute to the international community. Moreover, Taiwan's international participation might encourage the cross-strait dialogue and contribute to the easing of tensions between Taiwan and the PRC.

I hope that the PRC will show good will and allow Taiwan to participate meaningfully in the U.N. specialized agencies. I believe this will be a step toward peace and cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region and greater vitality in promoting the missions of the UN specialized agencies.

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PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. TIMOTHY WALBERG**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 17, 2008*

Mr. WALBERG. Madam Speaker, on the following rollcall votes I am not recorded due to a death in the family. Had I been present I would have voted the following way: rollcall No. 589, I would have voted "aye;" rollcall No. 590, I would have voted "aye;" rollcall No. 591, I would have voted "aye;" rollcall No. 592, I would have voted "nay;" rollcall No. 593, I would have voted "nay;" rollcall No. 594, I would have voted "nay;" rollcall No. 595, I would have voted "nay;" rollcall No. 596, I would have voted "nay;" rollcall No. 597, I would have voted "nay;" rollcall No. 598, I would have voted "aye;" rollcall No. 599, I would have voted "nay."

REGARDING PASSAGE OF H.R. 6842

**HON. KENNY C. HULSHOF**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 17, 2008*

Mr. HULSHOF. Madam Speaker, today the United States House of Representatives took a large and much anticipated step towards protecting every American's 2nd Amendment right by passing H.R. 6842, The National Capital Security and Safety Act. The amendment to this legislation, authored by Representative Childers, is a much needed improvement to the underlying bill and will help the District of Columbia to fully comply with the United States Supreme Court's decision in D.C. vs. Heller.

Today is truly a great day for every American as Congress has mandated that the stringent restrictions placed on citizens of the District of Columbia and their ability to possess firearms has been replaced with a law that is in line with what our founding fathers originally intended. It is my hope that other cities and municipalities with similar, restrictive gun ownership laws will now change those laws to come in line with our Constitution.

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**HONORING THE GARDEN CITY  
SCHOOL BLUE RIBBON AWARD**
**HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 17, 2008*

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Garden City Middle School for having received the prestigious Blue Ribbon School Award. The Blue Ribbon Schools Program recognizes schools that make significant progress in closing the achievement gap or whose students achieve at very high levels.

Garden City Middle School succeeds in providing an atmosphere where students foster a desire for life long learning and are motivated to reach their highest potential academically, creatively, socially, physically and emotionally. Last year Garden City Middle School ranked first in Nassau County in the percentage of students passing the New York State Grade 8 Math Assessment and second on the New York State Grade 8 English Assessment. Additionally, Garden City Middle School students ranked first on the New York State Grade 8 English Assessment of students scoring at the mastery level. A supplemental aspect of their curriculum is to teach the students social responsibility. Last year Garden City Middle School raised more money for St. Jude's Children's Hospital than any other school in the nation while also participating in Toys for Tots drives, collecting food for food banks, and collection campaigns to support the troops in Iraq.

The future of this country depends on the hopes and dreams of its children, and our community, and our nation, are enhanced by the contributions of high achieving students like those at Garden City Middle School.

Madam Speaker, it is with pride and admiration I offer my thanks and recognition to Garden City Middle School.

REINTRODUCTION OF THE "SAKS"  
BILL**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 17, 2008*

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, the U.S. Justice Department estimates that 8 percent of all rapes occur on the job. Yet, many of these victims are told their only remedy is workers' compensation. When rape occurs on the job, employers should not be able to hide behind a system designed to compensate for job-related accidents. The bill that I am introducing today sends a clear message: Rape is not all in a days work.

Workers' compensation systems were created by States to provide a means of redress for work-related personal injuries which occur during the course of employment. Workers' compensation is an exclusive remedy. In the event that an injury is covered by workers' compensation, no other legal action may be taken by the injured employee. This bill gives victims of workplace violence across the Nation a remedy outside the workers' compensation system. It does this by creating a Federal civil rights cause of action, under certain conditions, for employees who have been the victims of gender-motivated violence at work.

We need to create an American workplace safe from violent crime. This bill will encourage employers to create a job environment free of violent sexual assault and rape.

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**HONORING JONATHAN MCCOLE**
**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 17, 2008*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Jonathan McCole of Kansas City, Missouri. Jonathan is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1419, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Jonathan has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Jonathan has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Jonathan McCole for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

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**THE DAILY 45: LAVAL CRAWFORD**
**HON. BOBBY L. RUSH**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 17, 2008*

Mr. RUSH. Madam Speaker, everyday, 45 people, on average, are fatally shot in the United States.

Three men were charged, today, in the September 13 fatal shooting of 17-year-old Laval

Crawford from Pontiac, Michigan. Laval was ambushed at his home and one of the men charged allegedly was in possession of a concealed weapon, an AK-47 rifle to be exact.

The killing was the 19th homicide this year in Pontiac, which has experienced a rash of recent violent incidents, including shootings in recent weeks, according to news reports. I look forward to a day when the news is filled with good news; news that peace has increased on our streets—not another death.

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

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**IN HEARTFELT AND GRATEFUL  
MEMORY OF DR. ELLEN WOLFE**
**HON. JACKIE SPEIER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 17, 2008*

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, if the world has seemed a bit grayer in recent weeks, it is no doubt due to the passing of one of its brightest lights. Ellen L Wolfe, the highly respected and much-loved registered nurse and Doctor of Public Health, left us on August 4.

As director of Children's Medical Services for the City and County of San Francisco and throughout her career, Ellen dedicated her life to the care and well being of underserved children and their families. Dr. Wolfe was a pioneer in the field of children's health and a passionate advocate for abused children. She served as director of the Early Parenting Project, San Francisco General Hospital's landmark abuse prevention program, and was instrumental in creating the Child Protection Center at SFGH, serving as the program's Associate Director for Health Care Services from 1989 through 2005.

Madam Speaker, a measure of anyone's life is how fondly they are remembered after their passing. By this yardstick, Ellen surpasses all measurements. Thousands of San Franciscans owe their health, mental well-being and, in many cases, very lives, to the intellect, instinct and intervention of this intrepid public servant.

Ellen came to us by way of Denver, Colorado. She attended the University of Northern Colorado, Greeley on a music scholarship and her love of the violin and classical music only grew stronger after graduation. Ellen received a Master of Science in Nursing from the University of California, San Francisco and a Master and Doctor of Public Health from UC Berkeley.

Her accomplishments in San Francisco are many and notable, including the development of a Health Passport system for children in foster care, creation of a widely-used child abuse manual for doctors and nurses, and educating foster parents, health professionals and students about child abuse reporting and health issues. A tireless advocate, Ellen served on the California Subcommittee on Medically Fragile Children in Foster Care, the Personnel Advisory Committee for Early Intervention Services, and the San Francisco Child Abuse Prevention Center.

Dr. Wolfe authored numerous professional publications addressing foster care and prenatal drug and alcohol use and served as an

assistant clinical professor in the Department of Family Health Care Nursing at the UCSF School of Nursing.

Outside of work, Ellen is remembered as a passionate woman who embraced life to its fullest. She is missed dearly by her mother Marian, sisters Christine and Charlotte, brothers Fred and Sam, and a great many close friends and colleagues. They remember fondly her love of classical music, fine food and the great outdoors, which were eclipsed only by her commitment to children's health.

Madam Speaker, when those of us from San Francisco are asked what makes our city so special, we often say, "the people." With the passing of Ellen Wolfe, our beautiful hometown has lost a favorite sister, but her legacy of good works and sound public policy will outlive all of us.

RECOGNIZING SERGEANT CHAUNCEY K. LOVELL AND AIRMAN FIRST CLASS ALTHEA LOVELL—SCOTTSDALE HEALTHCARE'S "SALUTE TO MILITARY" HONOREES

### HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 17, 2008*

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of two members of the Armed Forces from my home state of Arizona. Every month Scottsdale Healthcare honors service members that perform diligent service to this country. This month, they have recognized two siblings: Sergeant Chauncey K. Lovell and Airman 1st Class Althea Lovell.

I commend Scottsdale Healthcare for paying tribute to such outstanding service members for their bravery and service to our country.

Sergeant Chauncey Lovell has been in the Marine Corps for six and a half years, which he has included three deployments to Iraq in 2004, 2006, and 2008. He is currently deployed and will be transferred in November to his home station, Marine Corps Base Kaneohe, on the island of Oahu, Hawaii. His record includes the National Defense Service Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, a Meritorious Mast and a Certificate of Commendation among others.

Airman First Class Althea Lovell is also on active duty as a Dental Hygienist at the Ramstein Air Force Base in Germany. Having joined the Air Force three years ago, this is her first deployment. She is accompanied by her husband, Gil, who is a Tech Sergeant working in the operating room on the same base, and their six-month-old daughter, Chloe. Airman First Class Lovell and her family expect to be reassigned to Hickham Air Force Base in Hawaii.

Madam Speaker, please join me in recognizing the inspiring combined efforts of this brother and sister who are serving our country and protecting the lives of their fellow servicemen in combat.

COMMEMORATING WARREN AND BARBARA WINIARSKI FOR SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE NAPA VALLEY COMMUNITY

### HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 17, 2008*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Warren and Barbara Winiarski. The Winiarskis are being honored by Napa County as the 2008 Grandparents of the Year.

Mr. and Mrs. Winiarski met at St. John's College in Annapolis, Maryland. The Winiarskis along with their three children, Kasia, Julia and Stephen, moved to Napa County in 1964. They settled into the Stags Leap region, purchasing 44 acres in which they planted Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot. They named the vineyard Stag's Leap, now known as S.L.V.

The Winiarskis started their vineyard with modest means, but were soon propelled into the spotlight when their wine essentially changed the way California wines were perceived. In 1976 at the famous blind tasting in Paris, the second vintage produced by Stag's Leap Vineyard beat world renowned Chateau Mouton-Rothschild and Chateau Haut-Brion.

They were visionaries in supporting the 1968 decision by the Napa County Board of Supervisors to approve Agricultural Preserve Zoning. The decision prohibits the splitting of lots on the valley floor that are less than 20 acres in size. The Winiarskis also championed Measure J in the 1990s, which prevents the development of agricultural lands without voter approval. Stag's Leap Vineyard was also the first vineyard placed under a conservation easement, leading the way in environmental protection.

Throughout their time in the Napa Valley, the Winiarskis have contributed greatly to the community. They always keep the futures of their five grandchildren in mind, whether preserving the land or creating fine wine.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, the Winiarskis have earned the respect of their colleagues and community. Through visionary leadership they created pathways for others in the community to follow. For these reasons and for the lasting impact that Stag's Leap Vineyard has had, it is fitting at this time that we honor the Winiarskis.

### VETERAN VOTING SUPPORT ACT

### HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 17, 2008*

Mr. HOLT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my support for the Veteran Voting Support Act, and to commend the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. BRADY) for his leadership in offering it. I was honored to join him as an original sponsor of it, and I urge all of my colleagues to support it.

In a few short weeks, we will participate in two celebrations of our democracy: Election Day, the day upon which we will exercise our most fundamental right—the right by which we secure all others—the right to vote. And one

week later, we will celebrate Veterans Day, the day upon which we honor those who always risk and who all too often give their very lives to preserve and protect our ability to engage in that fundamental right. Arguably, we should celebrate Veterans Day first, and Election Day thereafter, because without the sacrifice of the former we could not continue to be endowed with the latter.

That is why I offer my heartfelt support for the Veteran Voting Support Act, which responds to a flawed policy of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs that would have prohibited voter registration at VA facilities. The measure permits states to designate facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs as voter registration agencies, requires the VA to provide assistance with absentee ballots, and requires that nonpartisan organizations and election officials be given opportunities to assist veterans with registration and to provide voting information. Above all others, our service men and women should be provided with every convenience and resource to facilitate their ability to vote. This balanced measure does that, while protecting their privacy and preserving the high standard of their care. Our veterans' have fought for our right to vote, and we must now fight for theirs. I urge my colleagues to honor their sacrifice by supporting this measure.

CHIPACC BILL: CHILDREN'S PROGRAM OF ALL-INCLUSIVE, COORDINATED CARE

### HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 17, 2008*

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to talk about an issue of concern to all families, and everyone who has ever known a sick child.

The Children's Program of All-inclusive, Coordinated Care, ChiPACC, serves the needs of Medicaid-eligible children who suffer from potentially terminal illnesses or conditions. The legislation I am introducing will make ChiPACC a state option under Medicaid.

Medicaid-eligible children—like all children who suffer from potentially terminal illnesses or conditions—need comprehensive, coordinated care. Currently, nearly 30 percent of the children in the United States who have life-threatening conditions qualify for Medicaid. These children are forced into a system that will only treat them on an emergency basis, sending them home to wait until their next health emergency.

Based on the highly effective, collaborative model of care developed by Children's Hospice International, CHI, the Children's Program of All-inclusive, Coordinated Care provides each enrolled child an individualized treatment plan that includes and manages services from providers across the health care spectrum. ChiPACC's services will improve upon the often inconsistent care that is currently available to seriously ill children under Medicaid, doing so at a savings to taxpayers.

With appropriate comprehensive and coordinated services under ChiPACC, many emergency episodes can be avoided or anticipated and managed, such that children receive appropriate care in their homes instead of in hospitals, and so that even when they require

critical care they can enter the hospital through the front door instead of the emergency room, significantly reducing health care costs.

Under the traditional Medicaid model, individuals can receive only "hospice" services and only after their doctors give them a prognosis of 6-months to live. Children, however, are much more likely than adults to go in and out of terminal phases multiple times. No family should be forced to give up curative care for their child in order to receive services that are predicated on accepting that their child has no more than 6 months to live. ChiPACC addresses this problem by combining medical and support services currently available in Medicaid with counseling, respite, and other care that have previously only been available as hospice services.

AUTHORIZING THE UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT POLICE TO PROTECT OFFICIALS

SPEECH OF

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 15, 2008*

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. R. 6855, a bill to extend the authority for the United States Supreme Court Police to protect Court officials off the Supreme Court grounds. This important bill is sponsored by my colleague on the Judiciary Committee, Mr. SMITH. In order to get unbiased, thoughtful rulings on important cases, it is necessary the officials who preside over these cases can walk the streets unburdened with the fear that their interpretations and decisions will lead to them facing harm on their way home. It is time to protect our court officials so they can carry out their important work.

This bill will protect the Members of the Court. Currently, Justices do not receive any protection when they are off the Court grounds. Unlike cabinet secretaries and governors who receive protection from the Marshall Service, Justices are forced to remain unprotected. They are open up to being attacked and injured or worse. We must protect them as they are just as important to our democracy as our President and Members of Congress.

Four years ago, Supreme Court Justice David Souter, while jogging near his home in Southwest Washington DC, was assaulted by two young men. He was taken to the hospital with minor injuries and thankfully was released a few hours later. While this attack was deemed by the police as only a random assault, and that robbery was not the motive, this should serve as a wake up call for us all. The Supreme Court, like the Office of the President, is more important than the person serving in the position. Protecting these people, is not just about protecting the person, it is about protecting the sanctity of the Court and the decisions they render. This legislation will assure the choices that the Justices make comes from a place of righteousness and not intimidation.

The noted philosopher and English Parliamentarian, Edmund Burke, said, "Good order is the foundation of all things." Members of

the Court have an important responsibility to maintain order in government. They were chosen to provide clarity when questions arose on the rights that were promised to us by the Founding Fathers.

This bill does something fundamental for the American way of life, it protects it. The legacy of all those who came before us depends on making sure that those who come after can do the job duty requires. Nothing is more fundamentally American than protecting those who protect our rights. It is in this function, that we know when it is our turn to serve; we can do so without undue fear.

Without the venerable work of the members of the Court and the myriad of landmark cases that they decided, the country would have a markedly different look, far from what we see today.

Police officers could walk around searching anyone they choose; personal privacy would be a dream and not a reality. *Miranda v Arizona* would have never given us the right to remain silent, or the right to talk to a lawyer.

But for the case of *Brown v. the Board of Education*, many Americans would not be able to take part in integrated schools and would face lower quality of education.

But for the Court, many African American voters would not be able to take part in a historic vote this November.

To be sure, our Nation would look very different if it was not for the Court. Since its creation in the Constitution, they have been a vital partner in the fight for civil rights, women's rights and the rights of all people across the country.

NATIONAL CAPITAL SECURITY AND SAFETY ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. RUSH D. HOLT**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 16, 2008*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 6842) to require the District of Columbia to revise its laws regarding the use and possession of firearms as necessary to comply with the requirements of the decision of the Supreme Court in the case of *District of Columbia v. Heller*, in a manner that protects the security interests of the Federal government and the people who work in, reside in, or visit the District of Columbia and does not undermine the efforts of law enforcement, homeland security, and military officials to protect the Nation's capital from crime and terrorism:

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Chairman, I regret that the Congress is even debating this matter. As this summer's Supreme Court decision in *District of Columbia v. Heller* made clear, governments have the right to enact gun safety laws consistent with the Court's decision *Heller*. Unregulated firearms in the capital would preclude the ability of the Metropolitan Police Department to track guns through registration and otherwise to help ensure that guns do not endanger Federal officials and employees, visiting dignitaries, tourists, and local residents. Unfortunately, some see this bill as an opportunity to try to undo the Supreme Court's decision, the effect of which would be to create a "Criminal's Firearm Bill of Rights."

Of greatest concern to me is that the proposed amendment to this bill would allow D.C. residents to cross State lines to purchase weapons, thereby weakening Federal anti-gun trafficking laws and encouraging the mass purchase of firearms outside of D.C. for resale to criminals or terrorists in D.C. We in New Jersey have lived very comfortably under our existing State gun safety laws—hunters, lobbyists, police, private citizens—but legislative interventions like the one proposed today undermine New Jersey's ability to keep its citizens safe. I can assure you that we in New Jersey do not want guns illegally purchased in D.C. being used in our State, which is why I did not support the amended version of this bill approved by the House.

HONORING THE WORK OF RALPH GROSSI

**HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 17, 2008*

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor my friend Ralph Grossi of Marin County, California, who has recently retired as President of American Farmland Trust (AFT), an organization he co-founded. During his 23 years at the helm, AFT became the leading organization in the country focused on conserving farmland and local food systems while promoting environmental stewardship.

Ralph has made AFT a major force in protecting farmland against development, especially around the urban edge—a growing crisis that can effect food availability. About 86 percent of U.S. fruits and vegetables and 65 percent of dairy products are produced in urban-influenced areas. Under Ralph's leadership, the American Farmland Trust has steadfastly fought against destroying our agricultural lands for roads, malls and housing developments.

AFT has taken a comprehensive approach to further farmland preservation, providing policy assistance on the state and local level, and nationally lobbying for reform of agricultural subsidies programs and increased funding for conservation programs. Recognizing how the challenge of climate change intersects with farm preservation, AFT promotes "buy local" programs and has joined in the call for energy efficiency and the increased use of renewables.

Policy models developed and/or promoted by AFT are now used across the nation, including a "Right to Farm" and "no net loss of farmland" ordinances, Agricultural District programs, special tax credits, mitigation for farmland loss, and, perhaps most widely, conservation easements, now commonly used by local land trusts.

I can proudly say that Ralph pioneered the AFT amazing farm preservation tool box in Marin County, in my district. As a member of four generations in a family dairy and beef business, Ralph was a co-founder and chairman of Marin Agricultural Land Trust, the first such agency in the nation to preserve agricultural land by acquiring easements that enable local ranchers to maintain their land for farm uses. His years with MALT and the Marin County Farm Bureau, as well as his time working on the family ranch, shaped his dedication to protecting this vanishing resource.

MALT's success demonstrated that environmentalists and ranchers working together can accomplish their mutual goals. "We tried to develop a different system for protecting land," he said. "You could be going along just great for a few years, and then the political nature of the county changes. We wanted to move away from the political area . . . and be fair to land owners." Protecting this land ensures our nation's food supply ("No farms, no food" is the AFT catchphrase), while preserving our soil, water, wildlife, and rural beauty.

Phyllis Faber, who developed the idea for MALT with rancher Ellen Straus, emphasized Ralph's key role in making the concept work. "He was so respected by the ranchers," she says. "By becoming the first Chair, he secured their interest and support. Ralph was the spark."

Ralph's grandparents emigrated from Switzerland and began ranching in 1896. His father James, one of eleven children, continued the family tradition, as did many of his siblings, establishing the family ranch in 1917. James and his wife Rose, also from a Swiss family, had four children, who learned the business at a young age. Ralph described following his dad around from the age of four or five, then "when we were about seven or eight years old, we got our first chores to do, feeding some calves or taking care of some small livestock."

Ralph later graduated from Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, with a degree in agriculture. He continued working on the family ranch and developed the first methane digester West of the Mississippi, becoming an early innovator in converting cow manure into power. Along the way he married college sweetheart Judy Lamb, and the couple has three daughters Amy (married to Brian Carr), Erin, and Katie.

Madam Speaker, although Ralph Grossi will be returning with Judy to the hills and meadows of Marin County to focus on the family's Marindale Ranch, he will continue to champion the cause of farmland preservation. Ralph led the way for so many of us and has been a partner to me in these efforts. I know we will continue to work together to ensure that we protect the lands that are the backbone of this country. I wish Ralph and Judy and their family the very best.

## COMPREHENSIVE AMERICAN ENERGY SECURITY AND CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 16, 2008*

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the Comprehensive American Energy Security and Taxpayer Protection Act. This comprehensive energy bill provides a marked change to Republicans' solitary drumbeat of their flawed energy policy which only maintains the oil-consuming status quo. Instead of trying to score cheap political points, Democrats in Congress are paving the way forward with real sound solutions to the pain at the pump the American people are feeling.

The Comprehensive American Energy Security and Taxpayer Protection Act expands

domestic and alternative sources of energy to increase our nation's national security. Additionally, it extends and expands tax incentives for renewable energy and reduces transit fares for commuter rail and buses. Provisions in the bill would responsibly open up the Outer Continental Shelf for drilling with significant environmental protections while demanding that oil companies use the leases they have already been issued.

This bill allows for safe responsible drilling while investing in domestic alternative technologies and green jobs. In return for opening up more areas for drilling, the bill requires oil companies to pay American taxpayers royalties owed to them and ends subsidies to oil companies for drilling. This bill provides long-term solutions to help us achieve real energy independence, strengthen our national security, and reduce global warming.

Under the agreement reached between Florida Democrats and House Leadership, the Comprehensive American Energy Security and Taxpayer Protection Act includes provisions maintaining a 2006 compromise protecting the Eastern Gulf of Mexico from offshore oil drilling. These limitations protect the military areas off the coast of Florida, as well as Florida's tourism and fishing industries.

I am pleased that this bill protects Florida's coast from expanded offshore oil drilling, much to the dismay of the oil men in the White House and corrupt Interior Department officials who were accepting gifts from the oil companies they regulate. Drilling off Florida's coast only further subjects our beaches to oil spills that become exacerbated by hurricane damage and contributes to global climate change. Although the struggle to maintain the existing protections for Florida's coast is far from over, I promise to be the last man standing in the fight to prevent expanded offshore oil drilling in Florida.

## HONORING MS. LILLIAN PERRY

**HON. BILL FOSTER**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 17, 2008*

Mr. FOSTER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor Ms. Lillian Perry, a dedicated public servant in my home district.

Ms. Lillian has been a resident of the area since the 1950s, when she made a move from the state of Georgia to establish roots in Aurora, Illinois. She has spent her life taking up the causes of civil rights, integration, and equality.

As an active member of the community, she has volunteered for various organizations, including Blacks in Politics, the Aurora Youth Job Program, and the Citizens for Neighborhood Improvement Program.

This work above is not the extent of her involvement in the community. Ms. Lillian was part of an effort to establish the Kane County Health Department, and she also speaks out on a regular basis against violence in her community.

Currently, Ms. Lillian serves as a liaison to area communities in the Office of State Representative Linda Chapa LaVia. In this position she works with Representative Chapa LaVia's constituents on a daily basis, and is a strong advocate for their needs.

Her work has not gone unnoticed in the community. She has been the recipient of awards from various city organizations, and was named a Women of Distinction by the Aurora YMCA. This summer, her community selected her as the Grand Marshal of the Aurora Independence Day Parade to honor her work and achievements.

I join the community in thanking her for her continued work for those who face adversity, and I look forward to seeing some of the great things that Ms. Lillian will continue to do for the great people of my congressional district.

## CONGRATULATING RALPH "TOM" BROWNING, TRIS S. CASTLE, ROBERT F. DELKER, WILLIAM H. WALLACE—INDUCTEES TO THE ARIZONA VETERANS HALL OF FAME

**HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 17, 2008*

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ralph "Tom" Browning, Tris S. Castle, Robert F. Delker, and William H. Wallace, the Class of 2008 inductees to the Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame. As veterans, these citizens have bravely served our country and their selfless efforts deserve considerable recognition.

The Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame Society is committed to promoting camaraderie among those who have served and continue to serve the state of Arizona and our country. Its message of perpetuating service and patriotism through recognition is inspirational to the entire community. These individuals have been selected for this prestigious honor by the Office of Governor Janet Napolitano as well as the Arizona Department of Veterans' Services.

These Arizona residents were selected to be part of the Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame not just because they honorably served our country, but because they have continued their commitment to the idea of selfless service throughout their lives.

I commend the Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame Society for awarding such deserving citizens. These four people truly exemplify the courage and patriotism that we as Americans value so highly. As members of Hall of Fame Society, I am sure these veterans will continue to serve and inspire future generations.

Madam Speaker, please join me in recognizing Ralph Browning, Tris Castle, Robert Delker, and William Wallace's continued service to the community.

## RECOGNIZING DR. ALBERT L. LORENZO

**HON. SANDER M. LEVIN**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 17, 2008*

Mr. LEVIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Albert L. Lorenzo, as he retires from the presidency of Macomb Community College after nearly 30 years of devoted and talented service. It has been a distinct honor working with Al Lorenzo throughout the years. I have come to know him as an active and passionate advocate for the education system,

economic development, Macomb County and the State of Michigan.

Al Lorenzo became Macomb County Community College president in July 1979. Macomb Community College provides educational services to more than 59,000 students annually and is the largest grantor of associate's degrees in Michigan. MCC is also a leader in workforce training, school-to-work programs and continuing education programs that support the needs of the community. Al Lorenzo helped to create the University Center on Macomb Community College's Center Campus, which facilitates partnerships with institutions of higher education in offering bachelor level course work. He wrote about that experience, "The University Center: A Collaborative Approach to Baccalaureate Degrees" in *The Community College Baccalaureate; Emerging Trends and Policy Issues*.

I have had the pleasure of working with Al Lorenzo on key projects to try and advance educational opportunities for Macomb County residents. In 2006, Al Lorenzo served as a member of Governor Jennifer Granholm's Commission on Higher Education and Economic Growth in Macomb County. The Commission held a series of public hearings across the county to better understand the area's higher education needs. Its recommendations include stepped-up involvement of Oakland and Wayne State Universities in meeting the county's immediate need for better access to degree programs and support services and authority for Macomb Community College to award bachelor's degrees in specific technical fields. In its report, the Commission stressed that these and other steps should be consistent with the goal of creating a 4-year university in Macomb County.

Since that Commission report, Al Lorenzo has worked to increase the involvement of Oakland University and Wayne State University. In 2007, Al Lorenzo led the effort, partnering with Federal, State and county officials, to bring a branch of Michigan State University's Osteopathic College to Macomb's campus, the first of its kind in the Metro Detroit area.

In addition to his longtime commitment to Macomb Community College, Al Lorenzo has been an integral member of the community. Active on several corporate boards throughout his career, he currently serves on the boards of the Michigan Education Trust and Citizens State Bank, and chairs the board of Henry Ford Macomb Hospitals. He has been appointed by three Michigan Governors to state policy commissions and asked to serve on numerous national advisory committees. His work has been recognized through 12 major leadership awards and 2 Honorary Doctoral degrees.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the achievements of Al Lorenzo, thanking him for his devoted service and wishing him the best in his retirement. I am confident he will continue to play a role in the area of education, in addition to enjoying a bit of retirement with his wife Katherine and large family.

HONORING THE CITY OF  
FAMAGUSTA, REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS

**HON. JOHN P. SARBANES**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 17, 2008*

Mr. SARBANES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of a city that once represented all that is good about Democracy and free enterprise, of a city that was a vibrant cultural and economic center and of a city that has been rendered a ghost town by an unlawful military occupation.

The city of Famagusta is located in the outer rim of Europe on the island Republic of Cyprus. Before Turkey's 1974 illegal invasion and occupation of the Republic of Cyprus, Famagusta showcased the successes of the newly independent Republic.

Famagusta led the development of the nascent Republic's economy and was known to the world as a great entertainment and tourist destination. The city housed 50 percent of Cyprus's touristic accommodations and also served as Cyprus's principal port, handling over 80 percent of the country's general cargo, and nearly 50 percent of the total passenger traffic to and from the island.

In 1974, 60,000 Cypriots called Famagusta home, and another 15,000 made their living working in the city. During the summer months European holidaymakers swelled the population to more than 100,000.

The vitality and good fortune of Famagusta ended when the Turkish military subjected it to intense aerial bombardment. In the face of the Turkish air force and invading army, the Greek-speaking Cypriot population evacuated the city.

The Turkish military sealed off the Varosha section of the city and has forbidden the entry of human life there for 34 years. Varosha lays frozen in time with the shelves of its department stores stocked with the wares of the 1970s, the hotel's breakfast tables are set for the tourist who never arrived and the roads and buildings are overrun by brush and vermin.

The decline of this once proud and vibrant city has been catalogued by its inclusion on the World Monuments Fund's 2008 Watch List of the 100 Most Endangered Sites in the world.

The Turkish military's continued occupation of the city and exclusion of its lawful inhabitants has been condemned by United Nations Security Council Resolution 550/1984 that calls for the transfer of the occupied, but uninhabited city of Famagusta to the United Nations for the orderly resettlement of the city by its rightful inhabitants.

Following Turkey's illegal invasion and occupation of Cyprus, Congress enacted 22 U.S.C.A. § 2373(a)(5), which sets forth the requirement that United States foreign policy support the United Nations Secretary General's efforts to resettle the occupied, but uninhabited city of Famagusta by its rightful inhabitants.

Once again this June 2, 2008, the Report of the Secretary General on the United Nations Operation in Cyprus holds the Government of Turkey responsible for the failure to hand over Famagusta for resettlement by its rightful inhabitants.

It is on this Remembrance Day of Famagusta that I tell my fellow members of the House that it is high time for Turkey to end its senseless and cruel occupation, and allow the people of this fine city to return to their homes so that they may rebuild and restore her faded glory for the benefit of all Cypriots.

CONGRATULATING NEA CHAIRMAN  
DANA GIOIA

**HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 17, 2008*

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dana Gioia on his accomplished tenure as the Chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts. The NEA has been significantly strengthened under his leadership, which he has recently announced will end in January when he steps down to focus on his writing.

When Mr. Gioia took the reins of the NEA in 2003, federal support for the arts had been badly damaged by decades of partisan feuds. The NEA budget had been cut in half, and many were questioning the long-term viability of the organization. Today, NEA funding has nearly doubled from its 1990s lows and the agency is expanding its efforts. For this, Mr. Gioia deserves much of the credit.

Mr. Gioia's impressive leadership skills helped build bipartisan support for the NEA. He understands the importance of listening to different groups, from artists to politicians to average citizens, and has the savvy to address their needs in creative ways.

One of his first initiatives was Shakespeare in American Communities, a program that brings professional theater companies into schools across the nation. This program has employed nearly 2,000 actors and introduced more than 1 million students to theater. The NEA also launched Operation Homecoming under his leadership, which sends writers to military bases to work with Iraq and Afghanistan veterans.

Mr. Gioia ensured that every congressional district had an opportunity to earn an NEA grant—a move that brought the arts to many new communities and demonstrated to Congress how the NEA's work touches every corner of the country.

As a member of the Congressional Arts Caucus and the National Council on the Arts, I am grateful for Mr. Gioia's leadership. When his tenure at the NEA ends early next year, he will leave behind an organization that is much stronger than it was when he arrived in 2003. I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mr. Gioia on his leadership and his tremendous contributions to the arts.

TRIBUTE TO AUCLAIR'S MARKET  
IN SOMERSET, MASSACHUSETTS

**HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 17, 2008*

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Auclair's Market in Somerset, MA, which is celebrating its 90th

anniversary this week. The celebration also include a well-deserved "Happy 90th Birthday" to Fernand C.E. Auclair, whose father Francis started the business in 1918.

For all those years, Auclair's Market has combined the highest-quality food with excellent customer service. In an era when giant chain stores dominate the marketplace, Auclair's has remained steadfast in its dedication to the Greater Fall River area.

Things have certainly changed since the store first opened on Brightman Street in Fall River. At that time, meats were presented on cold marble slabs and the market's doors were left open in the winter to help preserve the food. Today, the store provides its customers with all the modern conveniences and several of its own specialties. Let me assure you, Madam Speaker, you haven't truly lived until you've grilled a steak with Auclair's Steakhouse marinade.

What hasn't changed is the Auclair family's commitment to the community. As Denis Auclair, third-generation owner recently told the Fall River Herald-News, "We can say it's our business, but it's our customers' store. Without them, we're nothing."

Madam Speaker, I ask all of my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Auclair's Market on their 90th Anniversary and wishing Fernand C.E. Auclair a very happy 90th birthday.

SCHOOL SAFETY ENHANCEMENTS  
ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

**HON. BOB ETHERIDGE**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 15, 2008*

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the School Safety Enhancements Act of 2007. This legislation reauthorizes and strengthens the Secure Our Schools program, which provides critical support to our Nation's schools for equipment to keep our children safe during their educational time. Over the past 6 years, \$65 million in Federal grant funds have been put to work in a partnership between law enforcement agencies and local schools to invest in security and school safety at more than 2,400 schools nationwide.

As the former superintendent of North Carolina's public schools, I know that a student needs fertile soil for learning to take seed. I have rare firsthand knowledge of the importance of quality school buildings to the educational goals we hold for our schools, and the challenges those schools face in inadequate facilities. There really is no substitute for bricks and mortar when it comes to quality schools. While good teachers and administrators are central to education, we also need a good environment for students. Children cannot learn in facilities that are substandard or overcrowded or where they do not feel safe. That is why I have made it a priority in Congress to support funds for school construction, for school safety, and for school emergency preparedness needs.

This bill is a step to address the pressing needs that schools have for safety. Even as teachers, administrators, and students are working together with law enforcement to make schools a safe place for learning, they

can use additional help and guidance to make their planning as effective as possible. I speak to students from North Carolina who are concerned about violence in their schools, about gang activity, or about bullying. Secure Our Schools gives schools and law enforcement agencies the flexibility to address their community's unique needs.

Although schools are central institutions to our communities, they are often overlooked in security and emergency planning. The partnerships between schools and law enforcement facilitated by Secure Our Schools have far-reaching benefits to school safety and the health of our communities.

H.R. 2352 gives these partnerships new tools to keep our children safe by allowing the use of funds for surveillance equipment and capital improvement. In recognition of the incredible need for these funds, it expands the authorization for Secure Our Schools grants to \$50 million. It is a solid step to improve our schools and recognize the hard work of teams of teachers, administrators, health care workers, security staff, and law enforcement personnel in keeping our children safe.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in voting yes for H.R. 2352.

HONORING HISTORICALLY BLACK  
COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES  
WEEK

**HON. DANNY K. DAVIS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 17, 2008*

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and celebrate National Historically Black Colleges and Universities week, designated as September 7–13, 2008. It is a pleasure to recognize Historically Black Colleges and Universities—or HBCUs—and their successes in educating many of the nation's African American undergraduate and graduate students.

There are over 100 HBCUs, and they provide a key pathway for African Americans and other minorities to take part in higher education. Although HBCUs represent only about 2.4 percent of higher education institutions, they enroll almost 12 percent of African American students who attend college. These institutions offer degrees at various levels across many subject areas. They play a critical role in educating black students in the fields of science and engineering. Indeed, 2004 data demonstrate that, of degrees earned by African American students, HBCUs conferred 20 percent degrees in engineering, 39 percent in the physical sciences, 26 percent in computer science, 37 percent in mathematics, 36 percent in the biological sciences, 47 percent in agricultural sciences, 16 percent in social sciences, and 21 percent in psychology. This success is especially impressive given the historical financial discrimination these institutions endured from Federal and State governments.

It was an HBCU that started me on my path to become the person that I am today. Growing up in rural Arkansas, my parents were low-income sharecroppers, who raised ten children. Seven of us attended the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, which was then called Arkansas AM&N College. Subsequently, three of my nephews, a niece, as well as several of

my cousins attended the same college. If it were not for the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, I strongly believe that my family members and I would not have been able to attend college. Many African American members of Congress and many of our nation's leaders have attended HBCUs—Jesse Jackson, Jr., Jesse Jackson, Sr., Alcee Hastings, Dr. Martin Luther King, W.E.B. Du Bois, and Thurgood Marshall, just to name a few.

The continued support and funding of HBCUs is essential to create more opportunities for people of color to thrive in education and become leaders of tomorrow. To this end, I advocated actively on their behalf during the recent reauthorization of the Higher Education Act. Today more than ever, professional success is linked with a higher education degree. I am pleased that the 110th Congress has demonstrated a commitment to strengthening HBCUs and other minority-serving institutions. HBCUs serve large populations of students with great financial and academic needs and deserve continued Federal support to graduate men and women of color. In honor of the 2008 HBCU week, I recognize HBCUs for their rich heritage, history, and culture and for the opportunities they provide to students to learn, grow, and succeed, regardless of race, ethnicity, or income.

INTRODUCTION OF NATIONAL  
CYBERSECURITY AWARENESS  
MONTH RESOLUTION

**HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN**

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 17, 2008*

Mr. LANGEVIN. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to introduce this resolution supporting the goals and ideals of National Cybersecurity Awareness Month.

Each year, the National Cyber Security Division (NCSD) of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) joins with the National Cyber Security Alliance (NCSA), the Multi-State Information Sharing and Analysis Center (MS-ISAC) and other partners to support National Cyber Security Awareness Month. The goal of National Cyber Security Awareness Month is to show everyday Internet users that by taking simple steps, they can safeguard themselves from the latest online threats and respond to potential cyber-crime incidents.

It would be dangerous to believe, however, that simple steps by end users will sufficiently combat the larger threats associated with a growing networked society. As Chairman of the Homeland Security Subcommittee on Emerging Threats, Cybersecurity and Science and Technology, I have held eight hearings in the 110th Congress on our nation's cybersecurity posture and the various vulnerabilities in our critical information infrastructure. Cybersecurity vulnerabilities can significantly impact our national and economic security. This issue has been largely ignored and misunderstood for too long. The oversight that the Homeland Security Committee is undertaking will help change that, but much work remains to be done.

I thank my colleagues for cosponsoring this resolution, and look forward to working with them on these critical issues in the future.

SUPPORTING PROPOSED REGULATIONS TO THE PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICERS' BENEFIT PROGRAM

**HON. DONALD A. MANZULLO**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 17, 2008*

Mr. MANZULLO. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the Department of Justice for recently proposed regulations relating to the Public Safety Officers' Benefit Program. The program provides death benefits for the survivors of public safety officers who die in the line of duty; and disability benefits to those officers who have been permanently and totally disabled by a catastrophic personal injury sustained in the line of duty, and thereby prevented from performing any gainful work; and also educational assistance benefits for surviving family members. Among other things, these proposed regulations will help to shore up the program against fraud and abuse by clarifying the requirements for certifications and their effect. I strongly support the mission of the Public Safety Officers' Benefit Program, and I commend the Department of Justice for keeping the regulations up to date and for taking action to ensure that the funds available go to those public safety officers (and their survivors) that deserve them. I would like to take a moment to comment on the statutory predicate for some of these regulations.

As the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals recognized, Public Law 94-430 creates a "limited program," whose principal purpose is to help ensure that the families of "public" officers be protected from financial calamity that is likely to result from the death or permanent and total disability, in the line of duty, of the primary money-maker. The statute (including the two parallel 2001 benefits statutes, which do not, strictly speaking, amend the Public Law or directly affect the precise program it creates) enshrines various and competing policy considerations and purposes that it proposes to achieve by particular means that have been worked out, over the last 30 years and more, in the legislative process. Because no law pursues its ends at all costs, the limitations expressly or implicitly contained in its text and structure are no less an articulation of its purposes (and the intent, goals, and policies that inform it), than its substantive grants of authority are. Benefits under these statutes—charges on the public fisc—are to be granted fairly, but not speculatively, or beyond what the statutory language unequivocally requires and unequivocally expresses, or beyond the letter of the difficult judgments reached in the legislative process and clearly reflected in the statutory text. It is precisely to enable the Department to balance and harmonize these various considerations into a single workable and coherent program that the law confers extraordinary administrative and interpretive authority on the Department. For example, at least seven distinct statutory provisions—42 U.S.C. 3796c(a) (twice), 3796(a) & (b), 3796d-3(a) & (b), 3782(a)—expressly authorize the Department to issue program regulations and policies here, and the law expressly provides that those regulations and policies are determinative of conflict of law issues relating to the program, and that responsibility for making final determinations shall rest with the Department. Under the Public Law (as under the parallel

2001 statutes), the very right to a death or disability benefit, which the Supreme Court correctly has recognized as a legal "gratuity" (and thus not "remedial" in nature), is not freestanding, but contingent, rather, upon a determination by the Department.

When Public Law 94-430 was enacted in 1976, only the Circuit Courts or the old Court of Claims (of similar rank) heard appeals from final rulings of the Department of Justice thereunder, which meant that only one level of judicial review ordinarily was available to claimants and the Department, alike. In 1982 (when the appellate functions of the Court of Claims generally were merged into the newly-created Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit), jurisdiction over these appeals—apparently as a result of an oversight—was not transferred to the Federal Circuit, and thus (unlike the case with other administrative appeals, see, e.g., 28 U.S.C. 1295, 1296), by default, lay in what is now the Court of Federal Claims, established under Article I of the Constitution, rather than Article III, with an additional level of appeals available in the Federal Circuit. Although there are notable and distinguished exceptions, over the past decade or so, many of the Federal Claims Court's rulings on these appeals applied the law incorrectly, sometimes disregarding the express terms of the relevant statute or implementing regulations, or binding and applicable Federal Circuit/Court of Claims precedent, and even Supreme Court precedent. To order the administering agency to pay on a claim when payment is not clearly warranted by the programmatic statutes and their implementing regulations and administrative interpretive superstructure is as much an affront to the law as for the agency not to pay when payment is clearly required by those statutes and regulations.

Overall, the 16 opinions issued to date by the Federal Circuit (and its predecessor) under the statute indicate a proper understanding of the law and the application of the Chevron doctrine to the Department's determinations. (All but two of these opinions were affirmances of the administering agency; in *Demutiis*, the agency was affirmed on all points but a very minor one (relating to application of a (now-repealed) regulation), and the 1980 holding in *Harold*, which reversed the Department's determination, itself soon thereafter was rendered moot, as a practical matter, by a statutory amendment consonant with the Department's position.) For these reasons, the corrective proviso in the consolidated appropriations legislation, entrusting judicial appeals under Public Law 94-430 (and the two 2001 statutes) exclusively to the Federal Circuit (and returning to a single level of judicial review, as originally intended) should further the purposes of the program, reduce litigation costs for claimants and the taxpayers, and serve the interests of justice.

HONORING THE LIFE AND MUSIC OF THE LATE ISAAC HAYES

SPEECH OF

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 15, 2008*

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker. I thank the gentlewoman from Tennessee for

introducing this resolution. I rise today to show support for House Resolution 1425, honoring the life and music of the late Isaac Hayes.

Mr. Hayes's absence will be felt by millions around the world. A prolific hall of fame songwriter, a fighter for civil rights and an entertainer to millions throughout his life, I ask that Congress now honor his life and his achievements.

Isaac Hayes's life should serve as an example to us all. Being orphaned shortly after his birth, Mr. Hayes started a lifelong trend of overcoming adversity. His grandfather, who was taking care of him, died when Isaac was only 11 years old. Wanting to contribute to his family, he took odd jobs around town to help his grandmother out.

His love of music started when he was only 5 years old. Turned on to music by singing at his church, he taught himself to play multiple instruments. Soon, he was singing backup to bands and it wasn't long before he would be out on his own singing and producing other young aspiring artists.

His civil rights credentials weren't too shabby either. In 1972, he helped stage a concert in Los Angeles that focused on social and economic issues. Never forgetting his roots, this concert also brought attention to his hometown Memphis sound.

Isaac Hayes was the best among us. His strength and character are a beacon of light for us all. This legislation will honor the life of one of the great ones of our time.

RECOGNIZING JOSEPH STALNAKER AND THE PAWS WITH A CAUSE ORGANIZATION

**HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 17, 2008*

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Joseph Stalnak and the Paws with a Cause organization. On the morning of Wednesday, September 13, 2008, Mr. Stalnak suffered a seizure as a result of an injury he received while serving in the U.S. military. While Mr. Stalnak was unable to help himself, his trained service dog, Buddy, managed to place the 911 call that saved his life. He had adopted Buddy from Paws with a Cause a year earlier.

The Paws with a Cause organization trains seeing eye and service dogs to be placed for adoption by people with disabilities. They are the nation's largest non-profit group providing service dogs trained especially to handle people with seizure-related disorders. Their goal is to not only assist people with serious disabilities, but to encourage them to be able to live independently. Paws with a Cause purveys a message of awareness through education, and provides service dogs to its clients free of charge.

Through these advocacy programs, people with disabilities like Joseph Stalnak, who bravely served our country, are able to live independently. The Paws with a Cause program tirelessly serves the community, providing both aid to those with disabilities, and providing homes to many dogs that would not otherwise have these opportunities.

Madam Speaker, please join me in recognizing the Paws with a Cause organization

and one of its fortunate beneficiaries, Joseph Stalnakar.

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SUNSET MEMORIAL

**HON. TRENT FRANKS**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 17, 2008*

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

It is September 17, 2008 in the land of the free and the home of the brave, and before the sun set today in America, almost 4,000 defenseless unborn children were killed by abortion on demand. That's just today, Madam 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 13,022 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 Madam 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.

Madam 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." Madam 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. Madam 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 Madam 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 13,022 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.

Madam 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 17, 2008, 13,022 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.

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 Thursday, September 18, 2008 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

SEPTEMBER 23

9:30 a.m.  
 Armed Services  
 To hold hearings to examine the situation in Iraq and Afghanistan; with the possibility of a closed session in SVC-217 following the open session. SD-106

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions  
 Employment and Workplace Safety Subcommittee  
 To hold hearings to examine investing in a skilled workforce, focusing on making the best use of tax-payer dollars to maximize results. SD-430

10 a.m.  
 Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs  
 Disaster Recovery Subcommittee  
 To hold hearings to examine after action reviews of federal, state, and local activities to respond and recover from Hurricanes Gustav and Ike. SD-G50

Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs  
 To hold hearings to examine turmoil in United States credit markets, focusing on recent actions regarding investment banks and other financial institutions. SD-538

Energy and Natural Resources  
 To hold hearings to examine reasons that diesel fuel prices have been so high and what can be done to address this situation. SD-366

Environment and Public Works  
 To hold hearings to examine regulation of greenhouse gases under the Clean Air Act (Public Law 101-549). SD-406

Finance  
 To hold hearings to examine covering the uninsured, focusing on making health insurance markets work. SD-215

Judiciary  
 To hold hearings to examine equal pay for equal work. SH-216

Appropriations  
 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Subcommittee  
 Financial Services and General Government Subcommittee  
 To hold joint hearings to examine food marketing to children. SD-192

10:30 a.m.  
 Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs  
 Federal Financial Management, Government Information, Federal Services, and International Security Subcommittee  
 To hold hearings to examine reducing the undercount in the 2010 census. SD-342

2:15 p.m.  
 Foreign Relations  
 Business meeting to consider pending calendar business. S-116, Capitol

2:30 p.m.  
 Commerce, Science, and Transportation  
 To hold oversight hearings to examine the transition to digital television, focusing on the February 2009 deadline. SR-253

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs  
 Oversight of Government Management, the Federal Workforce, and the District of Columbia Subcommittee  
 To hold hearings to examine the elements of the federal government responsible for coordinating our public diplomacy, including their respective missions, organizational structures, workforce, and management. SD-342

Intelligence  
 To hold hearings to examine the new Attorney General guidelines for domestic intelligence collection. SD-G50

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.  
 Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry  
 Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs  
 Disaster Recovery Subcommittee  
 To hold joint hearings to examine the effectiveness of agricultural disaster assistance programs in the wake of the 2008 Midwest floods, Hurricane Gustav, and Hurricane Ike. SR-328A

Finance  
 To hold hearings to examine infrastructure needs and the consequences of inaction. SD-215

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs  
 To hold hearings to examine domestic partner benefits for federal employees. SD-342

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

Joint Economic Committee  
 To hold hearings to examine the current economic outlook. SD-106

10:30 a.m.  
 Aging  
 To hold hearings to examine ways to respect Americans' choices at the end of life. SD-562

10:45 a.m.  
 Judiciary  
 Human Rights and the Law Subcommittee  
 To hold hearings to examine extracting natural resources, focusing on corporate responsibility and the rule of law. SH-216

2:30 p.m.  
 Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs  
 State, Local, and Private Sector Preparedness and Integration Subcommittee  
 To hold hearings to examine the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) future preparedness planning. SD-342

Environment and Public Works  
 To hold hearings to examine the Bush Administration's environmental record at the Department of the Interior and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). SD-406

Judiciary  
 Terrorism, Technology and Homeland Security Subcommittee  
 To hold hearings to examine the Visa Waiver Program, focusing on mitigating risks to ensure the safety of all Americans. SH-216

SEPTEMBER 25

9:30 a.m.  
 Armed Services  
 To hold hearings to examine the authorization of Survival Evasion Resistance and Escape techniques for interrogations in Iraq, focusing on the Committee's inquiry into the treatment of detainees in United States custody. SD-106

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs  
 To hold hearings to examine ways to prevent nuclear terrorism, focusing on hard lessons learned from troubled investments. SD-342

10 a.m.  
 Commerce, Science, and Transportation  
 To hold hearings to examine broadband providers and consumer privacy. SR-253

2:30 p.m.  
 Intelligence  
 To hold hearings to examine the nomination of J. Patrick Rowan, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Attorney General. SD-G50