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House of Representatives

The House met at 10:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CARNAHAN).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
September 22, 2008.

I hereby appoint the Honorable RUSS CARNAHAN to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 4, 2007, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

WALL STREET BAILOUT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) for 5 minutes.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Well, Secretary Paulson has submitted a simple proposal to Congress. This is it, three pages. It is about $1 billion a word, and it is quite simple: Secretary Paulson gets the key to the Treasury, can start off by borrowing $700 billion in the name of the American people, maybe more later, and it waives all laws. All laws. No oversight, no one looking over his shoulder, no conflict of interest rules. Not even court review. A pretty simple proposal.

He insists this has to be done, without meaningful discussion or debate or any change by the Congress, sort of an immediate authorization for use of financial force. Does this remind anybody of anything, like the rush into Iraq on election eve a number of years ago? It is all too familiar.

He wants to take care of Wall Street's illiquid assets, as what he nicely labels them. Nice charitable pundits have said Cash For Trash. Wall Street could then return to business as usual. That is Mr. Paulson's plan. He is of, by, for, and about Wall Street, former head of Goldman Sachs. He wants to go back to the way things were.

They should never go back to the way things were. There need to be consequences, and there needs to be major change in the financial structures and the financial instruments and the regulation of Wall Street, something this administration still continues to deny, or says, oh, we'll do it later after we give them everything they want up front, after we bail them out.

Now, many want a condition on what will happen here. They want to have oversight. That is good. They want to limit executive compensation for any firm that takes a bailout. That is good. They want a linkage to a Main Street stimulus package and jobs. That is good. Those are all good. But we have got to question and take our time here to question the basic premise: Should we just take all their junk that people like Hank Paulson created, exotic instruments, the big party they have been throwing? Should we just take that and give it to the taxpayers and borrow the money from who knows where? Or, should we take an equity stake in these firms? That is what the government did when it bailed out Chrysler. It said, okay, we'll bail you out, but we own you; and when you come back, we're going to make money for the taxpayers.

Secretary Paulson wants to set it up so that the taxpayers at best, and in an all likelihood this wouldn't happen, might break even some day. No. We need to take an equity assurance in these firms, or we need to extend them loans, have them marked down as junk to market. There's a market for it. It's about 22 cents on the dollar. Make them mark it down. And then if they're threatened and they're liquid, they can come to us and ask for a loan, and the terms are going to be stiff. And we aren't going to give it to just any one of these firms. No. We need to do this. We need to do it with oversight, and executive compensation is key no matter which way we go.

Oh, let the boards of directors control. Come on, boards of directors are all like first cousins and closer. These people are all feathering each other's nest. Hank Paulson himself got a $50 million bonus for 1 year, the same year Wall Street rewarded itself with $60 billion in bonuses. That is not a mistake. Billion dollars in bonuses in 2006.

These people are out of control. They don't understand the real world. And for them to talk about Main Street and pretend they're populist and they care about Main Street and student loans and homeowners' equity is a bunch of BS.

We need major structural reform, and we are the last bulwark here, the House of Representatives, the United States Senate. Because if we pass this bill as they propose it, we will be doing an incredible disservice to the American people, to the world economy. And what if his bet doesn't work? Yeah, the execs come out whole and they scoot that money offshore into hidey-holes or into gold or something else. But what if it doesn't work? And we have extended our credit about as far as it will go. Where are we going to borrow $700 billion? What is the next step?

We need a much more targeted, deliberative approach. Congress can't come up with it in 3 days or 4 days. We shouldn't be rushed into this. If it takes a week, 2 weeks, 3 weeks, a month, the world will wait. They will wait for a thoughtful plan that cures the disease in addition to getting us beyond this initial problem. That is the

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job of this Congress. We should not be rolled by our Wall Street exec who is masquerading as Secretary of the Treasury.

BAILING OUT WALL STREET

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. STEARNS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, it is also with great concern that I come before my colleagues to address a financial crisis of epic proportions.

Our Federal Government has taken drastic measures mainly in the form of a taxpayer-funded bailout in an attempt to put a stop to the complete deterioration of our financial system.

Just this weekend, the administration composed a comprehensive bailout to relieve private sector financial institutions and banks of their toxic mortgage assets to the tune of 700 billion taxpayer-backed dollars.

This plan increases our excessively high national debt to $11.3 trillion while also allowing foreign banks, which hold U.S. mortgage debt, to benefit from the billions provided by this bailout.

This plan constitutes the largest government bailout in history, yet it does nothing to protect the taxpayers. The Secretary of Treasury will have unlimited authority to purchase the most toxic of assets from any number of solvent, private sector financial institutions.

Furthermore, this plan comes in the wake of last week's $85 billion bailout of major insurance company American International Group and the Treasury's $200 billion bailout of out-of-control GSES Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac.

Mr. Speaker, these bailouts come at a great price and expose American taxpayers to vast financial risk. Through these bailouts, our Federal Government is effectively risking hard-earned taxpayers' dollars to protect private sector companies that utilized reckless investment strategies with little regard to the consequences. Clearly, our financial and regulatory structures have failed us, and now the looming question on everybody's mind is, who is next?

Mr. Speaker, bailout after bailout is not a strategy, and it is certainly not a sustainable cure to our financial ills. These bailouts are an assault on American capitalism and have introduced a large degree of financial hazard into our economic system.

As an elected official, I am worried about this weekend's comprehensive bailout plan that gives the Secretary of Treasury unprecedented authority and virtually no oversight, aside from having to submit semiannual reports to Congress. This is unacceptable, and we must do something to protect taxpayers before adjourning this Congress.

Several years ago I became concerned with the financial picture of both Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, when as a member of the oversight subcommittee of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, I participated in the Enron hearings, and learned of the fraud and abuses perpetrated through accounting procedures. Moreover, I heard how Freddie Mac had also misapplied the Financial Accounting Standard Board's (FASB) standards for derivatives and hedging in its financial statement.

In 2003, as Chairman of the Commerce, Trade, and Consumer Protection Subcommittee, I held hearings on FASB accounting standards, including a hearing on Freddie Mac's fraudulent accounting practices. I planned on holding additional hearings on Freddie Mac's restatement, and developing legislation on accounting standards when jurisdiction over FASB was suddenly stripped away from my subcommittee and transferred to the Financial Services committee—seemingly the result of intensive lobbying efforts on Freddie's part.

I firmly believe, my colleagues, we need to establish congressional oversight of the Treasury, perhaps in the form of a commission that can monitor the transfer of this money, so that we may have better accountability and transparency as the government proceeds in bailing out company after company.

Additionally, we need better regulatory structures, and we should institute immediate controls to prevent massive short-selling of stocks which only further corrodes the market. And, further, we must ensure that the CEOs of these solvent, private companies do not walk away with millions of dollars in severance packages at the expense of taxpayers. Why not give taxpayers warrants for the upside in these companies that are being bailed out by taxpayers so that they benefit from this sacrifice? Unfortunately, this plan would put taxpayers at a risk for losses that belong to those companies that recklessly sought profits—profits for the stockholders and executives through dividends, salaries, bonuses and presumed stock appreciation.

I stress to my colleagues today, this is not a case of partisan politics. Our constituents' 401(k)s are at risk. The nationalization of private assets is inherently un-American. As free enterprising Americans, we need to let our markets determine the winners and the losers, not the United States Treasury.

Economists say we are in the midst of the greatest financial crisis since the 1930s, and yet the Democratic leadership intends on ending this 110th Congress on Friday.

Mr. Speaker, we have more work to do. We should not adjourn this Congress until we have a set of real solutions to work with, and these solutions should not involve risking any additional taxpayer dollars. I firmly believe that our Congress has a bigger role to play in ensuring that bailout and bankruptcy are not words the American people get used to hearing. We owe at least that much to the people who put us here.

The plan developed this weekend puts taxpayer dollars at risk with little or no benefit to those who pay the taxes, and I stand here today to firmly oppose it.

The Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. is a likely candidate to seek a taxpayer-funded "loan" or bailout from the government. This is particularly worrisome, given the fact that the FDIC exists for the sole purpose of insuring the deposits in our Nation's banks. If the FDIC's insurance fund continues to slip as bank failures persist, we may be facing another Treasury rescue.

WALL STREET BAILOUT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. SHERMAN) for 5 minutes.

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

Mr. SHERMAN. Let me join the bipartisan chorus of skeptical voices about this $700 billion bailout.

We live in an era of great concentration of power in the Executive Branch and great concentration of wealth on Wall Street. Today, we are asked to approve the greatest power grab any executive has ever asked for and the greatest transfer of wealth Wall Street could imagine. $700 billion is supposed to be given to the administration, and they will give it to Wall Street.

They are going to buy the worst of the worst assets in the back of any investment bank's closet. They can decide what to pay. They can buy from this one and not that one. They can have as much politics and as much cronyism as they are able to conceal, and there will be no oversight So, they can conceal a lot. No standards, no accountability. They can pay any price to any person for any toxic asset, and they can refuse to pay any price to any person for any toxic asset.

This $700 billion is on top of the Fannie and Freddie Mac bailouts, which were not bailouts so much of those entities. Those entities are really now part of the government. They were bailouts of the Wall Street investors in the bonds that had been guaranteed by Freddie and Fannie.

So we have already transferred hundreds of billions of dollars to Wall Street; we are now told to do $700 billion. And be sure, if we do the $700 billion now, they will be back for a few hundred billion in a while and a few hundred billion beyond that.

The truth is we don't know. The truth is they don't know. If we pass this bill, Wall Street could be sagging in a few weeks anyway. If we don't pass this bill, Wall Street could rebound by the end of the year. No one can make your 401(K) safe. No one can tell you whether your 401(K) will be safe regardless of whether we pass this bill or not. The only thing that is certain is that if we pass this bill, Wall Street executives will be happy.

This bill allows whatever money we give to a Wall Street firm, they can invest it overseas the next day. And if a

foreign entity has invested in these bonds, these toxic assets, they don't get bailed out by their own government; they can sell those bonds to a U.S. entity on Monday, and the taxpayer can be stuck with these toxic assets by Tuesday.

We are told we are going to get regulatory and corporate governance reform next year; but this bill does not include a fast track provision to assure that serious proposals are considered, particularly when they are subject to filibuster in the Senate. Why no fast track for every kind of regulatory and corporate governance reform?

The administration was gagged kicking and screaming into providing $3 billion of help to home owners who face troubled loans. They want over $1 trillion for Wall Street. That shows you the ratio of their compassion.

There is nothing in this proposal from the administration to limit executive compensation. So when we pay $1 billion to a Wall Street firm, the next day they can use that money to hand out huge and enormous bonuses to their executives. I would propose that we have a 50 percent surtax on the executive compensation paid to the executive of any bailed out entity, starting with Bear Stearns and Fannie and Freddie and AIG, and continuing through those who benefit from this bill.

We clearly need a stimulus, at least a well-crafted stimulus program.

And, finally, why should the Department of the Treasury have total carte blanche? We should require that every major contract entered into under this bill and every purchase of toxic assets be approved in advance by the GAO; otherwise, this is just a license to the Treasury to hand out money in return for trash, cash for trash, and they get to decide how to do it.

If you are skeptical about this bill, please meet with me and others at 2:30 today in Room 2220, that is 2220 at 2:30, and let's discuss how we can make a bill that reflects American values and not Wall Street values.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

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

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, September 19, 2008.

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

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on September 19, 2008, at 12:24 p.m.:

That the Senate passed S. 531.

That the Senate passed S. 2606.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

LORRAINE C. MILLER,
Clerk of the House.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 48 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess until noon.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. CAPPS) at noon.

PRAYER

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

God, our Savior and Guide, over this weekend Your people gathered for public worship. Communal prayer teaches us to live with grateful hearts, even in tense and depressing times. We thank You, Lord, for the gifts of family, the benefits of daily work and the freedoms of this Nation.

As Congress assembles for another week, may our prayer together turn our hearts from self-seeking to a true awareness of our communal sharing in Your goodness and the necessary efforts to protect our national interests and clear the way to economic stability for all.

May Your holy will be accomplished through just legislation and give You glory, now and forever.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. FILNER led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

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

TAXPAYERS SACRIFICE ALL AND RECEIVE NOTHING

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

Mr. STEARNS. Madam Speaker, the title of my 1-minute is called ''Taxpayers Sacrifice All and Receive Nothing.''

The plan that developed this weekend for a comprehensive bailout of private sector financial institutions put taxpayers at risk with little or no benefit to those who pay the taxes.

This plan will put taxpayers at a risk for losses that belong to those companies that recklessly sought profits, profits for the stockholders and executives through dividends, salaries, bonuses and presumed stock appreciation. Instead, taxpayers who assume this risk should also enjoy an equity premium that goes beyond the return of their funds with interest for this bailout.

The taxpayers, after being awarded interest from their funds, as if they had invested in bonds, should have warrants as an equity kicker to sweeten their deal, giving them premium for their risk. Any institutional lender would demand as much and more. In this way, the taxpayers could share in the upside success of the companies that they rescue.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

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

COMMENDING THE HONOR FLIGHT NETWORK

Mr. FILNER. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1287) commending the Honor Flight Network, its volunteers, and donors, for enabling World War II veterans to travel to our Nation's capital to see the World War II Memorial created in their honor.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1287

Whereas in 2004, nearly 60 years after World War II ended, veterans of that war and all those who supported the war effort at home received recognition of their service, sacrifice, and victory through the dedication of a national World War II Memorial located on the National Mall in Washington, District of Columbia;

Whereas many veterans of World War II are now in their 80s and 90s, and are unable, physically or financially, to visit our Nation's capital to see the World War II Memorial for themselves;

Whereas Earl Morse of Ohio and Jeff Miller of North Carolina created the Honor Flight Network to enable World War II veterans to travel to the Memorial;

Whereas now operating in communities in over 30 States, the Honor Flight Network is a grassroots, nonprofit organization that uses commercial and chartered flights to send veterans on an all-expenses paid trip to Washington, District of Columbia;

Whereas the Honor Flights are staffed by volunteers and funded by donations;

Whereas former Senator Bob Dole, himself a wounded veteran of World War II, led the

fundraising campaign to build the Memorial and often greets veterans arriving at the Memorial through the Honor Flight Network;

Whereas of the 16,000,000 veterans who served in World War II, an estimated 2,500,000 are alive today and dying at a rate of over 900 a day; and

Whereas the Honor Flight Network is working against time to thank America's World War II veterans: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives expresses its deepest appreciation to the Honor Flight Network, its volunteers, and donors, who honor America's World War II veterans with an opportunity to see the World War II Memorial in Washington, District of Columbia.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. FILNER) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. STEARNS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise today to support House Resolution 1287, a resolution commending the Honor Flight Network, its volunteers, its donors and friends for enabling World War II veterans to travel to our Nation's Capital to see the World War II Memorial created in their honor. It is a pleasure for me to stand before you today to pay tribute to the Honor Flight Network.

This is a nonprofit organization that was created solely to honor America's World War II veterans for all their sacrifices by bringing them to Washington, DC without charging them a penny. The visit for them is to reflect at the World War II Memorial and visit with their fellow veterans.

The memorial, as you all know, honors the 16 million veterans who served in the Armed Forces of the United States during World War II, the more than 400,000 that made the ultimate sacrifice in defense of our Nation and the millions who supported the war effort at home.

The memorial itself is a testament to the spirit, sacrifice and commitment of the American people to the common defense of our Nation and equally important to the broader causes of peace and freedom from tyranny throughout the world. Above all, the memorial stands as an important symbol of American national unity, a timeless reminder of the moral strength and awesome power that can flow when free people are united and bonded together in a common and just cause. I sincerely hope that every World War II veteran will eventually be able to experience this great memorial, which we specifically created in their honor.

I am saddened, Madam Speaker, that not all veterans will be able to see this remarkable site. But, fortunately, the Honor Flight Network has made this dream a reality for many veterans by helping them see firsthand the memorial, an experience that certainly live with them and their families for the rest of their lives.

This program was conceived by Earl Morse, a physician's assistant and retired Air Force captain, to honor the veterans he has taken care of for almost three decades. After retiring from the Air Force in 1998, Earl was hired by the Department of Veterans Affairs to work in a small clinic in Springfield, Ohio.

In May of 2004, the World War II Memorial was finally completed and dedicated in Washington, DC, which quickly became the topic of discussion amongst his World War II veteran patients. Earl repeatedly asked these veterans if they would ever travel out to visit the memorial. Most felt that eventually somehow they would make it to D.C., perhaps with a friend or family member.

As summer turned to fall and then winter, these same veterans returned to the clinic for their follow-up visits. Earl asked if they accomplished their dream of visiting the World War II Memorial.

By now, for most of the veterans who were asked the question, reality had settled in. It was clear to most of them that it was simply not financially or physically possible for them to make the journey. Most of these heroes were in their eighties and lacked the physical and mental wherewithal to complete a trip of their own. Families and friends lacked the resources and time to complete a trip to D.C.

Earl could tell that the majority of the veterans had given up all hope of ever visiting the memorial that was specifically created to honor them, their sacrifice and their service. That is when Earl decided that there had to be a way to get these heroes to D.C. to see this memorial.

In December of 2004 Earl asked one of his World War II patients if he could personally fly him out to D.C. free of charge to visit the memorial. The patient, Mr. Loy, broke down and cried. He said at his age he would probably never get to see his memorial. He accepted the offer, and soon thereafter Earl received help from other pilots to make these hopes and dreams a reality for other veterans.

At the end of the first year, Honor Flight took 137 World War II veterans to their memorial. The mission and ideals of the program began to spread across America. One individual, Jeff Miller, from Hendersonville, North Carolina, led the expansion into areas not serviced by direct commercial flights to the Washington, DC area, and HonorAir was born.

In February of 2006, Earl and Jeff combined efforts and cofounded this Honor Flight Network. By the end of 2006, almost 1,000 World War II veterans realized their dream of visiting their memorial. The program presently has 69 hubs in 30 States, and by the end of this year, the Honor Flight Network hopes to have a hub in all 50 States.

One veteran who was able to have this experience, Ed Vitikas, put it best. He said, ''It's the trip of a lifetime.'' In the future, Honor Flight plans on paying tribute to America's other heroes that served during the Korean and Vietnam Wars, followed by veterans of more current wars.

Today, by passing House Resolution 1287, we express our gratitude and heartfelt thanks to an organization that has given so much to our veterans by commending the Honor Flight Network, its volunteers and donors, for enabling World War II veterans to travel to our Nation's Capital to so the World War II Memorial created in their honor.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank our colleagues, JERRY MORAN from Kansas, DAVID HOBSON from Ohio and HEATH SHULER from North Carolina, for submitting this resolution. I ask that all my colleagues from both sides of the aisle support this resolution.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, House Resolution 1287 would provide commendation to the Honor Flight Network, its volunteers and donors for enabling World War II veterans to travel to our Nation's Capital to see the World War II Memorial created in their honor.

Honor Flight Network was initially conceived in 2004 by Earl Morse, a physician's assistant and retired Air Force captain, to simply honor veterans he has taken care of for the past 27 years. Its sole purpose was to fly veterans to Washington, D.C. to visit the memorials dedicated to honor their sacrifice.

Today, Honor Flight Network has flown more than 800 World War II veterans to the memorial. It is a grassroots, nonprofit organization, and currently operates successfully in 30 States. My office has been involved in setting up three of these special honor flights for World War II veterans, and in June of 2007 I had the pleasure of partaking in one of these events myself.

The Honor Flight Network relies on support from volunteers and the funding from donors. These individuals help us to honor our veterans in return for all they have sacrificed to make this a better world.

Without the support of our volunteers, we would not be able to provide our heroes with the opportunity to fly to Washington, DC to see the memorial created in their honor. In reviewing the current legislative priorities for the Honor Flight Network, it is evident that their efforts have continued to supply support and recognition to World War II veterans through democracy.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support House Resolution 1287.

Madam Speaker, I have no further speakers and yield back the balance of my time.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. FILNER. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to

revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on House Resolution 1287.

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

There was no objection.

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

In conclusion, maybe as a segue to a bill we have in a couple minutes, this is a memorial to World War II veterans. For over 62 years, the Filipinos, who were drafted to fight in World War II and helped us win the battle in the Pacific, have not been granted the rights and benefits of being veterans of our Nation. They played a very important role, slowing up the Japanese advance, harassing them so that MacArthur could return, and continuing to help us fight the battle of the Pacific. We would not have won the battle in the Pacific as quickly as we did were it not for our Filipino World War II veterans.

I just want to say for the record that I and millions of people around the country regard this World War II Memorial on the Mall as also commemorating the contributions of the Filipinos who fought by our side in World War II.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. FILNER) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1287.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

FILIPINO VETERANS EQUITY ACT OF 2008

Mr. FILNER. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6897) to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to make certain payments to eligible persons who served in the Philippines during World War II, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6897

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Filipino Veterans Equity Act of 2008''.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress makes the following findings:

(1) The Philippine islands became a United States possession in 1898 when they were ceded from Spain following the Spanish-American War.

(2) During World War II, Filipinos served in a variety of units, some of which came under the direct control of the United States Armed Forces.

(3) The regular Philippine Scouts, the new Philippine Scouts, the Guerilla Services, and more than 100,000 members of the Philippine Commonwealth Army were called into the service of the United States Armed Forces of the Far East on July 26, 1941, by an executive order of President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

(4) Even after hostilities had ceased, wartime service of the new Philippine Scouts continued as a matter of law until the end of 1946, and the force gradually disbanded and was disestablished in 1950.

(5) Filipino veterans who were granted benefits prior to the enactment of the so-called Rescissions Acts of 1946 (Public Laws 79–301 and 79–391) currently receive full benefits under laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, but under section 107 of title 38, United States Code, the service of certain other Filipino veterans is deemed not to be active service for purposes of such laws.

(6) These other Filipino veterans only receive certain benefits under title 38, United States Code, and, depending on where they legally reside, are paid such benefit amounts at reduced rates.

(7) The benefits such veterans receive include service-connected compensation benefits paid under chapter 11 of title 38, United States Code, dependency indemnity compensation survivor benefits paid under chapter 13 of title 38, United States Code, and burial benefits under chapters 23 and 24 of title 38, United States Code, and such benefits are paid to beneficiaries at the rate of $0.50 per dollar authorized, unless they lawfully reside in the United States.

(8) Dependents' educational assistance under chapter 35 of title 38, United States Code, is also payable for the dependents of such veterans at the rate of $0.50 per dollar authorized, regardless of the veterans' residency.

SEC. 3. PAYMENTS TO ELIGIBLE PERSONS WHO SERVED IN THE PHILIPPINES DURING WORLD WAR II.

(a) COMPENSATION FUND.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—There is in the general fund of the Treasury a fund to be known as the ''Filipino Veterans Equity Compensation Fund'' (in this section referred to as the ''compensation fund'').

(2) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—Subject to the availability of appropriations for such purpose, amounts in the fund shall be available to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs without fiscal year limitation to make payments to eligible persons in accordance with this section.

(b) PAYMENTS.—During the one-year period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall make a payment to an eligible person who, during such period, submits to the Secretary an application containing such information and assurances as the Secretary may require.

(c) ELIGIBLE PERSONS.—An eligible person is any person who served—

(1) before July 1, 1946, in the organized military forces of the Government of the Commonwealth of the Philippines, while such forces were in the service of the Armed Forces of the United States pursuant to the military order of the President dated July 26, 1941, including among such military forces organized guerrilla forces under commanders appointed, designated, or subsequently recognized by the Commander in Chief, Southwest Pacific Area, or other competent authority in the Army of the United States; or

(2) in the Philippine Scouts under section 14 of the Armed Forces Voluntary Recruitment Act of 1945 (59 Stat. 538).

(d) PAYMENT AMOUNTS.—Each payment under this section shall be—

(1) in the case of an eligible person who is not a citizen of the United States, in the amount of $9,000; and

(2) in the case of an eligible person who is a citizen of the United States, in the amount of $15,000.

(e) LIMITATION.—The Secretary may not make more than one payment under this section for each person described in subsection (f).

(f) ELIGIBILITY OF INDIVIDUALS LIVING OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES ENTITLED TO CERTAIN SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS.—Receipt of a payment under this section shall not affect the eligibility of an individual residing outside the United States to receive benefits under title VIII of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1001 et seq.) or the amount of such benefits.

(g) RELEASE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), the acceptance by an eligible person of a payment under this section shall be final, and shall constitute a complete release of any claim against the United States by reason of any service described in subsection (c).

(2) PAYMENT OF PREVIOUSLY AWARDED BENEFITS.—Nothing in this section shall prohibit a person from receiving any benefit to which the person is entitled based on a claim for which benefits are awarded before the date of the enactment of this Act.

(h) REPORTS.—The Secretary shall include, in documents submitted to Congress by the Secretary in support of the President's budget for each fiscal year in which payments are made from the compensation fund under this section, detailed information on the operation of the compensation fund, including the number of applicants, the number of eligible persons receiving benefits, the amounts paid out of the compensation fund, and the administration of the compensation fund.

(i) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall prescribe regulations to carry out this section.

(j) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATION.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the compensation fund $198,000,000, to remain available until expended, to make payments under this section.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. FILNER) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. STEARNS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

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

□ 1215

Madam Speaker, this bill, rights a wrong that has existed for more than 60 years. Filipino servicemembers played a critical role in the United States' victory in the Pacific during World War II.

They exhibited great courage, as we all know, in the epic battles of Bataan and Corregidor. Many died in the famous Bataan Death March. Those who survived, and others who escaped, continued to harass the Japanese as guerilla units. When MacArthur returned, they joined in the victory of the retaking of the Philippines.

This bill would provide a one-time payment to the courageous Filipino soldiers who fought side-by-side with American GIs. There is no disputing the valiant service that these men provided in the Pacific.

Unfortunately, during a less-than-noble moment in our history, Congress passed the Rescission Acts of 1946, which stripped them of their veteran status and denied them the right of any benefit. While some veteran benefits have been restored for a few soldiers on a limited and piecemeal basis, for the large majority, they have never received a dime for their service. This is wrong.

When these men were called up to service by President Roosevelt, they were still considered Americans who were under territorial rule. Even if decades later, we must recognize the service of our Filipino soldiers and demonstrate the gratitude all of our soldiers deserve for doing what they were asked to do nobly and without complaint.

Let me remind you what President Truman said when he signed the so-called Rescission Acts, even though he disagreed with part of it. Truman said the passage and approval of this legislation ''does not release the United States from its moral obligation to provide for the heroic Filipino veterans who sacrificed so much. Philippine Army veterans fought as American nationals under the American flag and under the direction of our military leaders.''

H.R. 6897, as amended, will give a long overdue one-time payment of $15,000 for U.S. citizens and $9,000 for those who were citizens. By doing this, we will provide a small, yet meaningful, measure of recognition and thanks to these brave men who deserve far, far more.

It is time that this Congress and our Nation recognize their contributions to the successful outcome of World War II, recognize the injustice visited upon them and act to correct this injustice. To those who ask if we can afford to redeem this debt, I say we can't afford not to. The historical record remains blotted until we recognize these veterans.

I hope all my colleagues will join me in supporting these veterans and would reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. STEARNS. Madam Speaker, I request such time as I may consume.

Let me start out in this discussion of this bill, H.R. 6897, that Mr. FILNER from San Diego has done a very exceptional job in his assiduous efforts to pass this bill. I admire him for his efforts.

I don't all together agree with him, and I will point to that in my speech, but this in no way implies that his efforts aren't appreciated for the Filipinos who fought for us in World War II and for those Filipinos who receive money who are not U.S. citizens because of this bill.

I would have to point out that he has said there are no benefits provided for the Filipino veterans. I have here an Overview of Filipino Veterans' Benefits, a report that indicates that, in fact, in 1946, $200 million was authorized to give them benefits. So his statement is not entirely accurate.

We do have a report of Congress that shows money was authorized, $200 million in 1946 was worth a lot of money. I think we should put that in perspective before we start discussing this further.

As pointed out, it is a lump sum payment to Filipino veterans of World War II subject to appropriations. Now, think about that for a second. There is no money in here authorized for this. This is subject to appropriation. They have to find the money. We don't know where this money, roughly $200 million, is going to come from.

I don't agree with the notion frequently put forth that there was a breach of promise put forth to the Filipino veterans by the United States Government, and that we must make some sort of belated payments to them for their service during World War II. The Congressional Research Service, as I pointed out, has provided an excellent objective and nonpartisan report on the Filipino veterans benefits from World War II.

It does not, as I pointed out, support the breach of promise theory that we often hear from my distinguished chairman and also, from a lot of Filipino veterans groups. Both the United States and the Philippine Governments are already providing benefits to many Filipino World War II veterans, so they are already getting benefits.

This bill is significantly different from the legislation that was previously marked up last July, H.R. 760, the Filipino Veterans Equity Act of 2007, and it also differs from the original language of the Senate-passed version of S. 1315. Both bills utilize funding from overturning the court decision in Hartness v. Nicholson to, among other things, pay pension benefits to Filipino veterans of World War II.

At least in that case they did attempt to find some money. So they had a legitimate way to get money to pay for this. That is not true in this bill today. It has taken out discretionary spending left to the appropriators, and the appropriators don't know where they are going to get the money either.

It's apparent from the legislation before us that my distinguished chairman took pause before moving forward. He listened, and this is a credit to him, he listened to the veterans service organizations who opposed the bill, his original bill. He listened to his colleagues on the Veterans' Affairs Committee, and then he carefully drafted the bill that we have before us today.

It does not take money away from any other veterans group to pay for these funds, and it makes the payment of the lump sum subject to appropriation. This bill would authorize a payment of $15,000 for World War II Filipino veterans who are United States citizens and $9,000 for those who are not citizens of the United States and live in the Philippines.

I appreciate the committee accepting our ranking member, Mr. BUYER's amendment to the bill, which provides that payment of the lump-sum benefit would be final and constitute a complete release of any claim against the United States by those recipients that are covered under this legislation. However, World War II Filipino veterans would continue to receive benefits already awarded.

During discussions of the previously mentioned Filipino veterans equity bills, which utilized offsets from overturning the Hartness decision, Ranking Member BUYER had staff contact the various veterans organizations regarding the use of these funds. The American Legion, AMVETS, and NAUS, strongly opposed using the Hartness funds to provide for the Filipino veterans. That was then, that was back then.

While their positions vary regarding overturning the Hartness decision, there are other organizations such as the Paralyzed Veterans of America, the Military Officers Association of America and the Gold Star Wives of America, believe that there are many higher priorities than additional benefits for Filipino veterans of World War II.

Why don't we talk about some of those higher priorities, because this is what the veterans service organizations feel strongly about. If you are going to give this money to the Filipinos, what about the higher priorities of these other people? How about improvements to the Specially Adaptive Housing Grant, the PVA; improvement to the Specially Adaptive Automobile Grant, PVA, increases to the mileage reimbursement rate, PVA and MOAA; increases in supplemental insurance coverage for disabled veterans, MOAA; increases to the DIC rate for American surviving spouses, GSW; increases to the maximum death benefit pension for the surviving widow of a veteran not entitled to a VA compensation, GSW.

Why, I would think, would we give $200 million for Filipino veterans who are not even U.S. citizens while not providing a priority for these? Obviously, there are many, many higher priorities that we as a Nation at war should be meeting. We should be devoting our available resources to meeting the needs of our veterans and the returning warriors that are coming back from Afghanistan and from Iraq.

Now, during last Wednesday's markup session, Mr. BUYER, the ranking Republican member of the full committee offered, and then he had to withdraw, a second amendment to this bill, which would have authorized $198 million to fund the VA veterans small business loan program that was terminated in 1986. Think of that, we could have, instead of this bill, we could have had the VA veterans small business loan program reenacted for all these veterans coming back from Afghanistan and from Iraq. Surely they could use this to help create jobs and start their own companies and provide for jobs for more Americans.

The program authorized VA to either guarantee a loan made by a vendor or make a loan up to $200,000 for a veteran-owned small business. Sounds like a good idea to me. The original program gave preference to disabled veterans, and Mr. BUYER added a preference for members of the National Guard and Reserves, who have been ordered to active duty in support of the global war on terror.

Each of us on this committee has veteran constituents who are also

small business owners, and many of these veterans are members of the Guard or Reserves. Unfortunately, one of the prices many of these dedicated citizen soldiers have paid is being forced to close their small businesses, or at least seeing their small businesses decline significantly while they are serving on active duty.

Obviously this program for small business loans that was terminated in 1986 was good and could have been done at a higher priority than the bill we have this afternoon. So, simply said, by authorizing a loan program for veteran-owned small businesses, we would have been responding to that unintended consequence of their willingness to serve their Nation.

While the amendment was withdrawn due to procedural issues, it received such strong interest among the committee members that Mr. BUYER plans to introduce the amendment as a bill, just simply, later this week. We will all have a chance to vote on it, and I encourage any interested Member to contact either the VA Committee, Republican staff, or to cosponsor Mr. BUYER's bill. We should be looking for ways to better assist our Nation's veterans, obviously, and I know you and everybody in this chamber agrees with that, to help returning warriors, instead of settling these questionable claims.

I urge my colleagues, when they consider to vote for this bill, to consider the priorities of all the veterans. I, for one, in good conscience, have trouble supporting the passage of this bill, particularly in light of what we are seeing here this week, with the Treasury asking to raise the debt ceiling, asking for $700 billion for Wall Street.

There are so many higher priorities for our Nation's veterans and for this bill. As I pointed out, we don't know where the funding for this bill is going to come from. With a price tag of almost 200 million, it's all subject to appropriations.

I conclude by saying while Filipinos of U.S. citizenship living in the United States will receive $15,000, we are giving $9,000 to Filipino veterans who are not citizens of the United States. If you take $9,000 based upon the cost of living in the Philippines versus what it is here in the United States, the Filipino veterans at $9,000 are getting a huge sum of money.

I can't, in good conscience say that this bill has a high priority than the ones we are talking about, and so I urge my colleague carefully look at this and to take into account the Overview of the Filipino Veterans Benefits report that shows they were authorized money of $200 million in 1946. Indeed, I think if you look at the priorities, you will see there are other priorities we should consider first.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FILNER. Madam Speaker, I would yield as much time as she may consume to the gentlelady from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO), who has been a strong fighter on behalf of these Filipino veterans in her career in Congress.

Ms. BORDALLO. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for the time.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 6897, the Filipino Veterans Equity Act. H.R. 6897 would recognize the valor of the Filipino veterans of the Second World War by providing a one-time payment to the surviving 18,000 Filipino soldiers who are scattered today and living throughout the United States and also in my own district in the Territory of Guam.

□ 1230

Madam Speaker, as a member of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus and the United States-Philippines Friendship Caucus, I strongly urge this House to pass H.R. 6897 and help restore due justice which is long overdue, over 60 years. Many attempts have been made by this Congress to correct this injustice, so it is time to close this chapter.

These are heroes who served shoulder to shoulder with our Nation's Armed Forces. President Franklin Delano Roosevelt drafted these brave Filipino soldiers during the height of the conflict between the Allies and the Imperial Japanese forces; and their presence turned the tide in battles such as Bataan and Corregidor.

Their bravery and loyalty to America was questioned by none. However, the Rescission Act of 1946 stripped these veterans of their veteran status.

As a Congress, Madam Speaker, we must recognize the service of these brave Filipino soldiers and correct this injustice once and for all. While I hope this Congress will restore full equity to our Filipino veterans, the lump sum payment proposed by this bill to the remaining 18,000 Filipino veterans is a step forward. I recognize the legislative constraints surrounding the passage of H.R. 6897, and I support its advancement in the legislative process.

I want to go on record this afternoon to commend Chairman FILNER of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee for his leadership on this issue, and I also commend Congressman MIKE HONDA and our Speaker, NANCY PELOSI, for their dedicated work on this bill.

It is the duty of this Congress to recognize the service of these Filipino veterans during World War II and to correct the injustice placed upon them so I urge us to vote ''yes'' on H.R. 6897 and to continue to work for full justice and equity for our Filipino veterans.

Mr. STEARNS. Madam Speaker, I have no further speakers, so I yield back the balance of my time.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. FILNER. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 6897, as amended.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. FILNER. Madam Speaker, let me say this is an important bill for our Nation, for our moral standing, and for our historical standing. There has been a blot on our record for the last 62 years. We now have a chance to remove it.

I am surprised to hear from my friend, Mr. STEARNS, that he wants to play off one veteran against another and say there are higher priorities. That is what he and his ranking member objected to in our pay-for in S. 1315.

As we deal with the very real problems of our veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan, we have 24 million other veterans to care for, whether they be from the Persian Gulf War I, Korea, Vietnam or World War II. We have injustices. I don't think the gentleman from Florida would have any problem dealing with the injustices from Vietnam where we have not honored our Agent Orange claims, and we will try to take care of that. I don't think he would have any problem honoring the atomic veterans of World War II who, involved in the testing of atomic weapons, were not told of the dangers and risks, and they have cancers today that they cannot get compensation for. We have to correct that.

So, yes, we are involved with the current veterans, but we also have to correct injustices of the past as we are trying to do here in this bill on Filipino veterans.

Madam Speaker, I misspoke when I said I didn't have any further speakers, and if Mr. STEARNS wants more time, he can take from us before Ms. RICHARDSON takes the floor.

Mr. STEARNS. That is very kind, and Dr. FILNER knows how much I respect him and have enjoyed working with him on the Veterans' Committee. We have been on trips together, and both our wives appreciate each other and understand our friendship.

I think I made my points. The only thing I would say to him, is he advocating that we give veterans benefits to soldiers in Vietnam who are not U.S. citizens? Is he suggesting that new program this afternoon, that we go back and identify all those veterans in Vietnam who are now Vietnam citizens, not U.S. citizens, that may have been pro-America back then?

Mr. FILNER. Would the gentleman yield?

Mr. STEARNS. The time is yours. So I appreciate your consideration here. Actually, you might answer that question.

Mr. FILNER. What you ask, I think, has already taken place. We do, in fact, compensate those who were our allies, whether from Laos or Cambodia or Thailand.

But more importantly, in World War II, Mr. STEARNS, there were nationalities of 67 countries who fought in the war to help us. We have compensated the nationals who were not our citizens of 66 of those countries. Only one has not been, and that is the Philippines. It

is true that they got their independence after the war in 1946, and the $200 million that you referred to was given to that new government. But they simply have not received the compensation and benefits that we granted to other nationals of World War II, to other nationals in Korea and Vietnam. There is a real historical precedent for all of that.

Mr. STEARNS. If the gentleman would yield, I would just add to that, it is 66 out of 66 because the overview of the Filipino Veterans Benefit Study showed that we authorized $200 million in 1946 for the Filipinos. So actually you are correct, but the United States Government has already done this so this bill here is seeking to do something which has already been done.

Mr. FILNER. Reclaiming my time, Mr. STEARNS, if you were a Filipino veteran at the time, that money was awarded to the Government of the Philippines. I am not sure what they ended up giving back. But we are 62 years later. That would never have accomplished the analogous benefits that our brave veterans of World War II have received.

I would yield such time as she may consume to Ms. RICHARDSON from California, and thank her for being here.

Ms. RICHARDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 6897, the Filipino Veterans Equity Act, and urge my colleagues to join last year's 116 cosponsors who felt strongly about the need for us to finally move forward and to act in a moral way.

I want to acknowledge Chairman FILNER for his leadership on bringing this legislation before us today. He has pleaded with all of us, Members of Congress, to do the right thing.

Being an American is more than standing up on Memorial Day and saluting the flag. Being American is also one who is willing to take the responsibility for those who have enabled us to have that freedom, and Mr. FILNER has never hesitated in my short 1 year of being here. He has constantly pleaded for us to finally make this right.

At the end of World War II, President Harry Truman stated it was a moral obligation of our Nation to look at the welfare of Filipino veterans. Well, here we are today in this great, incredible building, the House of Representatives, where our Nation has an opportunity, finally, a long overdue process, to fulfill our moral obligation.

Indeed, many would not be enjoying the freedoms that we have today if it were not for the courageous efforts of those 470,000 Filipino veterans that answered the call during World War II.

As a Nation, some tend to measure our war heroes based on the suffering. They suffered as well. I am not just giving a speech and reciting history. I have a large Filipino population in my district and it is without hesitation that they stand side by side on Memorial Day, Armed Services Day, and really have a desire for us to recognize the incredible commitment that they did. In fact, 60,000 Filipino soldiers were forced to march 65 miles without food, water and medicine while they were being bayonetted and killed. They are our first class heroes, those who provided a service and didn't hesitate to do so.

Back in 1946, General Omar Bradley, the U.S. Administrator of Veterans' Affairs, put it best when he said ''the service of the Filipino Commonwealth Army in the U.S. Armed Forces during World War II has met the definition of a U.S. veteran.'' Has met the definition of a U.S. veteran.

In my district, as I said, I have numerous Filipino veterans who in their golden years, we are not talking about, as our chairman said, 62 years ago. These are people who, men, women, children, have failed to have adequate benefits for a work that they did. Isn't that what this Congress is all about? That's what I believe it is about.

So, Madam Speaker, I join Chairman FILNER and all of us who look forward to passing finally this resolution, this resolution which will bring back not a stain in America but one we can look back and say yes, for those who helped us to have freedom, we recognize that and we are willing to do the right thing.

Mr. FILNER. Madam Speaker, I see my friend would like some additional time, and so I yield to Mr. STEARNS.

Mr. STEARNS. This is sort of a compliment in a way. H.R. 760, which you offered, was for roughly $1.4 billion, as I recollect, give or take. This bill is for $198 million. So you are to be commended in your perseverance for trying to pass the bill, you have reduced the amount from $1.4 billion to $198 million. But I would say to you in all respect, is this the timing that you want in the middle of a possible financial meltdown in America? That you want to give funds, taxpayer funds, to people in the Philippines who are not U.S. citizens? I just wonder whether the timing is appropriate here in Congress.

Mr. FILNER. I yield to Ms. RICHARDSON.

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. STEARNS, we are not just talking about people in the Philippines. We are talking about people who live in Carson, California, residents of mine, people who do not have health care benefits, people who do not have adequate pay for the work that they do. If we can spend billions of dollars, as will be coming before this House, $700 billion to assist corporations of people who made millions of dollars, surely we can issue a check for work that has been done. All the more reason why they need the money today, because these are real people. These are not corporations. These are not presidents. These are people who are surviving on paychecks of $500 and $600 a month.

Mr. FILNER. I want to end the debate now. Mr. STEARNS, I appreciate it. You pointed out, by the way, the discrepancy in the funds between this one and my H.R. 760, which I think was about $900 million. You are right, this is not my first choice. This is a second choice brought about by the actions of those who opposed it and would not allow it to pass.

Mr. STEARNS, You spent a lot of time on the $200 million from 1946. By my quick calculations, each of the quarter million veterans at the time would have received less than $1,000 at that moment.

Madam Speaker, I think we have a historical record to correct. I strongly urge my colleagues to correct it.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 6897, the Filipino Veterans Equity Act of 2008. I am very pleased to see so much enthusiasm in recognizing World War II Filipino veterans who have so long deserved our gratitude for their service to this nation. As Americans, we have a moral obligation to care for the veterans who have sacrificed so much to ensure that we here at home can continue to pursue the ideals that have been the foundation of our country for over two centuries.

For many years I have met with individuals of the Filipino community who have longed for acknowledgement of the sacrifices they made not only for their own land, but also ours. While these veterans were once eligible for benefits under programs administered by the Veterans' Administration, these benefits were stripped by the passage of the Rescission Acts of 1946. Since then, some of these benefits have been reinstituted, but not to the extent deserved.

The Philippine Islands were possessions of the United States through 1946 and the military forces of the Commonwealth of the Philippines were inducted by President Roosevelt under the command of the United States Armed Forces of the Far East. They were not just allies during the war who fought alongside our soldiers; they were our soldiers. My father, a late World War II Veteran, encountered combat in the Philippines and served with the Filipino veterans, whom he considered comrades in every sense of the word.

The passage of Filipino Veterans Equity Act of 2008 is imperative to help close this chapter of our past. Most of the Filipino Veterans have already passed away with no adequate compensation or recognition for their service to this country, yet that should not keep us from acting today to ensure that those still left are acknowledged. I am pleased to see that H.R. 6897 is on suspension today and ask my colleagues to give it their support.

Mr. ISSA. Madam Speaker, today I rise to speak in support of H.R. 6897, the ''Filipino Veterans Equity Act of 2008.''

Recently Congress honored the 67th anniversary of President Franklin Roosevelt's military order conscripting the Philippine military forces into the service of the United States Armed Forces. On July 26, 1941, President Roosevelt said, ''In this great struggle of the Pacific the loyal Americans of the Philippine Island are called upon to play a crucial role . . . I count on every Philippine man, woman, and child to do his duty. We will do ours.''

H.R. 6897 recognizes the service of these veterans to our Nation and commitment of President Roosevelt.

In World War II, approximately 200,000 Filipinos served under the command of General MacArthur in the Far East, in guerrilla units,

and the Philippine Scouts. Their service to our country was a critical component to the allied success in the Pacific.

Approximately 13,000 survivors of the total estimated 200,000 Filipino World War II veterans now reside in the United States and in the Philippines, many of which are not receiving benefits they earned as servicemen for the U.S. military.

Since coming to Congress and as co-chairman of the U.S.-Philippines Friendship Caucus I have urged my House colleagues to support legislation providing equity to World War II Filipino veterans.

While not perfect, H.R. 6897 would make payments to those that have yet to receive recognition for their service to the United States.

With each passing year, there are fewer surviving Filipino veterans. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 6897 to give these veterans their long overdue recognition.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. FILNER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6897, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

VETERANS' BENEFITS ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2008

Mr. FILNER. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 1315) to amend title 38, United States Code, to enhance life insurance benefits for disabled veterans, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the Senate bill.

The text of the Senate bill is as follows:

S. 1315

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the ''Veterans' Benefits Enhancement Act of 2008''.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
Sec. 2. Reference to title 38, United States Code.

TITLE I—INSURANCE MATTERS

Sec. 101. Administrative costs of service disabled veterans' insurance.
Sec. 102. Modification of Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance coverage.
Sec. 103. Designation of fiduciary for traumatic injury protection coverage under Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance in case of lost mental capacity or extended loss of consciousness.

TITLE II—HOUSING MATTERS

Sec. 201. Home improvements and structural alterations for totally disabled members of the Armed Forces before discharge or release from the Armed Forces.

TITLE III—LABOR AND EDUCATION MATTERS

Sec. 301. Coordination of approval activities in the administration of education benefits.
Sec. 302. Waiver of residency requirement for Directors for Veterans' Employment and Training.
Sec. 303. Modification of special unemployment study to cover veterans of Post 9/11 Global Operations.

TITLE IV—COURT MATTERS

Sec. 401. Recall of retired judges of the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims.
Sec. 402. Additional discretion in imposition of practice and registration fees.
Sec. 403. Annual reports on workload of United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims.
Sec. 404. Report on expansion of facilities for United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims.

TITLE V—OTHER MATTERS

Sec. 501. Clarification of purpose of the outreach services program of the Department of Veterans Affairs.
Sec. 502. Termination or suspension of contracts for cellular telephone service for servicemembers undergoing deployment outside the United States.
Sec. 503. Maintenance, management, and availability for research of assets of Air Force Health Study.
Sec. 504. National Academies study on risk of developing multiple sclerosis as a result of certain service in the Persian Gulf War and Post 9/11 Global Operations theaters.
Sec. 505. Comptroller General report on adequacy of dependency and indemnity compensation to maintain survivors of veterans who die from service-connected disabilities.

SEC. 2. REFERENCE TO TITLE 38, UNITED STATES CODE.

Except as otherwise expressly provided, whenever in this Act an amendment or repeal is expressed in terms of an amendment to, or repeal of, a section or other provision, the reference shall be considered to be made to a section or other provision of title 38, United States Code.

TITLE I—INSURANCE MATTERS

SEC. 101. ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS OF SERVICE DISABLED VETERANS' INSURANCE.

Section 1922(a) is amended by striking ''directly from such fund'' and inserting ''directly from such fund; and (5) administrative costs to the Government for the costs of the program of insurance under this section shall be paid from premiums credited to the fund under paragraph (4), and payments for claims against the fund under paragraph (4) for amounts in excess of amounts credited to such fund under that paragraph (after such administrative costs have been paid) shall be paid from appropriations to the fund''.

SEC. 102. MODIFICATION OF SERVICEMEMBERS' GROUP LIFE INSURANCE COVERAGE.

(a) EXPANSION OF SERVICEMEMBERS' GROUP LIFE INSURANCE TO INCLUDE CERTAIN MEMBERS OF INDIVIDUAL READY RESERVE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (1)(C) of section 1967(a) is amended by striking ''section 1965(5)(B) of this title'' and inserting ''subparagraph (B) or (C) of section 1965(5) of this title''.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Paragraph (5)(C) of such section 1967(a) is amended by striking ''section 1965(5)(B) of this title'' and inserting ''subparagraph (B) or (C) of section 1965(5) of this title''.

(b) REDUCTION IN PERIOD OF COVERAGE FOR DEPENDENTS AFTER MEMBER SEPARATES.—Section 1968(a)(5)(B)(ii) is amended by striking ''120 days after''.

SEC. 103. DESIGNATION OF FIDUCIARY FOR TRAUMATIC INJURY PROTECTION COVERAGE UNDER SERVICEMEMBERS' GROUP LIFE INSURANCE IN CASE OF LOST MENTAL CAPACITY OR EXTENDED LOSS OF CONSCIOUSNESS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense shall, in consultation with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, develop a form for the designation of a recipient for the funds distributed under section 1980A of title 38, United States Code, as the fiduciary of a member of the Armed Forces in cases where the member is mentally incapacitated (as determined by the Secretary of Defense in consultation with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs) or experiencing an extended loss of consciousness.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The form under subsection (a) shall require that a member may elect that—

(1) an individual designated by the member be the recipient as the fiduciary of the member; or

(2) a court of proper jurisdiction determine the recipient as the fiduciary of the member for purposes of this subsection.

(c) COMPLETION AND UPDATE.—The form under subsection (a) shall be completed by an individual at the time of entry into the Armed Forces and updated periodically thereafter.

TITLE II—HOUSING MATTERS

SEC. 201. HOME IMPROVEMENTS AND STRUCTURAL ALTERATIONS FOR TOTALLY DISABLED MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES BEFORE DISCHARGE OR RELEASE FROM THE ARMED FORCES.

Section 1717 is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(d)(1) In the case of a member of the Armed Forces who, as determined by the Secretary, has a disability permanent in nature incurred or aggravated in the line of duty in the active military, naval, or air service, the Secretary may furnish improvements and structural alterations for such member for such disability or as otherwise described in subsection (a)(2) while such member is hospitalized or receiving outpatient medical care, services, or treatment for such disability if the Secretary determines that such member is likely to be discharged or released from the Armed Forces for such disability.

''(2) The furnishing of improvements and alterations under paragraph (1) in connection with the furnishing of medical services described in subparagraph (A) or (B) of subsection (a)(2) shall be subject to the limitation specified in the applicable subparagraph.''.

TITLE III—LABOR AND EDUCATION MATTERS

SEC. 301. COORDINATION OF APPROVAL ACTIVITIES IN THE ADMINISTRATION OF EDUCATION BENEFITS.

(a) COORDINATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 3673 is amended—

(A) by redesignating subsection (b) as subsection (c); and

(B) by inserting after subsection (a) the following new subsection (b):

''(b) COORDINATION OF ACTIVITIES.—The Secretary shall take appropriate actions to

ensure the coordination of approval activities performed by State approving agencies under this chapter and chapters 34 and 35 of this title and approval activities performed by the Department of Labor, the Department of Education, and other entities in order to reduce overlap and improve efficiency in the performance of such activities.''.

(2) CONFORMING AND CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—

(A) HEADING.—The heading of such section is amended to read as follows:

''§ 3673. Approval activities: cooperation and coordination of activities''.

(B) TABLE OF SECTIONS.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 36 is amended by striking the item relating to section 3673 and inserting the following new item:

''3673. Approval activities: cooperation and coordination of activities.''.

(3) STYLISTIC AMENDMENTS.—Such section is further amended—

(A) in subsection (a), by inserting ''COOPERATION IN ACTIVITIES.—'' after ''(a)''; and

(B) in subsection (c), as redesignated by paragraph (1)(A) of this subsection, by inserting ''AVAILABILITY OF INFORMATION MATERIAL.—'' after ''(c)''.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives a report setting forth the following:

(1) The actions taken to establish outcome-oriented performance standards for State approving agencies created or designated under section 3671 of title 38, United States Code, including a description of any plans for, and the status of the implementation of, such standards as part of the evaluations of State approving agencies required by section 3674A of title 38, United States Code.

(2) The actions taken to implement a tracking and reporting system for resources expended for approval and outreach activities by such agencies.

(3) Any recommendations for legislative action that the Secretary considers appropriate to achieve the complete implementation of the standards described in paragraph (1).

SEC. 302. WAIVER OF RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT FOR DIRECTORS FOR VETERANS' EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING.

Section 4103(a)(2) is amended—

(1) by inserting ''(A)'' after ''(2)''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

''(B) The Secretary may waive the requirement in subparagraph (A) with respect to a Director for Veterans' Employment and Training if the Secretary determines that the waiver is in the public interest. Any such waiver shall be made on a case-by-case basis.''.

SEC. 303. MODIFICATION OF SPECIAL UNEMPLOYMENT STUDY TO COVER VETERANS OF POST 9/11 GLOBAL OPERATIONS.

(a) MODIFICATION OF STUDY.—Subsection (a)(1) of section 4110A is amended—

(1) in the matter before subparagraph (A), by striking ''a study every two years'' and inserting ''an annual study'';

(2) by redesignating subparagraph (A) as subparagraph (F);

(3) by striking subparagraph (B) and inserting the following new subparagraphs:

''(A) Veterans who were called to active duty while members of the National Guard or a Reserve Component.

''(B) Veterans who served in combat or in a war zone in the Post 9/11 Global Operations theaters.''; and

(4) in subparagraph (C)—

(A) by striking ''Vietnam era'' and inserting ''Post 9/11 Global Operations period''; and

(B) by striking ''the Vietnam theater of operations'' and inserting ''the Post 9/11 Global Operations theaters''.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—Such section is further amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(c) In this section:

''(1) The term 'Post 9/11 Global Operations period' means the period of the Persian Gulf War beginning on September 11, 2001, and ending on the date thereafter prescribed by Presidential proclamation or law.

''(2) The term 'Post 9/11 Global Operations theaters' means Afghanistan, Iraq, or any other theater in which the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal is awarded for service.''.

TITLE IV—COURT MATTERS

SEC. 401. RECALL OF RETIRED JUDGES OF THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR VETERANS CLAIMS.

(a) REPEAL OF LIMIT ON SERVICE OF RECALLED RETIRED JUDGES WHO VOLUNTARILY SERVE MORE THAN 90 DAYS.—Section 7257(b)(2) is amended by striking ''or for more than a total of 180 days (or the equivalent) during any calendar year''.

(b) NEW JUDGES RECALLED AFTER RETIREMENT RECEIVE PAY OF CURRENT JUDGES ONLY DURING PERIOD OF RECALL.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 7296(c) is amended by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the following new paragraph:

''(1)(A) A judge who is appointed on or after the date of the enactment of the Veterans' Benefits Enhancement Act of 2008 and who retires under subsection (b) and elects under subsection (d) to receive retired pay under this subsection shall (except as provided in paragraph (2)) receive retired pay as follows:

''(i) In the case of a judge who is a recall-eligible retired judge under section 7257 of this title, the retired pay of the judge shall (subject to section 7257(d)(2) of this title) be the rate of pay applicable to that judge at the time of retirement, as adjusted from time to time under subsection (f)(3).

''(ii) In the case of a judge other than a recall-eligible retired judge, the retired pay of the judge shall be the rate of pay applicable to that judge at the time of retirement.

''(B) A judge who retired before the date of the enactment of the Veterans' Benefits Enhancement Act of 2008 and elected under subsection (d) to receive retired pay under this subsection, or a judge who retires under subsection (b) and elects under subsection (d) to receive retired pay under this subsection, shall (except as provided in paragraph (2)) receive retired pay as follows:

''(i) In the case of a judge who is a recall-eligible retired judge under section 7257 of this title or who was a recall-eligible retired judge under that section and was removed from recall status under subsection (b)(4) of that section by reason of disability, the retired pay of the judge shall be the pay of a judge of the court.

''(ii) In the case of a judge who at the time of retirement did not provide notice under section 7257 of this title of availability for service in a recalled status, the retired pay of the judge shall be the rate of pay applicable to that judge at the time of retirement.

''(iii) In the case of a judge who was a recall-eligible retired judge under section 7257 of this title and was removed from recall status under subsection (b)(3) of that section, the retired pay of the judge shall be the pay of the judge at the time of the removal from recall status.''.

(2) COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENT FOR RETIRED PAY OF NEW JUDGES WHO ARE RECALL-ELIGIBLE.—Section 7296(f)(3)(A) is amended by striking ''paragraph (2) of subsection (c)'' and inserting ''paragraph (1)(A)(i) or (2) of subsection (c)''.

(3) PAY DURING PERIOD OF RECALL.—Subsection (d) of section 7257 is amended to read as follows:

''(d)(1) The pay of a recall-eligible retired judge to whom section 7296(c)(1)(B) of this title applies is the pay specified in that section.

''(2) A judge who is recalled under this section who retired under chapter 83 or 84 of title 5 or to whom section 7296(c)(1)(A) of this title applies shall be paid, during the period for which the judge serves in recall status, pay at the rate of pay in effect under section 7253(e) of this title for a judge performing active service, less the amount of the judge's annuity under the applicable provisions of chapter 83 or 84 of title 5 or the judge's annuity under section 7296(c)(1)(A) of this title, whichever is applicable.''.

(4) NOTICE.—The last sentence of section 7257(a)(1) is amended to read as follows: ''Such a notice provided by a retired judge to whom section 7296(c)(1)(B) of this title applies is irrevocable.''.

(c) LIMITATION ON INVOLUNTARY RECALLS.—Section 7257(b)(3) is amended by adding at the end the following new sentence: ''This paragraph shall not apply to a judge to whom section 7296(c)(1)(A) or 7296(c)(1)(B) of this title applies and who has, in the aggregate, served at least five years of recalled service on the Court under this section.''.

SEC. 402. ADDITIONAL DISCRETION IN IMPOSITION OF PRACTICE AND REGISTRATION FEES.

Section 7285(a) is amended—

(1) in the first sentence, by inserting ''reasonable'' after ''impose a'';

(2) in the second sentence, by striking '', except that such amount may not exceed $30 per year''; and

(3) in the third sentence, by inserting ''reasonable'' after ''impose a''.

SEC. 403. ANNUAL REPORTS ON WORKLOAD OF UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR VETERANS CLAIMS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter III of chapter 72 is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

''§ 7288. Annual report

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The chief judge of the Court shall submit annually to the appropriate committees of Congress a report summarizing the workload of the Court for the last fiscal year that ended before the submission of such report. Such report shall include, with respect to such fiscal year, the following information:

''(1) The number of appeals filed.

''(2) The number of petitions filed.

''(3) The number of applications filed under section 2412 of title 28.

''(4) The number and type of dispositions.

''(5) The median time from filing to disposition.

''(6) The number of oral arguments.

''(7) The number and status of pending appeals and petitions and of applications described in paragraph (3).

''(8) A summary of any service performed by recalled retired judges during the fiscal year.

''(b) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS DEFINED.—In this section, the term 'appropriate committees of Congress' means the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 72 is amended by inserting after the item related to section 7287 the following new item:

''7288. Annual report.''.

SEC. 404. REPORT ON EXPANSION OF FACILITIES FOR UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR VETERANS CLAIMS.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) The United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims is currently located in the District of Columbia in a commercial office building that is also occupied by other Federal tenants.

(2) In February 2006, the General Services Administration provided Congress with a preliminary feasibility analysis of a dedicated Veterans Courthouse and Justice Center that would house the Court and other entities that work with the Court.

(3) In February 2007, the Court notified Congress that the ''most cost-effective alternative appears to be leasing substantial additional space in the current location'', which would ''require relocating other current government tenants'' from that building.

(4) The February 2006 feasibility report of the General Services Administration does not include an analysis of whether it would be feasible or desirable to locate a Veterans Courthouse and Justice Center at the current location of the Court.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims should be provided with appropriate office space to meet its needs, as well as to provide the image, security, and stature befitting a court that provides justice to the veterans of the United States; and

(2) in providing that space, Congress should avoid undue disruption, inconvenience, or cost to other Federal entities.

(c) REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator of General Services shall submit to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives a report on the feasibility of—

(A) leasing additional space for the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims within the building where the Court was located on the date of the enactment of this Act; and

(B) using the entirety of such building as a Veterans Courthouse and Justice Center.

(2) CONTENTS.—The report required by paragraph (1) shall include a detailed analysis of the following:

(A) The impact that the matter analyzed in accordance with paragraph (1) would have on Federal tenants of the building used by the Court.

(B) Whether it would be feasible to relocate such Federal tenants into office space that offers similar or preferable cost, convenience, and usable square footage.

(C) If relocation of such Federal tenants is found to be feasible and desirable, an analysis of what steps should be taken to convert the building into a Veterans Courthouse and Justice Center and a timeline for such conversion.

(3) COMMENT PERIOD.—The Administrator shall provide an opportunity to such Federal tenants—

(A) before the completion of the report required by paragraph (1), to comment on the subject of the report required by such paragraph; and

(B) before the Administrator submits the report required by paragraph (1) to the congressional committees specified in such paragraph, to comment on a draft of such report.

TITLE V—OTHER MATTERS

SEC. 501. CLARIFICATION OF PURPOSE OF THE OUTREACH SERVICES PROGRAM OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

(a) CLARIFICATION OF INCLUSION OF MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL GUARD AND RESERVE IN PROGRAM.—Subsection (a)(1) of section 6301 is amended by inserting '', or from the National Guard or Reserve,'' after ''active military, naval, or air service''.

(b) DEFINITION OF OUTREACH.—Subsection (b) of such section is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (1) and (2) as paragraphs (2) and (3), respectively; and

(2) by inserting before paragraph (2) the following new paragraph (1):

''(1) the term 'outreach' means the act or process of reaching out in a systematic manner to proactively provide information, services, and benefits counseling to veterans, and to the spouses, children, and parents of veterans who may be eligible to receive benefits under the laws administered by the Secretary, to ensure that such individuals are fully informed about, and assisted in applying for, any benefits and programs under such laws;''.

SEC. 502. TERMINATION OR SUSPENSION OF CONTRACTS FOR CELLULAR TELEPHONE SERVICE FOR SERVICEMEMBERS UNDERGOING DEPLOYMENT OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title III of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (50 U.S.C. App. 531 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 305 the following new section:

''SEC. 305A. TERMINATION OR SUSPENSION OF CONTRACTS FOR CELLULAR TELEPHONE SERVICE.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—A servicemember who receives orders to deploy outside of the continental United States for not less than 90 days may request the termination or suspension of any contract for cellular telephone service entered into by the servicemember before that date if the servicemember's ability to satisfy the contract or to utilize the service will be materially affected by that period of deployment. The request shall include a copy of the servicemember's military orders.

''(b) RELIEF.—Upon receiving the request of a servicemember under subsection (a), the cellular telephone service contractor concerned shall, at the election of the contractor—

''(1) grant the requested relief without imposition of an early termination fee for termination of the contract or a reactivation fee for suspension of the contract; or

''(2) permit the servicemember to suspend the contract at no charge until the end of the deployment without requiring, whether as a condition of suspension or otherwise, that the contract be extended.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents for that Act is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 305 the following new item:

''Sec. 305A. Termination or suspension of contracts for cellular telephone service.''.

SEC. 503. MAINTENANCE, MANAGEMENT, AND AVAILABILITY FOR RESEARCH OF ASSETS OF AIR FORCE HEALTH STUDY.

(a) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this section is to ensure that the assets transferred to the Medical Follow-Up Agency from the Air Force Health Study are maintained, managed, and made available as a resource for future research for the benefit of veterans and their families, and for other humanitarian purposes.

(b) ASSETS FROM AIR FORCE HEALTH STUDY.—For purposes of this section, the assets transferred to the Medical Follow-Up Agency from the Air Force Health Study are the assets of the Air Force Health Study transferred to the Medical Follow-Up Agency under section 714 of the John Warner National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007 (Public Law 109–364; 120 Stat. 2290), including electronic data files and biological specimens on all participants in the study (including control subjects).

(c) MAINTENANCE AND MANAGEMENT OF TRANSFERRED ASSETS.—The Medical Follow-Up Agency shall maintain and manage the assets transferred to the Agency from the Air Force Health Study.

(d) ADDITIONAL NEAR-TERM RESEARCH.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Medical Follow-Up Agency may, during the period beginning on October 1, 2008, and ending on September 30, 2012, conduct such additional research on the assets transferred to the Agency from the Air Force Health Study as the Agency considers appropriate toward the goal of understanding the determinants of health, and promoting wellness, in veterans.

(2) RESEARCH.—In carrying out research authorized by this subsection, the Medical Follow-Up Agency may, utilizing amounts available under subsection (f)(1)(B), make grants for such pilot studies for or in connection with such research as the Agency considers appropriate.

(e) ADDITIONAL MEDIUM-TERM RESEARCH.—

(1) REPORT.—Not later than March 31, 2012, the Medical Follow-Up Agency shall submit to Congress a report assessing the feasability and advisability of conducting additional research on the assets transferred to the Agency from the Air Force Health Study after September 30, 2012.

(2) DISPOSITION OF ASSETS.—If the report required by paragraph (1) includes an assessment that the research described in that paragraph would be feasible and advisable, the Agency shall, utilizing amounts available under subsection (f)(2), make any disposition of the assets transferred to the Agency from the Air Force Health Study as the Agency considers appropriate in preparation for such research.

(f) FUNDING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—From amounts available for each of fiscal years 2009 through 2012 for the Department of Veterans Affairs for Medical and Prosthetic Research, amounts shall be available as follows:

(A) $1,200,000 shall be available in each such fiscal year for maintenance, management, and operation (including maintenance of biological specimens) of the assets transferred to the Medical Follow-Up Agency from the Air Force Health Study.

(B) $250,000 shall be available in each such fiscal year for the conduct of additional research authorized by subsection (d), including the funding of pilot studies authorized by paragraph (2) of that subsection.

(2) MEDIUM-TERM RESEARCH.—From amounts available for fiscal year 2012 for the Department of Veterans Affairs for Medical and Prosthetic Research, $200,000 shall be available for the preparation of the report required by subsection (e)(1) and for the disposition, if any, of assets authorized by subsection (e)(2).

SEC. 504. NATIONAL ACADEMIES STUDY ON RISK OF DEVELOPING MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS AS A RESULT OF CERTAIN SERVICE IN THE PERSIAN GULF WAR AND POST 9/11 GLOBAL OPERATIONS THEATERS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall enter into a contract with the Institute of Medicine of the National Academies to conduct a comprehensive epidemiological study for purposes of identifying any increased risk of developing multiple sclerosis as a result of service in the Armed Forces during the Persian Gulf War

in the Southwest Asia theater of operations or in the Post 9/11 Global Operations theaters.

(b) ELEMENTS.—In conducting the study required under subsection (a), the Institute of Medicine shall do the following:

(1) Determine whether service in the Armed Forces during the Persian Gulf War in the Southwest Asia theater of operations, or in the Post 9/11 Global Operations theaters, increased the risk of developing multiple sclerosis.

(2) Identify the incidence and prevalence of diagnosed neurological diseases, including multiple sclerosis, Parkinson's disease, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, and brain cancers, as well as central nervous system abnormalities that are difficult to precisely diagnose, in each group as follows:

(A) Members of the Armed Forces who served during the Persian Gulf War in the Southwest Asia theater of operations.

(B) Members of the Armed Forces who served in the Post 9/11 Global Operations theaters.

(C) A non-deployed comparison group for those who served in the Persian Gulf War in the Southwest Asia theater of operations and the Post 9/11 Global Operations theaters.

(3) Compare the incidence and prevalence of the named diagnosed neurological diseases and undiagnosed central nervous system abnormalities among veterans who served during the Persian Gulf War in the Southwest Asia theater of operations, or in the Post 9/11 Global Operations theaters, in various locations during such periods, as determined by the Institute of Medicine.

(4) Collect information on risk factors, such as pesticide and other toxic exposures, to which veterans were exposed while serving during the Persian Gulf War in the Southwest Asia theater of operations or the Post 9/11 Global Operations theaters, or thereafter.

(c) REPORTS.—

(1) INTERIM REPORT.—The contract required by subsection (a) shall require the Institute of Medicine to submit to the Secretary, and to appropriate committees of Congress, interim progress reports on the study required under subsection (a). Such reports shall not be required to include a description of interim results on the work under the study.

(2) FINAL REPORT.—The contract shall require the Institute of Medicine to submit to the Secretary, and to appropriate committees of Congress, a final report on the study by not later than December 31, 2011. The final report shall include such recommendations for legislative or administrative action as the Institute considers appropriate in light of the results of the study.

(d) FUNDING.—The Secretary shall provide the Institute of Medicine with such funds as are necessary to ensure the timely completion of the study required under subsection (a).

(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) The term ''appropriate committees of Congress'' means—

(A) the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives.

(2) The term ''Persian Gulf War'' has the meaning given that term in section 101(33) of title 38, United States Code.

(3) The term ''Post 9/11 Global Operations theaters'' means Afghanistan, Iraq, or any other theater in which the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal is awarded for service.

SEC. 505. COMPTROLLER GENERAL REPORT ON ADEQUACY OF DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION TO MAINTAIN SURVIVORS OF VETERANS WHO DIE FROM SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITIES.

(a) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 10 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs and Appropriations of the Senate and the Committees on Veterans' Affairs and Appropriations of the House of Representatives a report on the adequacy of dependency and indemnity compensation payable under chapter 13 of title 38, United States Code, to surviving spouses and dependents of veterans who die as a result of a service-connected disability in replacing the deceased veteran's income.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The report required by subsection (a) shall include—

(1) a description of the current system for the payment of dependency and indemnity compensation to surviving spouses and dependents described in subsection (a), including a statement of the rates of such compensation so payable;

(2) an assessment of the adequacy of such payments in replacing the deceased veteran's income; and

(3) such recommendations as the Comptroller General considers appropriate in order to improve or enhance the effects of such payments in replacing the deceased veteran's income.

□ 1245

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. FILNER) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. STEARNS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

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

I forgot to say on the last bill that my colleagues from California, Mr. ROHRABACHER and Mr. ISSA, are strongly supportive of it, and will participate, I'm sure, in helping us get the required votes to pass this bill.

S. 1315, I first want to point out, is amended. It was and is still a comprehensive bill that will help millions of our veterans, including recently wounded and transitioning OIF/OEF veterans.

What we have done to amend it is to move this from a mandatory spending bill to a discretionary spending bill by removing all of the mandatory provisions and also the PAYGO provisions that have caused so much controversy. So now we have a bill that will continue this Congress' unprecedented record of putting our veterans first and making them a top priority.

This bill would potentially provide extensive benefits to all of our Nation's veterans in the areas of insurance, disability compensation, education, pension, housing, and other critical VA benefits. The bill would only invoke discretionary spending and would not require an offset under the PAYGO rules adopted by this Congress.

This bill would ensure that permanently disabled servicemembers who are hospitalized and receiving medical care and treatment can receive structural alterations to their homes before they come home. I think this is a provision that Mr. STEARNS mentioned as one of the high priority items in his previous list.

It also would ensure that so-called State approving agencies, and the Departments of Labor and Education and other Federal agencies collaborate to improve the efficiency of education benefits for our servicemembers and veterans, as well as establish outcome-oriented performance standards for the administration of our new GI bill benefits.

It would better enable Congress to provide adequate oversight of the Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims, while allowing this highly specialized court to maintain its discretion to administer fair justice for our veterans filing appeals of VA decisions.

I want to state again, for the Record, that this bill does not require any mandatory spending, and veterans may stand to benefit if it is passed and ultimately enacted. I hope people will take a look at the new bill and see it as a comprehensive veterans bill that will help veterans in all of our districts. I urge my colleagues to give this bill support.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. STEARNS. Madam Speaker, I request as much time as I may consume.

I rise in support of this bill, S. 1315, as amended, the Veterans Benefit Enhancement Act of 2008. It's a modest bill. But it would enhance veterans insurance and housing benefits and improve benefits and services for transitioning for servicemembers.

The manager's amendment to this bill would remove the language in the original Senate-passed bill that would have overturned a decision made by the United States Court of Appeals for veterans claims in the case of Hartness v. Nicholson, that held VA must pay a special monthly pension benefit to severely disabled, elderly, homebound and poor wartime veterans pursuant to a law enacted in 2001. I'm pleased that this detrimental provision that would have impacted our most vulnerable veterans, has simply been removed from this bill. That's good.

The manager's amendment also removes all mandatory spending provisions in the Senate-passed bill that would have utilized the funding that would have been available if the disabled veterans no longer were to receive their special monthly pensions.

Now, what remains is a bill that is a compilation of numerous veteran benefit provisions. Among these, I'd like to highlight just a few that will benefit our servicemembers and our veterans.

This bill would ensure that severely disabled servicemembers can receive structural alterations to their homes prior to discharge from active duty. Right now, even if they know they are going to be discharged, they must wait until discharge to receive this very necessary housing benefit.

This bill would expand SGLI to include certain members of the Individual Ready Reserve for the first

time. It would allow the termination or suspension of cellular telephone contracts upon the request of servicemembers undergoing deployment outside the United States. That is good.

And finally, Madam Speaker, the legislation would improve the administration of veterans' education and employment programs and of the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims.

Madam Speaker, passage of this manager's amendment will provide improved benefits to our Nation's veterans. These heroes have sacrificed so much for our Nation's, freedom and we must ensure that their needs are met.

So I urge my colleagues to support the bill as amended.

I yield back the balance of my time.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. FILNER. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on S. 1315, as amended.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my gratitude to all the men and women who have served and are currently serving in our Armed Forces. It is there courage and sacrifice that has paved for the rights and freedoms we enjoy.

Since September 2001, more than 1,700,000 members of the Armed Forces have been deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan, and nearly 611,000 have been deployed more than once. Many of our men and women in the armed forces have given the ultimate sacrifice to secure the freedoms of others. As of May 3, 2008 over 4,500 died and over 32,000 wounded while deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom (Afghanistan).

The members of our Armed Forces and their families deserve all the medical, financial, education, and moral support that our Nation can provide. The resolution we considered today provides an opportunity for each of us, regardless of political views, religion, ethnicity, gender, or background to come together, and to recognize and honor our nation's heroes and those that support them and their families.

Though we may be divided by our positions on the war in Iraq, we stand together to support our veterans. Our nation has a proud legacy of appreciation and commitment to the men and women who have worn the uniform in defense of this country. We must be united in seeing that every soldier, sailor, airman, and marine is welcomed back with all the care and compassion this grateful nation can bestow.

All too many of our veterans are left without the help and support they need to transition from the horrors they bravely face on the front lines of battle to successful civilian life. According to the Veteran's Affairs Department, as of 2006, on any given night, 196,000 veterans of all ages were homeless.

The V.A. also reports 400 veterans of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan alone have already become homeless, and this figure only takes into account those who have sought services from V.A.-sponsored programs. Experts have predicted that the trauma resulting from the extreme horrors of these modern wars could lead to a surge in homeless veterans in the coming years.

Though I have opposed the war in Iraq from its inception, I remain absolutely committed to ensuring that we recognize, celebrate, and honor the service of our sons and daughters in and returning from, Iraq and Afghanistan.

I am proud to support S. 1315 by my colleague in the Senate, Senator AKAKA. I firmly believe that we should celebrate and support our armed forces and their families, and I remain committed, as a Member of Congress, to both meeting the needs of veterans of previous wars, and to provide a fitting welcome home to those who are now serving. Current serving military personnel and veterans have kept their promise to serve our nation; they have willingly risked their lives to protect the country we all love. We must now ensure that we keep our promises to them.

S. 1315

The Veteran's Benefits Enhancement Act of 2007 will assist with: life insurance issues, housing matters; better coordination and more money for educational work recognition of the contribution of Filipino World War II Veterans, assists retired judges of the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims Court, adds osteoporosis to the list of diseases presumed to be service-oriented and therefore compensable with respect to former Prisoners of War (POWs), authorizes supplemental benefits for burial and funeral expenses of veterans, provides for specially adapted housing assistance for disabled veterans whose disability due to severe burn injury, assistance in the purchases of automobiles for disabled veterans, authorizes the Institute of Medicine of the National Academies to maintain and manage the assets (including electronic data files and biological specimens of study participants) transferred to the Agency from the Air Force Health Study. Also, for them to conduct additional research toward the goal of understanding the determinants of health, and promoting wellness, in veterans. Requires an Agency report to Congress assessing the feasibility and advisability of conducting additional research on such assets after the end of FY2012, and provides funding for the Secretary of Veteran's Affairs to contract with the Institute, to conduct a comprehensive epidemiological study to identify any increased risk of developing multiple sclerosis as a result of service in the Persian Gulf or in the Post 9/11 global operations theaters; and (2) an interim and final results report from the Institute to the Secretary and the veterans' committees.

Currently, there are over 25 million veterans in the United States. There are more than 1,633,000 veterans living in Texas and more than 32,000 veterans living in my Congressional district alone. I hope we will all take the time to show appreciation to those who have answered the call to duty. As the Winston Churchill famously stated, "Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few."

Madam Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to join me in supporting our troops, their families, and those groups that are working to support them.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. FILNER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 1315, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

REVOLUTIONARY WAR AND WAR OF 1812 BATTLEFIELD PROTECTION ACT

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 160) to amend the American Battlefield Protection Act of 1996 to establish a battlefield acquisition grant program for the acquisition and protection of nationally significant battlefields and associated sites of the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 160

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Revolutionary War and War of 1812 Battlefield Protection Act''.

SEC. 2. BATTLEFIELD ACQUISITION GRANT PROGRAM FOR BATTLEFIELDS OF THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR AND WAR OF 1812.

(a) GRANT PROGRAM.—The American Battlefield Protection Act of 1996 (section 604 of division I of Public Law 104–333; 16 U.S.C. 469k) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (e) as subsection (f); and

(2) by inserting after subsection (d) the following new subsection:

''(e) BATTLEFIELD ACQUISITION GRANT PROGRAM FOR BATTLEFIELDS OF THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR AND WAR OF 1812.—

''(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

''(A) BATTLEFIELD REPORT.—The term 'battlefield report' means the document entitled 'Report to Congress on the Historic Preservation of Revolutionary War and War of 1812 Sites in the United States', prepared by the National Park Service, and dated September 2007.

''(B) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term 'eligible entity' means a State or local government.

''(C) ELIGIBLE SITE.—The term 'eligible site' means a site that—

''(i) is not within the exterior boundaries of a unit of the National Park System; and

''(ii) is identified in the battlefield report.

''(D) SECRETARY.—The term 'Secretary' means the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the American Battlefield Protection Program.

''(2) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall establish a battlefield acquisition grant program for nationally significant battlefields and associated sites of the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812 under which the Secretary may make grants to eligible entities to pay the Federal share of the cost of acquiring fee-simple or lesser interests from willing sellers in eligible sites for the preservation and protection of those eligible sites.

''(3) NONPROFIT PARTNERS.—An eligible entity may acquire an interest in an eligible site using a grant under this subsection in partnership with a nonprofit organization.

''(4) NON-FEDERAL SHARE.—The non-Federal share of the total cost of acquiring an interest in

an eligible site under this subsection shall be not less than 50 percent.

''(5) LIMITATIONS ON LAND USE.—An interest in an eligible site acquired under this subsection shall be subject to section 6(f)(3) of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 (16 U.S.C. 4601–8(f)(3)).

''(6) REPORTS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 5 years after the date of the enactment of this subsection, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report on the activities carried out under this subsection.

''(B) UPDATE ON BATTLEFIELD REPORT.—Not later than 3 years after the date of the enactment of this subsection, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report that updates the battlefield report to reflect—

''(i) preservation activities carried out at the 677 battlefields and associated sites identified in the battlefield report during the period between publication of the battlefield report and the update;

''(ii) changes in the condition of the battlefields and associated sites during that period; and

''(iii) any other relevant developments relating to the battlefields and associated sites during that period.

''(7) AUTHORIZATIONS OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary from the Land and Water Conservation Fund to provide grants under this subsection $10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2009 through 2013.

''(B) UPDATE OF BATTLEFIELD REPORT.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry out paragraph (6)(B), $500,000.''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) REFERENCES TO OTHER BATTLEFIELD ACQUISITION PROGRAM.—Subsection (d) of the American Battlefield Protection Act of 1996, as added by section 3 of Civil War Battlefield Preservation Act of 2002 (Public Law 107–359; 116 Stat. 3016), is amended—

(A) in the subsection heading, by striking ''BATTLEFIELD ACQUISITION GRANT PROGRAM'' and inserting ''BATTLEFIELD ACQUISITION GRANT PROGRAM FOR BATTLEFIELDS OF THE CIVIL WAR''; and

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking ''grant program'' and inserting ''grant program for battlefields of the Civil War''; and

(2) TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY.—Subsection (f) of the American Battlefield Protection Act of 1996, as redesignated by subsection (a)(1), is amended—

(A) in the subsection heading, by striking ''REPEAL'' and inserting ''EXPIRATION''; and

(B) in paragraph (1), by striking ''is repealed'' and inserting ''expires''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) and the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Guam.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, H.R. 160, the Revolutionary War and War of 1812 Battlefield Protection Act was introduced by my colleague on the Natural Resources Committee, the Honorable Congressman RUSH HOLT. This bill would provide Federal matching grants to help in the acquisition and preservation of nationally significant battlefields and associated sites of the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812.

Urbanization, suburban sprawl and unplanned commercial and residential development have increasingly encroached upon these battlefield sites, threatening their historical integrity, and even resulting in the loss of some sites all together. A 2007 National Park Service study concluded that as many as 170 Revolutionary War and War of 1812 battlefields and associated sites face imminent injury or destruction in the next decade.

H.R. 160 will enable State and local governments to obtain Federal grants to leverage matching private funds to acquire endangered sites for preservation and protection of these places which influence the course of our American history.

I want to thank the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. HOLT) for all his work on this legislation and his commitment to the preservation of these historic places. I ask my colleagues to support passage of this measure.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Madam Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

(Mr. YOUNG of Alaska asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. During hearings on this bill, the committee heard testimony from historian David Hackett Fischer, whose writings on the Revolutionary War point out George Washington's support for property rights and strong actions that he took to ensure that his soldiers respect the property of civilians, even when the property belonged to a Tory sympathizer.

Washington personally gave strict orders to forbid looting, even though plunder was the norm at the time, and even though many of his men were hungry, dressed in rags and marched barefoot in the snow. It is remarkable that in so desperate a situation with so noble a cause, he imposed on the Patriot side such a high standard on private property.

Washington's honorable policy stood in stark contrast to the routine seizure of booty by the British and Hessian troops. It is no accident over the course of the early years of the war, 1776 and 1777, in the battleground of New Jersey, a population that was once evenly divided in its loyal threw its support to the American cause. There are lessons we can learn from Washington's example.

In earlier battlefield protection efforts, the National Park Service uses its eminent domain powers to seize land from unwilling sellers. The justified resentment of this caused hurt and subsequent efforts.

Our enthusiasm for battlefield protection notwithstanding, I hope as we set out to preserve historic sites that we copy George Washington, not George III.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. HOLT), the sponsor of this legislation.

Mr. HOLT. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlelady from Guam. And I rise as the author of H.R. 160, the American revolution and War of 1812 Battlefield Protection Act, and to urge support of this legislation by my colleagues.

I would like to thank Chairman RAHALL and Chairman GRIJALVA for their help in bringing this legislation to the floor today.

Madam Speaker, from the shot heard around the world at Lexington to the beginning of the winning, when Washington crossed the Delaware, to the surrender of Lord Cornwallis at Yorktown, the stories of the American revolution bring to life the ideals of liberty and democracy fostered by our Nation's Founders.

History is best experienced by those who can touch it, feel it, live it, and the battlefields of the American Revolution and the War of 1812 provide a great opportunity for Americans to experience where and how the epic struggle for our Nation's independence took place.

Preserving these American historic treasures is essential in remembering the sacrifices that our forefathers made to secure our freedom and independence, and essential for educating future generations about our rich cultural history.

Unfortunately, urbanization, suburban sprawl, unplanned development are constantly encroaching on many of the significant battlefields of that period. This encroachment poses a severe and growing risk to preservation of these historically significant sites.

As Ms. BORDALLO has just said, this spring the National Park Service published its report to Congress on the historic preservation of Revolutionary War and the War of 1812 sites in the United States. And this report shows that there is a great need to act and to act quickly to preserve these sites. Out of the 677 nationally significant battlefields and associated sites of the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812, 99 are already lost forever, 234 are fragmented or in poor condition, an additional 170 are in danger of being destroyed in the next decade.

H.R. 160 will authorize the use of money in the Land and Water Conservation Fund for the preservation and protection of the Revolutionary War and War of 1812 battlefields and related historical sites, in addition to the Civil War sites already covered under current law. And I might add, that law has been very successful. This legislation is patterned after the Civil War battlefields legislation which has been so successful.

This bill will allow officials of the American Battlefield Protection Program to collaborate with State and

local governments and nonprofit organizations to preserve and protect the most endangered historical sites, and to provide up to 50 percent of the costs of purchasing battlefield land threatened by sprawl and commercial development.

□ 1300

The story of the American Revolution and the War of 1812 crisscrosses 33 States, from New York to Louisiana, from Georgia to Oregon, and enacting this legislation will allow these States to better preserve their history and their role in these engagements.

I have also introduced legislation that I hope Congress will pass next year to provide additional funding for the program created in H.R. 160, the American Revolution and War of 1812 Commemorative Coin Act.

As the gentleman from Alaska alluded, my home State of New Jersey has a unique role in the American Revolution. In 2006, I am pleased to report, Congress took action to help protect the battlefields and historic sites where this conflict took place. We passed legislation that created the Crossroads of the American Revolution national heritage area, linking together 14 counties in New Jersey where more military engagements took place than in any other State. New Jersey was truly the crossroads of the American Revolution for a number of reasons, and I am pleased that we are taking steps to preserve the record of those engagements. H.R. 160 will allow many more historic battlefields to be preserved for our children's and our children's children to enjoy. We want to give Americans the opportunity to learn history. People who know history can be better citizens today and more engaged in current civic affairs.

I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. I have no further speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I again urge Members to support the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 160, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Madam Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

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

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

CIVIL WAR BATTLEFIELD PRESERVATION ACT OF 2008

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2933) to amend the American Battlefield Protection Act of 1996 to extend the authorization for that Act, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2933

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Civil War Battlefield Preservation Act of 2008''.

SEC. 2. AUTHORIZATION EXTENDED.

The American Battlefield Protection Act of 1996 (16 U.S.C. 469k) is amended—

(1) in subsection (d)(7)(A), by striking ''fiscal years 2004 through 2008'' and inserting ''fiscal years 2009 through 2013''; and

(2) by striking subsection (e).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) and the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Guam.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, since its inception in 1996, the American battlefield protection program has provided grants for preserving endangered Civil War battlefields which are specifically not part of the National Park System.

The program contains two components. The battlefield preservation grants program is designed to help State and local government, organizations and citizens protect battlefield sites. The battlefield acquisition grant program provides matching funds to help State and local governments acquire and preserve battlefield sites.

Together, these grant programs have helped to protect more than 15,000 acres at 72 Civil War battlefields and have leveraged $52 million in non-Federal funding for battlefield protection. With enactment of H.R. 160, which was just considered, this program will be expanded to include Revolutionary War and War of 1812 sites, making the program even stronger.

I commend our colleague, Representative GARY MILLER of California, for his leadership on this issue and his commitment to historic preservation. This is a truly bipartisan measure with more than 100 cosponsors from both parties. I ask my colleagues to support passage of this measure.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. YOUNG of Alaska asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. The American Civil War captures the imagination of people like no other event in our history. In bookstores, most shelves in the history section are devoted to events of the 1860s. On weekends, battles are reenacted by serious hobbyists who strive for authenticity in costume, weaponry and skirmish details. Pictures of Lincoln are found in countless homes and classrooms, Confederate flags adorn pickup trucks, and the words of the Gettysburg Address are as familiar as the 23rd Psalm.

As a nation, we clearly recognize the continuing importance of the War Between the States. So it is natural that we should try to find appropriate ways to keep safe the places where our great-grandfathers witnessed events so noble and so horrific.

But since our country is about liberty rather than glorification of the state, we have to safeguard not just the hills and the mud on which they fought but also the freedoms for which they fought. Therefore, it would be tragic if we allow our well-meaning enthusiasm for protecting historic sites to result in programs that diminish the property rights of our fellow citizens. This bill has two important safeguards: First, a ''willing seller'' provision—and we need to make sure the seller's willingness is uncoerced. Second, a sunset provision on the program's funding authorization. The bill's sponsors are to be commended for including these safeguards.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I have no further speakers, but I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. I at this time, Madam Speaker, yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. CAMPBELL).

Mr. CAMPBELL of California. I thank the gentleman from Alaska for yielding.

There are no Civil War battlefield sites in California. There was one place where shots were fired near the Arizona border, but I do admit to having more than a passing interest in the study of and learning about the Civil War. I stand today strongly in favor of this bill. I can't tell you how many times I invoke the quotes or the deeds or the actions of politicians and generals and citizens from the Civil War and the Civil War era in giving us guidance and perspective on how we deal with some of our problems today.

As we today and this week are facing a financial crisis which is not something that could ever even have been conceived in the Civil War but they certainly dealt with crises of their own. How they dealt with them and how they worked with them and the courage with which they faced them are instructive to all of us today.

These battlefield sites bring that history alive. They remind us of the sacrifices that those who came before us

made to give us what we have today, and they instruct us and teach us of the bravery and the courage and the principles upon which they stood and how we can remember and call upon the same bravery and courage and principles today.

As was said, this bill not only protects private property rights but also leverages a tremendous amount of private funds, largely private funds, that are collected from around the country to preserve these battlefield sites.

Madam Speaker, again I stand in strong support of this bill, both for what the Civil War sites have done for us in the past and what they can continue to do to teach us in the future.

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Madam Speaker, we have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I would like to make mention, and I think it is fitting that we are entertaining this bill today on what marks the 146th anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation.

Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California. Madam Speaker, thank you for the opportunity to express the importance of H.R. 2933, a bill to reauthorize the Civil War Battlefields Preservation Program. I would like to thank Chairman RAHALL and Ranking Member YOUNG of the Committee on Natural Resources for shepherding this bill through their committee. Additionally, Chairman GRIJALVA and Ranking Member BISHOP of the Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, Public Lands must be recognized for their work preserving the American landscape for generations of future citizens to enjoy. Additionally, I would like to particularly thank everyone at the Civil War Battlefield Preservation Trust, especially their President, James Lighthizer, for all the work they have done bringing attention and awareness to the need for preservation. Without the Trust, hundreds of acres of land would likely be lost forever.

Preservation of our Nation's Civil War Battlefields is an issue that I hold close to my heart and fresh in my mind. Without a physical link to the past, we are left with only a passing glimpse of who we are as a Nation.

Our historic battlefields provide outdoor classrooms for visitors to recreate the history of heroes from generations come and gone. In 1993, the Civil War Sites Advisory Commission, a blue-ribbon panel was created by Congress to investigate the status of America's battlefields. The Commission reported that 384 Civil War battlefields were considered high priority and were in serious danger of destruction. The report concluded that almost 20 percent of the Civil War battlefields were lost or fragmented, 17 percent in poor condition, and 60 percent to have been lost or in imminent danger of being fragmented and lost as coherent historic sites. Congress recognized the need to safeguard the only living link to the "War Between the States" and in fiscal year 1999 a preservation program was financed for the first time.

In 2002, I authored the bill that created the Civil War Battlefield Preservation Program. To date, this program has helped save more than 15,000 acres in 14 States. The American Battlefield Protection Program, an arm of the National Park Service, manages and competitively awards the Civil War Battlefield Preservation Program grants. Furthermore, this legislation will facilitate the creation of partnerships at the State and local level, encouraging the private sector to preserve, conserve, and enhance nationally significant Civil War battlefields.

The program's 50/50 matching grants formula encourages both public and private sector investment in battlefield protection. Grants are directed to State and local governments for land acquisition only and are not issued to nonprofit or private groups. Grant money cannot be used for administrative costs or overhead.

The grants are awarded based on five requirements: (1) The battlefield must be on the list of 384 priority sites determined by the Civil War Sites Advisory Commission; (2) The land must be outside the authorized boundaries of the National Park System, thus keeping the program from contributing to National Park Service maintenance costs; (3) Any land acquired with the assistance of the grant program may not be subsequently converted to a non-conservation use without the prior written permission of the Secretary of the Interior; (4) Any grant awarded must be supported by an appraisal of the property's value in accordance with federal standards for property appraisals; and (5) Any land acquired with the assistance of the grant program must be protected by a perpetual easement to ensure its preservation for future generations.

The effect of this program and intent of this legislation is to preserve nationally significant Civil War battlefields through conservation and purchases of those battlefields from willing sellers at fair market value. Preservation of historic battlefields involves only willing sellers when properties become available, and since only willing sellers are involved in the transaction, all private property rights are preserved. There is absolutely no eminent domain authority associated with this program. Willing sellers are compensated at fair-market value and the program allows preservation groups to compete with developers to buy land.

Among the sites saved as a result of this program are historic properties at: Fort Donelson, Tennessee, where the Union scored its first major victory of the war and Union General Ulysses S. Grant earned the nickname "Unconditional Surrender"; Antietam, Maryland, where 23,000 soldiers were killed, marking the bloodiest day in American history and leading to the issuance of the Emancipation Proclamation; and, Chancellorsville, Virginia, where a much smaller Confederate force defeated the larger Union force, while suffering the loss of the famed General Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson.

Despite the progress, we still have more to do. Many sites have only been partially preserved and those that have no opportunity for acquisition run the risk of being lost forever. Only about 20 percent of the actual battlefields upon which the Civil War was fought are currently preserved. All of the rest of that hallowed ground is either unprotected or has already been destroyed.

These battlefields offer a porthole to the past. The vivid imagery of an epic conflict can remind visitors of the struggles our country has gone through to preserve the banner of liberty and justice for all. Memorializing the conflict, Oliver Wendell Holmes said, "We have shared the incommunicable experience of war. We felt, we still feel, the passion of life to its top. In our youths, our hearts were touched by fire." By preserving this Nation's historic Civil War Battlefields, we can give visitors a sense of what Mr. Holmes was talking about.

Since fiscal year 1999, Congress has appropriated $36 million to preserve Civil War Battlefields and the White House included a $4 million request for the program as part of its fiscal year 2009 budget. H.R. 2933 is a clean bill that would extend the authorization, from fiscal years 2009 through 2013 for battlefield preservation grants under the Civil War Battlefield Preservation Act of 2002. The program's necessity, and proof that the preservation of history is a bipartisan issue, is demonstrated by more than 100 cosponsors divided nearly equally between Republicans and Democrats. A companion bill, authored by Senator JIM WEBB of Virginia, has already been approved by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources and enjoys widespread support in that chamber. I thank the Speaker and I respectfully request and urge you to support this legislation.

Mr. BROWN of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise today to urge the passage of H.R. 2933, the Civil War Battlefield Preservation Act of 2007.

H.R. 2933 was introduced by my good friend and colleague Congressman GARY MILLER and I have paid special attention to this bill as it as made its way through the legislative process of the Committee on Natural Resources of which I am a member.

H.R. 2933 is an important bill for the residents of coastal South Carolina and I am proud to be an original cosponsor of this legislation.

The current Civil War Battlefield Preservation Program funds preservation and conservation efforts at many famous Civil War battlefields across the Nation. It is very important that we preserve these sites for future generations to observe and visit these sites that are so important to our Nation's history.

Some of the more famous locations in my district include, Fort Sumter, the target of the first shots of the Civil War as well as the assault on Morris Island's Battery Wagner, which is the battle which inspired the Academy Award winning movie Glory.

Other famous battles fought at Secessionville, Grimball's Landing, Simmon's Bluff and sites in and around the Charleston Harbor would also be eligible to receive funding for preservation and conservation.

Madam Speaker, reauthorization of the Civil War Battlefield Preservation Program could not come at a better time. In just 3 years, America will commemorate the 150th anniversary of the beginning of the Civil War.

I know that in my district the planning has already started and many residents of coastal South Carolina are planning to observe this important date from where the first shots of the Civil War were fired.

I urge all of my colleagues to vote "yes" on this bill as swift passage of H.R. 2933 would help in the preparation, preservation and conservation of many of these hallowed sites in advance of this important anniversary.

Ms. BORDALLO. I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2933, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Madam Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

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

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PALO ALTO BATTLEFIELD NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK BOUNDARY EXPANSION AND REDESIGNATION ACT OF 2008

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4828) to amend the Palo Alto Battlefield National Historic Site Act of 1991 to expand the boundaries of the historic site, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4828

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Palo Alto Battlefield National Historical Park Boundary Expansion and Redesignation Act of 2008''.

SEC. 2. DESIGNATION OF PALO ALTO BATTLEFIELD NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Palo Alto Battlefield National Historic Site is hereby designated the ''Palo Alto Battlefield National Historical Park''.

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper or other record of the United States to Palo Alto Battlefield National Historic Site is deemed to be a reference to the Palo Alto Battlefield National Historical Park.

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—The Palo Alto Battlefield National Historic Site Act of 1991 (Public Law 102–304; 106 Stat. 256; 16 U.S.C. 461) is amended—

(1) by striking ''National Historic Site'' each place it appears and inserting ''National Historical Park'';

*(2) in the heading for section 3, by striking ''**NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE**'' and inserting ''**NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK**''; and*

(3) by striking ''historic site'' each place it appears and inserting ''historical park''.

SEC. 3. BOUNDARY EXPANSION.

Section 3(b) of the Palo Alto Battlefield National Historic Site Act of 1991 (Public Law 102–304; 106 Stat. 256; 16 U.S.C. 461) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraph (2) as paragraph (3);

(2) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following new paragraph:

''(2) The historical park also shall consist of approximately 34 acres as generally depicted on the map entitled 'Palo Alto Battlefield NHS Proposed Boundary Expansion', numbered 469/80,012, and dated May 21, 2008. The map shall be on file and available for public inspection in the appropriate offices of the National Park Service.''; and

(3) in paragraph (3), as so redesignated, by striking ''map referred to in paragraph (1)'' and inserting ''maps referred to in paragraphs (1) and (2)''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) and the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Guam.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, Palo Alto Battlefield National Historic Site, located in Brownsville, Texas, is the only National Park Service unit dedicated to the preservation and interpretation of the Mexican-American War. The park preserves the site of the Battle of Palo Alto, the first battle of the war, but fighting was not limited to the parcel of land currently preserved by the park. Fighting at a site called Resaca de la Palma proved pivotal in permanently repulsing the Mexican army from Texas.

H.R. 4828 would amend the act creating Palo Alto Battlefield National Historic Site to designate the 34 acres of the Resaca de la Palma as a unit of the park. In recognition of the expansion of the park to include the noncontiguous Resaca de la Palma unit, the bill will also redesignate Palo Alto Battlefield National Historic Site as Palo Alto Battlefield National Historical Park.

This is a good piece of legislation, and I commend my colleague and my good friend, Representative SOLOMON ORTIZ from Texas, for his hard work on adding this unit to the park. I enthusiastically support passage of this measure.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in strong support of this legislation. The Palo Alto battlefield in Brownsville, Texas is the site of the second battle of the U.S. War with Mexico. During the battle, American forces drove Mexican troops back across the Rio Grande River. This bill adds 34 acres to the Palo Alto Battlefield National Historic Site and provides for a cooperative agreement under which the Brownsville Community Foundation and the National Park Service would co-manage this land that is owned by the foundation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ORTIZ), the sponsor of this bill.

Mr. ORTIZ. Madam Speaker, I want to say thank you to both Chairman Bordallo and my good friend from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) who have had an opportunity to spend time in my district.

Today I rise in support of H.R. 4828, the Palo Alto Battlefield National Historical Park Boundary Expansion and Redesignation Act of 2008. The battle of Resaca de la Palma—fought in 1846 in what is now the city of Brownsville, Texas—marked one of the early victories in the United States-Mexican War for the American forces.

General Zachary Taylor, who would later become the 12th President of the United States, was a very notable participant in this battle.

□ 1315

The United States troops suffered 45 men dead and 228 wounded; Mexican forces counted 169 dead and 228 wounded.

H.R. 4828 will expand the Palo Alto Battlefield National Historic Site, currently under the National Park Service, to include the Resaca de la Palma Battlefield site.

The bill will preserve the battlefield site, support education and special events there, and develop an interpretive trail with exhibits, living history programs, and other community gatherings.

The site will also conserve the increasingly rare Rio Grande delta landscape and protect native chaparral, prairie and brush, and native species. It used to be more than 100 acres, but now it has been reduced to 34 aches of land, so we need to preserve this site.

Though the battle at Resaca de la Palma was fought by two warring nations, it is historically significant because it is unique to the south Texas border culture. More than just a relic of the past, the Resaca de la Palma Battlefield is a vast, outdoor classroom that preserves a vital piece of our Nation's history.

My hope is that scholars, historians, and everyday citizens will learn and appreciate the sacrifice of all those who perished here on this battlefield.

A coalition of local groups, community leaders, and private citizens has done a tremendous job in maintaining the Resaca de la Palma. I wish to thank them for their hard work and dedication in preserving an important piece of our Nation's history.

But it is now vital for the site to have full support and resources that only the National Park Service can provide. I ask my colleagues to join me in support of this legislation.

And I thank you and Chairman YOUNG and Chairman BORDALLO for supporting this bill.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. I have no other requests for speakers. I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I again urge Members to support this very important piece of legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4828, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Madam Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

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

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

MINUTE MAN NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK BOUNDARY REVISION ACT

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5853) to expand the boundary of the Minute Man National Historical Park in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to include Barrett's Farm, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5853

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Minute Man National Historical Park Boundary Revision Act''.

SEC. 2. MINUTE MAN NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK BOUNDARY REVISION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The boundary of the Minute Man National Historical Park is modified to include the area as generally depicted on the map titled ''Minute Man National Historical Park Proposed Boundary'', numbered 406/81001, and dated July 2007. The map shall be on file and available for inspection in the appropriate offices of the National Park Service, Department of the Interior.

(b) ACQUISITION OF LANDS.—The Secretary of the Interior may acquire land or interest in land with the area described in subsection (a), by purchase from willing sellers with donated or appropriated funds, by donation, or by exchange.

(c) ADMINISTRATION OF LANDS.—Lands added to the park under this section shall be administered by the Secretary of the Interior as part of the Minute Man National Historical Park in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) and the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Guam.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, H.R. 5853, the Minute Man National Historical Park Boundary Revision Act, was introduced by our colleague from Massachusetts, the honorable Congresswoman TSONGAS. This bill would modify the boundary of the Minute Man National Historical Park in Massachusetts to include the historic site of Barrett's Farm.

Colonel James Barrett was a leading Revolutionary War patriot and military figure, and his farm in Concord played a significant role in the events leading up to the opening battles of the Revolutionary War at Lexington and Concord in April 1775.

A 2007 study from the National Park Service concluded that the boundary adjustment was important to ensure the protection of these nationally significant resources and values. And this bill enjoys extensive public support, as well as the support of the entire Massachusetts congressional delegation.

I thank Representative TSONGAS for her leadership on this legislation, and I ask my colleagues to support passage of this measure.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

H.R. 5853 has been adequately explained by the Democrat bill manager, and we have no objections to the legislation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlelady from Massachusetts, Congresswoman TSONGAS, the sponsor of the bill.

Ms. TSONGAS. Madam Speaker, I am very pleased to be speaking on behalf of H.R. 5853, the Minute Man National Historical Park Act, which extends the boundary of the Minute Man National Park located in Concord, Massachusetts, to include historic Barrett's Farm.

This bill is a simple, noncontroversial boundary adjustment of 67 acres to the current national park and enjoys the support of the National Park Service and Save Our Heritage, the nonprofit organization which currently owns Barrett's Farm.

It may seem like small change, but the preservation of such a significant site is monumentally important to the history of this country.

Barrett's Farm is the former home of Colonel James Barrett, the commander of the Middlesex militia during the Revolutionary War. It was also used to store the militia's munitions in the weeks preceding the Battle of Concord and Lexington.

On April 19, 1775, General Thomas Gage, the commander of all British forces in North America, ordered 700 of his troops to march to Barrett's Farm and destroy these supplies. Our colonial militia learned of the British plot in advance, and Paul Revere made his famous ride, calling his fellow countrymen to arms.

By the time the British reached Barrett's Farm, the colonial militia's guns were safely hidden, and Colonel Barrett had strategically positioned the militia to strike the British Army. Barrett's militia confronted British soldiers at the North Bridge in Concord, where the infamous ''shot heard 'round the world'' was fired, launching our war for independence.

Through the hard work and ongoing efforts of the nonprofit group, Save Our Heritage, Barrett's Farm has been kept in excellent condition. Private donations throughout the years have been used for its upkeep and restoration. Our country is indebted to these committed people for preserving this national historical treasure.

But it is time for this important location to be part of the larger Minute Man National Park so that the considerable resources and expertise of the National Park Service can be put towards the restoration and permanent preservation of this remarkable piece of Massachusetts' rich revolutionary history.

It will also enable park visitors to have a more complete understanding of how and where our American Revolution began.

I urge the House to pass this bill to protect Colonel James Barrett's Farm so that current and future generations can learn about the role this site played in the birth of our Nation.

I want to thank Chairman RAHALL and Chairman GRIJALVA for their leadership on this bill, and I would also like to thank all the cosponsors of this bill for their support.

I urge my colleagues today to vote for this important piece of legislation.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Madam Speaker, we have no other requests for speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I again urge Members to support the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5853.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

FORT DAVIS NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE EXPANSION

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6176) to authorize the expansion of the Fort Davis National Historic Site in Fort Davis, Texas, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6176

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

SECTION 1. INCREASED ACREAGE OF THE FORT DAVIS NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE.

Public Law 87–213 (16 U.S.C. 461 note) is amended as follows:

(1) In the first section—

(A) by striking ''the Secretary of the Interior'' and inserting ''(a) The Secretary of the Interior'';

(B) by striking ''476 acres'' and inserting ''646 acres''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(b) The Secretary may acquire from willing sellers land comprising approximately 55 acres, as depicted on the map titled 'Fort Davis Proposed Boundary Expansion', numbered 418/80,045, and dated April 2008. The map shall be on file and available for public inspection in the appropriate offices of the National Park Service. Upon acquisition of the land, the land shall be incorporated into the Fort Davis National Historic Site.''.

(2) By repealing section 3.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) and the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Guam.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, H.R. 6176 was introduced by our colleague from Texas, Representative CIRO RODRIGUEZ. The bill increases the acreage ceiling for the Fort Davis National Historic Site in west Texas and authorizes the National Park Service to acquire from willing sellers approximately 55 acres adjacent to the park.

Fort Davis National Historic Site, authorized in 1961, is regarded as one of the best preserved forts in the American Southwest. The fort was strategically located to protect emigrants, mail coaches, and freight wagons traveling through the Southwest. The fort is also known because the famed all-black ''Buffalo Soldier'' regiments established after the Civil War were stationed there.

The bill would expand the boundary of the park to encompass some already completed acquisitions and to permit the acquisition of three parcels that total approximately 55 acres on the southwestern boundary of the park.

Madam Speaker, Congressman RODRIGUEZ is to be commended for his tireless efforts on behalf of this legislation, and I would also note the administration supports this bill.

I urge my colleagues to support passage of this measure.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I believe the bill has been explained very well, and I do support the bill.

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I stand here today in support of H.R. 6176, legislation to authorize the expansion of Fort Davis National Historic Site in Fort Davis, Texas. I would like to thank my good friends Chairman GRIJALVA and Chairman RAHALL for their support of this legislation.

Fort Davis Historic Site is considered by many to be one of the most well preserved forts in the Southwest. This fort has historical and cultural importance to the communities of West Texas and it is our job to protect and preserve this piece of our Nation's history. In the 1800s the District I represent today was scattered with U.S. Army forts designed to protect travelers and settlers along the western trade routes from San Antonio to El Paso. The oldest and most preserved of these forts is Fort Davis, now a National Historic Site.

This legislation authorizes the National Park Service to acquire a prominent bluff on the western view shed of the site. It is the desire of the community of Fort Davis and the surrounding region that the Fort Davis Historic Site acquire the prominent bluff so that landscape of the Fort Davis Historic Site can remain the same as it was in the 19th century.

Fortunately a strong community movement led to the purchase of the land by a conservationist, who, in conjunction with the Conservation Fund, hopes to sell or donate the land to the National Park Service.

The bluff that the legislation aims to protect is vital to the experience of the visitors to the Fort Davis National Historic Site as well as the surrounding community of Fort Davis. It is my hope that this legislation will provide protection for this important historic site and will allow the park to continue to serve as an example of a typical western military fort from the 1800s.

Thank you for bringing this piece of legislation to the House floor for the communities of West Texas. I strongly urge my colleagues to vote in favor of H.R. 6176, legislation to protect Fort Davis and this important piece of West Texas history.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. I have no other speakers, and I yield back my time.

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this piece of legislation, and I yield back.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6176.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

DEAFY GLADE LAND EXCHANGE ACT

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6159) to provide for a land exchange involving certain National Forest System lands in the Mendocino National Forest in the State of California, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6159

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Deafy Glade Land Exchange Act''.

SEC. 2. LAND EXCHANGE, MENDOCINO NATIONAL FOREST, CALIFORNIA.

(a) LAND EXCHANGE REQUIRED.—If Solano County, California (in this section referred to as the ''County'') conveys to the Secretary of Agriculture all right, title, and interest of the County in and to four parcels of land consisting of a total of approximately 160 acres identified on the map entitled ''Fouts Springs-Deafy Glade Federal and Non-Federal Lands'' and dated July 17, 2008, the Secretary shall convey to the County, in exchange, all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the parcel of land in the Mendocino National Forest in the State of California (including any improvements on the land) comprising approximately 82 acres and known as the Fouts Springs Ranch, as also depicted on the map.

(b) AVAILABILITY OF MAP.—The map referred to in subsection (a) shall be on file and available for public inspection in the Office of the Chief of the Forest Service. With the agreement of the County, the Secretary may make technical corrections to the map and the legal descriptions of the land to be exchanged under this section.

(c) LAND EXCHANGE PROCESS.—Section 206 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1716) shall apply to the land exchange under this section.

(d) SURVEY AND ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—The exact acreage and legal description of the land to be exchanged under subsection (a) shall be determined by a survey satisfactory to the Secretary. The costs of the survey and any administrative costs related to the land exchange shall be borne by the County.

(e) CONDITION ON USE OF CONVEYED LAND.—As a condition of the conveyance to the County under subsection (a), the County shall agree to continue to use the land acquired by the County under such subsection for purposes consistent with the purposes listed in the special use authorization for the Fouts Springs Ranch in effect as of the date of the enactment of this Act.

(f) EASEMENT AUTHORITY.—The Secretary may grant an easement to provide continued access to, and maintenance and use of, the facilities covered by the special use authorization referred to in subsection (e) as necessary for the continued operation of the Fouts Springs Ranch conveyed under subsection (a).

(g) MANAGEMENT OF ACQUIRED LAND.—The lands acquired by the Secretary under subsection (a) shall be added to and administered as part of the Mendocino National Forest and managed in accordance with the Act of March 1, 1911 (commonly known as the Weeks Act; 16 U.S.C. 480 et seq.) and the laws and regulations applicable to the National Forest System.

(h) ADDITIONAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—The land exchange under subsection (a) shall be subject to such additional terms and conditions as the Secretary and the County may agree upon.

SEC. 3. SALE OR EXCHANGE OF NOAA PROPERTY IN NORFOLK, VIRGINIA.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Commerce may sell or exchange to the City of Norfolk, Virginia, in accordance with chapter 13 of title 40, United States Code, real

property under the administrative jurisdiction of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (in this section referred to as ''NOAA''), including land and improvements thereon, located at 538 Front Street, Norfolk, Virginia, consisting of approximately 3.78 acres, if the Secretary—

(1) determines that the conveyance is in the best interests of NOAA and the Federal Government; and

(2) has provided prior notification to the Committee on Natural Resources and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate.

(b) CONSIDERATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—For any conveyance under this section the Secretary shall require the City of Norfolk to provide consideration to the United States that is not less than the fair market value of the property conveyed by the United States.

(2) FORM.—Consideration under this subsection may include any combination of—

(A) cash or cash equivalents;

(B) other property (either real or personal); and

(C) consideration in-kind, including—

(i) provision of space, goods, or services of benefit to NOAA including construction, repair, remodeling, or other physical improvements of NOAA property;

(ii) maintenance of NOAA property;

(iii) provision of office, storage, or other useable space; or

(iv) relocation services associated with conveyance of property under this section.

(3) DETERMINATION OF FAIR MARKET VALUE.—The Secretary shall determine fair market value for purposes of paragraph (1) based upon a highest- and best-use appraisal of the property conveyed under subsection (a) conducted in conformance with the Uniform Appraisal Standards for Professional Appraisal Practice.

(c) USE OF PROCEEDS.—Amounts received under subsection (b)(2)(A) by the United States as proceeds of any conveyance under this section shall be available to the Secretary, subject to appropriation, for—

(1) activities related to the operations of, or capital improvements, to NOAA property; or

(2) relocation and other costs associated with the sale or exchange.

(d) ADDITIONAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—The Secretary may require such additional terms and conditions in connection with the conveyance of property by the United States under subsection (a) as the Secretary considers appropriate to protect the interest of the United States, including the recoupment of any profit the City of Norfolk may realize within three years after the date of conveyance to the City due to resale of the property

(e) TERMINATION.—The authority granted to the Secretary under subsections (a) and (b) shall terminate at the end of the 24-month period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act if no contract for sale or exchange under subsection (a) has been entered into by the City of Norfolk and the United States.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) and the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) each will control 20 minutes

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Guam.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, H.R. 6159 provides for a land exchange between the Forest Service and Solano County, California.

Solano County has a special use permit for the Fouts Springs Youth Correctional Facility on 82 acres of land in the Mendocino National Forest. The county has been working diligently for many years to acquire wilderness quality forest lands to exchange with the Forest Service in order to acquire the lands occupied by the youth correctional facility.

Madam Speaker, we believe that there are numerous public benefits to this land exchange. An analysis produced by the Forest Service found that this land exchange would benefit their hazardous fuels program to reduce the threat of catastrophic fire, and the land exchange would be of equal value.

Furthermore, the lands the Forest Service would acquire are wilderness-quality lands bordering the Snow Mountain Wilderness Area and have been identified as priority areas for land acquisition by the Forest Service dating as far back as 1992.

□ 1330

Madam Speaker, the chairman of the Committee on Education and Labor, Representative GEORGE MILLER, is to be commended for his efforts on behalf of Solano County and this youth facility.

I ask my colleagues to support passage of this measure.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, this is an effort that's been adequately explained, and I support the legislation.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 6159, the Deafy Glade Land Exchange Act.

The Fouts Springs Youth facility has been managed by Solano County, Colusa County, and their partners for nearly fifty years. The bill before the House today guarantees that they can continue their good work.

Fouts Springs has helped rehabilitate California's young offenders, and provided youths from across the state with much-needed structure and significant vocational education opportunities.

Presently, Solano County operates Fouts Springs on behalf of several other California counties under a special use authorization.

H.R. 6159, the Deafy Glade Land Exchange Act, will give Solano County the 82 acres that they use at Fouts Springs, and in exchange would give to the Mendocino National Forest 160 acres of nearby land known as Deafy Glade.

The Deafy Glade property has access to the Snow Mountain Wilderness Area, and has been a high priority for acquisition by the Forest Service since at least the early 1990s. As we learned in testimony before the Natural Resources Committee by Solano County Supervisor John Vasquez, the Deafy Glade parcels would be a key addition to the Mendocino National Forest's trail system.

The bill before the House today contains several small changes from the legislation as introduced, which should ensure that Solano County can continue to operate Fouts Springs as they do today.

I want to thank Chairman NICK RAHALL, Subcommittee Chairman RAUL GRIJALVA, and the Natural Resources Committee staff, for all of the time and energy they have spent with me and with my staff to improve this legislation and help move it forward. I also want to thank Ranking Members DON YOUNG and ROB BISHOP for their efforts. In particular, I want to recognize the efforts of Meghan Conklin and David Watkins from Chairman Grijalva's staff, as well as the work of my legislative director, Ben Miller.

I urge my colleagues to support the Deafy Glade Land Exchange Act, and I look forward to passage of this legislation.

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

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I again urge all of the Members to support the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6159, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

TRAIL OF TEARS DOCUMENTATION ACT

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5335) to amend the National Trails System Act to provide for the inclusion of new trail segments, land components, and campgrounds associated with the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5335

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Trail of Tears Documentation Act''.

SEC. 2. ADDITIONS TO TRAIL OF TEARS NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL.

Section 5(a)(16) of the National Trails System Act (16 U.S.C. 1244(a)(16)) is amended as follows:

(1) By amending subparagraph (C) to read as follows:

''(C) In addition to the areas otherwise designated under this paragraph, the following routes and land components by which the Cherokee Nation was removed to Oklahoma are components of the Trail of Tears National Historic

Trail, as generally described in the environmentally preferred alternative of the November 2007 Feasibility Study Amendment and Environmental Assessment for Trail of Tears National Historic Trail:

''(i) The Benge and Bell routes.

''(ii) The land components of the designated water routes in Alabama, Arkansas, Oklahoma, and Tennessee.

''(iii) The routes from the collection forts in Alabama, Georgia, North Carolina, and Tennessee to the emigration depots.

''(iv) The related campgrounds located along the routes and land components described in clauses (i) through (iii).''.

(2) In subparagraph (D)—

(A) by striking the first sentence; and

(B) by adding at the end the following: ''No lands or interests in lands outside the exterior boundaries of any federally administered area may be acquired by the Federal Government for the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail except with the consent of the owner thereof.''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) and the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Guam.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, H.R. 5335, introduced by our colleague from Tennessee, Representative WAMP, implements the recommendations of a National Park Service study that examined the possibility of adding several side trails associated with the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail.

Congress designated the original National Historic Trail in 1987 to commemorate the two main routes used during the forced removal of more than 15,000 Cherokee Indians from their ancestral homelands in the southeastern United States. At that time, many of the side routes used during the removal were not well documented.

Subsequent research has identified these routes, and in 2006 Congress directed the National Park Service to determine which, if any, of these routes would be eligible for addition to the existing trail.

The National Park Service found a number of components eligible for designation and recommended adding routes in Tennessee and Alabama. H.R. 5335 adds those routes to the existing trail.

I ask my colleagues to support passage of this measure.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

This legislation, H.R. 5335, has been explained by the good manager of the bill, and we support the legislation.

I would like to, at this time, acknowledge the bill's author, Congressman ZACH WAMP, and of course Congressman SHULER. Both of them have asked me and asked the leadership of the Resources Committee to move this legislation.

I support the legislation because it does recognize the angst of those that marched on this trail. I strongly compliment both of those gentlemen for their hard work.

Mr. SHULER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to voice my strong support for H.R. 5335, the Trail of Tears Documentation Act. As a cosponsor of this legislation, I feel that it is imperative that Congress make it a priority to protect and preserve these historic routes.

H.R. 5335 amends the National Trails System Act to provide for the inclusion of new trail segments, land components, and campsites associated with the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail.

The Trail of Tears was a significant and shameful chapter in American history. In 1838–1839, the U.S. Government forcibly removed Cherokee Indians from their ancestral homelands in western North Carolina and other parts of the southeastern United States and resettled them in Indian Territory west of the Mississippi River. Over 15,000 Cherokees were systematically rounded up from their homes and forced to travel by foot, horseback, boat, and wagon across the southern U.S. to Indian Territory. More than 1,000 people died from exposure, illness, and exhaustion during the roundup and removal.

I am proud to have grown up alongside the Qualla Boundary in western North Carolina, home to the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians. The EBCI are descended from the Cherokee who resisted removal by taking to their ancestral mountains, where they still live to this day and keep alive the traditions and values of their forefathers.

The Trail of Tears Act designated two primary travel routes, the northern land route and the water routes. This amendment specifically adds other significant routes that were used by the Cherokee during the resettlement. These include: the Bell and Benge routes, the land components of the water routes, the routes from the roundup forts and camps in Alabama, Georgia, North Carolina, and Tennessee, and the related campsites located along the routes and land components.

I am a proud co-sponsor of this bill, and I commend Congressman ZACH WAMP for introducing this legislation and fighting to ensure its passage in the 110th Congress. I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring the memory of all of the Cherokee who suffered during the removal on the Trail of Tears.

Mr. WAMP. Madam Speaker, I'd like to thank Chairman RAHALL and Ranking Member YOUNG and their staff for their help. I'd also like to thank all 21 cosponsors for their involvement and especially Congressman HEATH SHULER, who helped me champion this very worthy initiative. Most of all, I would like to thank Principal Chief of the Cherokee Nation, Chad Smith and Principal Chief of the Eastern Band of Cherokee, Michell Hicks, as well as the National and State Trail of Tears Associations.

I am very proud of H.R. 5335, the Trail of Tears Documentation Act and count it as a great privilege to be the lead sponsor. When I was a little boy, my mother told me of my own Cherokee heritage. Her grandfather, Luna Meadows was half Cherokee. His mother, Little Flower, was a full-blooded Cherokee midwife. So completing the story of the Cherokee Removal is personal for me and very important for our country as the Trail of Tears and the forced removal is one of the seminal injustices in American history. It must be told accurately, honestly and completely. I urge passage of this bill and enactment of the legislation.

This bill is the subsequent measure to H.R. 3085, the Trail of Tears Study Act which was signed into law in December 2006. H.R. 3085 directed the National Park Service to complete a study on expanding the current Trail of Tears National Historic Trail to include previously omitted components. In 1987 when the original Trail was designated, the historical documentation available for these known passages was sparse and ambiguous. Since that time however, significant research on the proposed additions has been documented by National Park Service historians through military journals, newspaper accounts and vouchers—compelling us to reconsider these passages. In fact, the NPS has noted that now these proposed trails are better documented than the primary routes that currently make up the Trail of Tears.

The Cherokee removal is only one tribe's story of the Indian Removal Act of 1830, but it is the most visible in American history. It is not just an Arkansas and Oklahoma story; it started in North Carolina, Tennessee, Georgia and Alabama. These distinct routes and campgrounds proposed in the Trail of Tears Documentation Act more fully reflect this tragic saga of a proud people's forced removal. The story is not yet complete until we commemorate the full experience.

The arteries I want to highlight are the detachments led by John Benge that traveled 734 miles starting at Fort Payne, Alabama continuing through Tennessee, Kentucky, Missouri, Arkansas and Oklahoma. And the Treaty Party Group led by John Bell which traveled 765 miles starting at Charleston, Tennessee crossing west over Moccasin Bend and traveling through Arkansas. It was the only one of the 17 detachments that did not disband in Oklahoma.

Also included are 29 forts and the emigration depots concentrated around Fort Payne, Alabama; Ross's Landing—present day Chattanooga, Tennessee; and Fort Cass—present day Charleston, Tennessee where the Cherokee initially were taken after being rounded up from their homes for the long journey west.

The National Park Service has demonstrated strong partnerships geared toward respecting the private property of citizens in its administering of the current Trail of Tears National Historic Trail and will continue to do so upon the addition of the Benge, Bell Routes and associated components. In fact, as the NPS traveled throughout the U.S. conducting public hearings on the proposal in the designated areas, the support and belief in this initiative were overwhelming.

The designation and interpretation of the additional sites and trails associated with the Cherokee Removal will enhance public understanding of American history. Our greatness as a nation is our ability to look at our own history objectively and in proper perspective, being mindful of the errors of the past in order

not to repeat them. Through this legislation we will honor the historic footsteps taken by the Cherokee and celebrate our future as we remember the past.

Finally, because of historical significance, H.R. 5335 enjoys broad support not only within Congress, but also with the Cherokee Nation, Eastern Band of Cherokee and associated trail organizations. The legislation is a good example of how Congress can better understand a national event through an accurate portrayal of the people, the places and the actions involved. We can learn a lot from history and in this case, ensure that it will never be repeated.

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

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I again urge Members to support the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5335, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CAMP HALE STUDY ACT

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3336) to direct the Secretary of the Interior to carry out a study to determine the suitability and feasibility of establishing a historic district to the Camp Hale on parcels of land in the State of Colorado, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3336

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Camp Hale Study Act''.

SEC. 2. SPECIAL RESOURCE STUDY OF THE SUITABILITY AND FEASIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING CAMP HALE AS A UNIT OF THE NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Director of the National Park Service, (hereinafter referred to as the ''Secretary'') shall complete a special resource study of Camp Hale to determine—

(1) the suitability and feasibility of designating Camp Hale as a separate unit of the National Park System; and

(2) the methods and means for the protection and interpretation of Camp Hale by the National Park Service, other Federal, State, or local government entities or private or nonprofit organizations.

(b) STUDY REQUIREMENTS.—The Secretary shall conduct the study in accordance with section 8(c) of Public Law 91–383 (16 U.S.C. 1a–5).

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 3 years after the date on which funds are made available to carry out this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate a report containing—

(1) the results of the study; and

(2) any recommendations of the Secretary.

SEC. 3. EFFECT OF STUDY.

Nothing in this Act shall affect valid existing rights, including—

(1) all interstate water compacts in existence on the date of the enactment of this Act (including full development of any apportionment made in accordance with the compacts);

(2) water rights decreed at the Camp Hale site or flowing within, below, or through the Camp Hale site;

(3) water rights in the State of Colorado;

(4) water rights held by the United States; and

(5) the management and operation of any reservoir, including the storage, management, release, or transportation of water.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) and the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Guam.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, H.R. 3336 was introduced by our colleague from Colorado, Representative DOUG LAMBORN. The bill directs the National Park Service to study how best to preserve Camp Hale near Leadville, Colorado.

Camp Hale operated from 1942 to 1965 as a winter and a high-altitude training venue for the 10th Mountain Division and other elements of the U.S. Armed Forces.

The 250,000-acre camp was also used by the Central Intelligence Agency as a secret center for training Tibetan refugees in guerilla warfare to resist the Chinese occupation.

The lands were returned to the Forest Service in 1966. Today, the camp is part of the White River and San Isabel National Forest. Camp Hale was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1992.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support passage of this measure, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I want to thank Congressman LAMBORN for initiating this National Park Service study of Camp Hale so Americans can appreciate the events that occurred during World War II and the Cold War because people forget about the Cold War. A lot of activity went on.

The Tennessee Pass and Camp Hale served as the training site for the 10th Mountain Division, a specialized skiing unit whose heroism during World War II inspired our Nation. Later the site was used for covert training operations furthering the cause of freedom during the Cold War.

Colorado today benefits from the ski area and the educational opportunities presented by this unique landmark. Listing Tennessee Pass and Camp Hale as a unit of the National Park Service will allow us to learn about and experience this unique piece of history.

Madam Speaker, I urge passage of this legislation and yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3336, as amended.

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

The title was amended so as to read: ''A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to carry out a study to determine the suitability and feasibility of establishing Camp Hale as a unit of the National Park System.''.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

BOX ELDER UTAH LAND CONVEYANCE ACT

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3849) to provide for the conveyance of parcels of land to Mantua, Box Elder County, Utah, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3849

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Box Elder Utah Land Conveyance Act''.

SEC. 2. CONVEYANCE OF CERTAIN LANDS TO MANTUA, BOX ELDER, UTAH.

(a) CONVEYANCE REQUIRED.—The Secretary of Agriculture shall convey, without consideration, to the town of Mantua, Utah (in this section referred to as the ''town''), all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to parcels of National Forest System land in the Wasatch-Cache National Forest in Box Elder County, Utah, consisting of approximately 31.5 acres within section 27, township 9 north, range 1 west, Salt Lake meridian and labeled as parcels A, B, and C on the map entitled ''Box Elder Utah Land Conveyance Act'' and dated July 14, 2008.

(b) SURVEY.—If necessary, the exact acreage and legal description of the lands to be conveyed under subsection (a) shall be determined by a survey satisfactory to the Secretary. The cost of the survey shall be borne by the town.

(c) USE OF LAND.—As a condition of the conveyance under subsection (a), the town shall use the land conveyed under such subsection for public purposes.

(d) REVERSIONARY INTEREST.—In the quitclaim deed to the town prepared as part of the conveyance under subsection (a), the Secretary shall provide that the land conveyed to the town under such subsection shall revert to the Secretary, at the election of the Secretary, if the land is used for other than public purposes.

(e) ADDITIONAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—The Secretary may require such additional terms and conditions in connection with the conveyance authorized under subsection (a) as the Secretary considers appropriate to protect the interests of the United States.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) and the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Guam.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, H.R. 3849, introduced by Representative BISHOP of Utah, requires the Secretary of Agriculture to convey, without consideration, approximately 31.5 acres of National Forest System land in the Wasatch-Cache National Forest in Utah to the town of Mantua, Utah.

The conveyed land will be used by the town of Mantua to develop a new town cemetery, a new town hall, a fire station, an elementary school, a court and law enforcement facilities, and a memorial park.

Madam Speaker, the Committee on Natural Resources amended this measure to require that, as a condition of the conveyance, the town of Mantua shall use the land for public purposes only, and the land shall revert to the Secretary if used for another purpose.

We have no objections to H.R. 3849.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I would like to commend Congressman ROB BISHOP and his staff for their hard work and diligence on this land conveyance. I would also like to thank Chairman RAHALL for allowing this bill to go forward.

This legislation will help the community of Box Elder, Utah, gain much needed land and help the Forest Service better meet its management needs.

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

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, again, I urge all Members to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3849, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ROOSEVELT NATIONAL FOREST BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT AND LAND CONVEYANCE

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3299) to provide for a boundary adjustment and land conveyance involving Roosevelt National Forest, Colorado, to correct the effects of an erroneous land survey that resulted in approximately 7 acres of the Crystal Lakes Subdivision, Ninth Filing, encroaching on National Forest System land, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3299

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

SECTION 1. BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT AND LAND CONVEYANCES, ROOSEVELT NATIONAL FOREST, COLORADO.

(a) BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT.—The boundaries of Roosevelt National Forest, Colorado, are hereby modified to exclude from the national forest a parcel of real property consisting of approximately 7 acres within the Crystal Lakes Subdivision as depicted on the map entitled ''Crystal Lakes Encroachment, HR 3299'' and dated July 15, 2008.

(b) CONVEYANCE OF LAND REMOVED FROM NATIONAL FOREST.—The Secretary of Agriculture shall use the authority provided by Public Law 97–465 (commonly known as the Small Tracts Act; 16 U.S.C. 521c-521i) to convey all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the real property excluded from the boundaries of Roosevelt National Forest under subsection (a) to the landowners whose real property adjoins the excluded land and who, as of the date of the enactment of this Act, occupy the excluded land.

(c) CONSIDERATION.—The conveyances required by subsection (b) shall be made without consideration.

(d) DESCRIPTION OF REAL PROPERTY.—The exact acreage and legal description of the land excluded from the boundaries of Roosevelt National Forest under subsection (a) and conveyed under subsection (b) shall be determined by a survey satisfactory to the Secretary.

SEC. 2. SALE OR EXCHANGE OF NOAA PROPERTY IN NORFOLK, VIRGINIA.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Commerce may sell or exchange to the City of Norfolk, Virginia, in accordance with chapter 13 of title 40, United States Code, real property under the administrative jurisdiction of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (in this section referred to as ''NOAA''), including land and improvements thereon, located at 538 Front Street, Norfolk, Virginia, consisting of approximately 3.78 acres, if the Secretary—

(1) determines that the conveyance is in the best interests of NOAA and the Federal Government; and

(2) has provided prior notification to the Committee on Natural Resources and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate.

(b) CONSIDERATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—For any conveyance under this section the Secretary shall require the City of Norfolk to provide consideration to the United States that is not less than the fair market value of the property conveyed by the United States.

(2) FORM.—Consideration under this subsection may include any combination of—

(A) cash or cash equivalents;

(B) other property (either real or personal); and

(C) consideration in-kind, including—

(i) provision of space, goods, or services of benefit to NOAA including construction, repair, remodeling, or other physical improvements of NOAA property;

(ii) maintenance of NOAA property;

(iii) provision of office, storage, or other useable space; or

(iv) relocation services associated with conveyance of property under this section.

(3) DETERMINATION OF FAIR MARKET VALUE.—The Secretary shall determine fair market value for purposes of paragraph (1) based upon a highest- and best-use appraisal of the property conveyed under subsection (a) conducted in conformance with the Uniform Appraisal Standards for Professional Appraisal Practice.

(c) USE OF PROCEEDS.—Amounts received under subsection (b)(2)(A) by the United States as proceeds of any conveyance under this section shall be available to the Secretary, subject to appropriation, for—

(1) activities related to the operations of, or capital improvements, to NOAA property; or

(2) relocation and other costs associated with the sale or exchange.

(d) ADDITIONAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—The Secretary may require such additional terms and conditions in connection with the conveyance of property by the United States under subsection (a) as the Secretary considers appropriate to protect the interest of the United States, including the recoupment of any profit the City of Norfolk may realize within three years after the date of conveyance to the City due to resale of the property

(e) TERMINATION.—The authority granted to the Secretary under subsections (a) and (b) shall terminate at the end of the 24-month period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act if no contract for sale or exchange under subsection (a) has been entered into by the City of Norfolk and the United States.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) and the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Guam.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, H.R. 3299, introduced by Representative MUSGRAVE from Colorado, would provide for a boundary adjustment in land conveyances involving the Roosevelt National Forest in Colorado to correct the effects of an erroneous land survey.

This bill responds to an ongoing boundary dispute between the Forest Service and private land owners with property adjacent to the forest.

Madam Speaker, we have no objections to H.R. 3299.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I wish to congratulate Congresswoman MUSGRAVE on this bill. H.R. 3299 provides a legislative solution for a number of homeowners in Larimer County, Colorado, who own real property adjacent to the Roosevelt National Forest and have occupied or improved their property in good faith and in reliance on 1975 land surveys.

A recent forest resurvey now claims that a small portion of the Roosevelt National Forest is occupied by these adjacent land owners. This bill conveys approximately seven acres occupied by the affected landowners to those landowners and is long overdue.

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

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I again urge all Members to support this important piece of legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3299, as amended.

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

The title was amended so as to read: ''A bill to provide for a boundary adjustment and land conveyances involving Roosevelt National Forest, Colorado, to correct the effects of an erroneous land survey that resulted in approximately 7 acres of the Crystal Lakes Subdivision, Ninth Filing, encroaching on National Forest System land, and for other purposes.''.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

COMMEMORATING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GRAND COULEE DAM

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1374) commemorating the 75th anniversary of the Grand Coulee Dam and recognizing its critical role in the national and economic security of the United States and the contributions of hydroelectric power to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1374

Whereas the Grand Coulee Dam was one of the largest public construction projects of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's ''New Deal'', in response to the Great Depression;

Whereas construction of the Grand Coulee Dam began in the summer of 1933 and was completed in 1942;

Whereas 107 individuals lost their lives during the construction process;

Whereas the Grand Coulee Dam became the largest concrete structure in the world, with 12 million cubic yards of concrete—enough to build a sidewalk around the Earth twice;

Whereas during World War II electricity from the Grand Coulee Dam was needed to run the aluminum plants that supported the production of ships and planes;

Whereas forecasts of energy shortages in the 1960s led to the construction of a 3rd power plant at the Grand Coulee Dam, more than doubling its generating capacity;

Whereas the 3 primary purposes of the Grand Coulee Dam are generating 6.5 million kilowatts of electricity, supplying water for irrigation as part of the Columbia Basin Project, and providing much-needed flood control to the Columbia River Basin;

Whereas the Columbia Basin Project includes 300 miles of canals and more than 3,000 miles of irrigation ditches, which supply water to 500,000 acres of farmland, an area twice the size of the State of Delaware;

Whereas the crops grown on this farmland are worth more than $500 million per year; and

Whereas the Grand Coulee Dam is the cornerstone of the electric power system in the State of Washington and the largest hydroelectric power facility in North America: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) commemorates the 75th anniversary of the Grand Coulee Dam;

(2) honors the sacrifice of the 107 individuals who lost their lives during the construction of the Grand Coulee Dam; and

(3) recognizes that—

(A) the Grand Coulee Dam continues to play a critical role in the national and economic security of the United States by providing vital electric power and crop irrigation;

(B) hydroelectric power is a clean, renewable resource that is emissions-free and plays a major role in controlling emissions of greenhouse gases; and

(C) having clean, affordable hydroelectric power helps reduce the reliance of the United States on foreign oil imports and supports the successful wind power industry in the Northwestern United States by ensuring the availability of electricity in the absence of sufficient wind power.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) and the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Guam.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, House Resolution 1374 recognizes the 75th anniversary of the Grand Coulee Dam in providing for an important source of energy generation in the Northwest.

I would like to commend my colleague, Congresswoman MCMORRIS RODGERS, for her sponsorship of this resolution and her efforts to champion hydropower as an important source of energy generation.

I ask my colleagues to support passage of this resolution.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to support the resolution authored by CATHY MCMORRIS RODGERS, DOC HASTINGS, and the entire State of Washington delegation.

The Grand Coulee Dam is the largest concrete structure ever built in the United States, with enough concrete to build a sidewalk around the Earth twice. The dam helped us win World War II by providing much needed electricity to build fighter planes and naval ships. The dam was also constructed to provide flood control, recreation and irrigation.

□ 1345

Today, it serves over 600,000 acres of irrigated cropland which feeds consumers nationwide and around the world.

As you know, we have major energy problems in this Nation. The Grand Coulee Dam is an example of what our country has done right. It's a shining beacon of clean, renewable, domestic energy. In 2006, the dam provided 22,000 gigawatts of emission-free hydroelectricity. This translates into the reduction of 18 million tons of carbon dioxide, into 55,000 tons of sulfur dioxide and into 44,000 tons of nitrogen oxide.

Without this clean form of energy, 36.4 barrels of fuel oil, 10.7 million tons of coal or 223 billion cubic feet of natural gas will have to be used to keep the lights on. In fact, Grand Coulee is so environmentally friendly that the NBC Today Show focused solely on the dam as part of the Earth Day broadcast.

Despite the consensus that hydropower is clean, renewable and emissions-free, the Democrat leadership continues to exclude long-term hydropower resources, such as the Grand Coulee Dam, as part of its proposed renewable portfolio standard. This is logic-free given the reduction in greenhouse gas emissions that I just mentioned. We hope the Democrats come to their senses and see the reality that large hydropower sources should be counted as a renewable resource in future bills.

Madam Speaker, this resolution couldn't be brought up at a better time. I strongly support the 75th anniversary of the Grand Coulee Dam.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I have no further speakers. I again urge Members to support the bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1374.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

IRONWORKER TRAINING PROGRAM FOR NATIVE AMERICANS

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6685) to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to provide an annual grant to facilitate an iron working training program for Native Americans.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6685

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

SECTION 1. IRON WORKING TRAINING PROGRAM FOR NATIVE AMERICANS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—To the extent funds are made available for this purpose, the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Bureau of Indian Affairs, shall annually provide a grant to an eligible entity to provide an iron working training program for members of federally recognized Indian tribes. An eligible entity that receive a grant under this section shall provide a program that meets the requirements of subsection (b) and may require such other criteria of the program and participants of the program as the eligible entity considers appropriate to further the goals of the program.

(b) REQUIREMENTS.—A program funded by a grant under this section shall—

(1) provide specialized training in iron working skills to adult members of federally recognized Indian tribes;

(2) provide classroom and on-the-job training; and

(3) facilitate job placement for participants upon successful completion of the requirements of the program.

(c) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—To be eligible for a grant under this section, an entity shall—

(1) have proven experience in providing successful iron working training programs to Native American populations; and

(2) have the facilities necessary to carry out such a program with a grant provided under this section.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) and the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Guam.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, H.R. 6685 would provide an authorization for appropriations that has been made for many years for an Interior Department program which makes grants available to fund a Native American ironworker training program. This program would provide members of federally recognized Indian tribes with both classroom and on-the-job ironwork training.

With unemployment rates increasing to a staggering rate of over 80 percent on some Indian reservations, this program is desperately needed. It will provide the program participants with the knowledge and the ability to join a skilled labor force as a career.

I want to commend our colleague Mr. LYNCH of Massachusetts for his hard work and for his dedication to this piece of legislation, and I ask my colleagues to support its passage.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

H.R. 6685 reauthorizes a vital educational grant program to train members of federally recognized Indian tribes to become ironworkers. By the way, they are outstanding ironworkers, and they always have been. They built the City of New York and New Jersey, itself, and I have to recognize their capabilities.

This apprentice program has trained thousands of Native Americans over the years, providing graduates with careers, earning above-average wages. Graduates of this program have been a significant source of economic support in their tribal communities. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I have no additional speakers. I urge all Members to support this resolution.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6685.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

COASTAL AND ESTUARINE LAND CONSERVATION PROGRAM ACT

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1907) to authorize the acquisition of land and interests in land from willing sellers to improve the conservation of, and to enhance the ecological values and functions of, coastal and estuarine areas to benefit both the environment and the economies of coastal communities, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1907

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program Act''.

SEC. 2. AUTHORIZATION OF COASTAL AND ESTUARINE LAND CONSERVATION PROGRAM.

The Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1451 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 307 the following new section:

''AUTHORIZATION OF THE COASTAL AND ESTUARINE LAND CONSERVATION PROGRAM

''SEC. 307A. (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may conduct a Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program, in cooperation with appropriate State, regional, and other units of government, for the purposes of protecting important coastal and estuarine areas that have significant conservation, recreation, ecological, historical, or aesthetic values, or that are threatened by conversion from their natural, undeveloped, or recreational state to other uses or could be managed or restored to effectively conserve, enhance, or restore ecological function. The program shall be administered by the National Ocean Service of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration through the Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management.

''(b) PROPERTY ACQUISITION GRANTS.—The Secretary shall make grants under the program to coastal states with approved coastal zone management plans or National Estuarine Research Reserve units for the purpose of acquiring property or interests in property described in subsection (a) that will further the goals of—

''(1) a Coastal Zone Management Plan or Program approved under this title;

''(2) a National Estuarine Research Reserve management plan;

''(3) a regional or State watershed protection or management plan involving coastal states with approved coastal zone management programs; or

''(4) a State coastal land acquisition plan that is consistent with an approved coastal zone management program.

''(c) GRANT PROCESS.—The Secretary shall allocate funds to coastal states or National Estuarine Research Reserves under this section through a competitive grant process in accordance with guidelines that meet the following requirements:

''(1) The Secretary shall consult with the coastal state's coastal zone management program, any National Estuarine Research Reserve in that State, and the lead agency designated by the Governor for coordinating the implementation of this section (if different from the coastal zone management program).

''(2) Each participating coastal state, after consultation with local governmental entities and other interested stakeholders, shall identify priority conservation needs within the State, the values to be protected by inclusion of lands in the program, and the threats to those values that should be avoided.

''(3) Each participating coastal state shall to the extent practicable ensure that the acquisition of property or easements shall complement working waterfront needs.

''(4) The applicant shall identify the values to be protected by inclusion of the lands in the program, management activities that are planned and the manner in which they may affect the values identified, and any other information from the landowner relevant to administration and management of the land.

''(5) Awards shall be based on demonstrated need for protection and ability to successfully leverage funds among participating entities, including Federal programs, regional organizations, State and other governmental units, landowners, corporations, or private organizations.

''(6) The governor, or the lead agency designated by the governor for coordinating the implementation of this section, where appropriate in consultation with the appropriate local government, shall determine that the application is consistent with the State's or territory's approved coastal zone plan, program, and policies prior to submittal to the Secretary.

''(7)(A) Priority shall be given to lands described in subsection (a) that can be effectively managed and protected and that have significant ecological value.

''(B) Of the projects that meet the standard in subparagraph (A), priority shall be given to lands that—

''(i) are under an imminent threat of conversion to a use that will degrade or otherwise diminish their natural, undeveloped, or recreational state; and

''(ii) serve to mitigate the adverse impacts caused by coastal population growth in the coastal environment.

''(8) In developing guidelines under this section, the Secretary shall consult with coastal states, other Federal agencies, and other interested stakeholders with expertise in land acquisition and conservation procedures.

''(9) Eligible coastal states or National Estuarine Research Reserves may allocate grants to local governments or agencies eligible for assistance under section 306A(e).

''(10) The Secretary shall develop performance measures that the Secretary shall use to evaluate and report on the program's effectiveness in accomplishing its purposes, and shall submit such evaluations to Congress triennially.

''(d) LIMITATIONS AND PRIVATE PROPERTY PROTECTIONS.—

''(1) A grant awarded under this section may be used to purchase land or an interest in land, including an easement, only from a willing seller. Any such purchase shall not be the result of a forced taking under this section. Nothing in this section requires a private property owner to participate in the program under this section.

''(2) Any interest in land, including any easement, acquired with a grant under this section shall not be considered to create any new liability, or have any effect on liability under any other law, of any private property owner with respect to any person injured on the private property.

''(3) Nothing in this section requires a private property owner to provide access (including Federal, State, or local government access) to or use of private property unless such property or an interest in such property (including a conservation easement) has been purchased with funds made available under this section.

''(e) RECOGNITION OF AUTHORITY TO CONTROL LAND USE.—Nothing in this title modifies the authority of Federal, State, or local governments to regulate land use.

''(f) MATCHING REQUIREMENTS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may not make a grant under the program unless the Federal funds are matched by non-Federal funds in accordance with this subsection.

''(2) COST SHARE REQUIREMENT.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Grant funds under the program shall require a 100 percent match from other non-Federal sources.

''(B) WAIVER OF REQUIREMENT.—The Secretary may grant a waiver of subparagraph (A) for underserved communities, communities that have an inability to draw on other sources of funding because of the small population or low income of the community, or for other reasons the Secretary deems appropriate and consistent with the purposes of the program.

''(3) OTHER FEDERAL FUNDS.—Where financial assistance awarded under this section represents only a portion of the total cost of a project, funding from other Federal sources may be applied to the cost of the project. Each portion shall be subject to match requirements under the applicable provision of law.

''(4) SOURCE OF MATCHING COST SHARE.—For purposes of paragraph (2)(A), the non-Federal cost share for a project may be determined by taking into account the following:

''(A) The value of land or a conservation easement may be used by a project applicant as non-Federal match, if the Secretary determines that—

''(i) the land meets the criteria set forth in section 2(b) and is acquired in the period beginning 3 years before the date of the submission of the grant application and ending 3 years after the date of the award of the grant;

''(ii) the value of the land or easement is held by a non-governmental organization included in the grant application in perpetuity for conservation purposes of the program; and

''(iii) the land or easement is connected either physically or through a conservation planning process to the land or easement that would be acquired.

''(B) The appraised value of the land or conservation easement at the time of the grant closing will be considered and applied as the non-Federal cost share.

''(C) Costs associated with land acquisition, land management planning, remediation, restoration, and enhancement may be used as non- Federal match if the activities are identified in the plan and expenses are incurred within the period of the grant award, or, for lands described in (A), within the same time limits described therein. These costs may include either cash or in-kind contributions.

''(g) RESERVATION OF FUNDS FOR NATIONAL ESTUARINE RESEARCH RESERVE SITES.—No less than 15 percent of funds made available under this section shall be available for acquisitions benefitting National Estuarine Research Reserves.

''(h) LIMIT ON ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—No more than 5 percent of the funds made available to the Secretary under this section shall be used by the Secretary for planning or administration of the program. The Secretary shall provide a report to Congress with an account of all expenditures under this section for fiscal year 2009 and triennially thereafter.

''(i) TITLE AND MANAGEMENT OF ACQUIRED PROPERTY.—If any property is acquired in whole or in part with funds made available through a grant under this section, the grant recipient shall provide—

''(1) such assurances as the Secretary may require that—

''(A) the title to the property will be held by the grant recipient or another appropriate public agency designated by the recipient in perpetuity;

''(B) the property will be managed in a manner that is consistent with the purposes for which the land entered into the program and shall not convert such property to other uses; and

''(C) if the property or interest in land is sold, exchanged, or divested, funds equal to the current value will be returned to the Secretary in accordance with applicable Federal law for redistribution in the grant process; and

''(2) certification that the property (including any interest in land) will be acquired from a willing seller.

''(j) REQUIREMENT FOR PROPERTY USED FOR NON-FEDERAL MATCH.—If the grant recipient elects to use any land or interest in land held by a non-governmental organization as a non-Federal match under subsection (g), the grant recipient must to the Secretary's satisfaction demonstrate in the grant application that such land or interest will satisfy the same requirements as the lands or interests in lands acquired under the program.

''(k) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(1) CONSERVATION EASEMENT.—The term 'conservation easement' includes an easement or restriction, recorded deed, or a reserve interest deed where the grantee acquires all rights, title, and interest in a property, that do not conflict with the goals of this section except those rights, title, and interests that may run with the land that are expressly reserved by a grantor and are agreed to at the time of purchase.

''(2) INTEREST IN PROPERTY.—The term 'interest in property' includes a conservation easement.

''(l) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry out this section $60,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2009 through 2013.''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) and the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Guam.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, H.R. 1907 would authorize the existing Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program, which is administered by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

This very popular program was first established under the fiscal year 2002 Appropriations Act for the Departments of Commerce, Justice, State, and Related Agencies.

Since its inception, the CELCP program has awarded more than $176 million in matching grants to eligible coastal States and territories to acquire properties or conservation easements from willing sellers to protect fish and wildlife habitat from future development and to preserve scarce coastal open space.

This bill was introduced by Congressman JAMES SAXTON and was subsequently reported by the Committee on Natural Resources. This legislation would formally authorize the program consistent with past appropriations acts and with NOAA's own program guidelines.

Madam Speaker, the existing CELCP program is both targeted and effective, and it addresses a critical habitat conservation need in many coastal States

and territories. The bill is strongly supported by the administration, by the Coastal States Organization and by several respected conservation organizations, including the Nature Conservancy and the Trust for Public Land.

I commend Congressman SAXTON for his steadfast efforts to authorize this program and to protect and to conserve the coastal zone of the United States. I ask my colleagues to support the passage of this important legislation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Congressman JIM SAXTON, who has worked tirelessly on this legislation and to have it scheduled for floor debate today. He cannot be here because he is en route.

He has had a long and distinguished career championing ocean and coastal causes in the House of Representatives. He will be missed as he retires at the end of this Congress. I thank him for his service and for his leadership on the Natural Resources Committee as well as for his being a former Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee member. I wish him good winds and fair seas in his next voyage in life.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to my friend, the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. CAPPS).

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1907, which formally codifies NOAA's Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program, informally known as the CELCP program.

First, I want to thank the chairman of the Natural Resources Committee, Mr. RAHALL, and the chairwoman of the subcommittee, Ms. BORDALLO, for bringing H.R. 1907 before us today. I also want to join with the ranking member, Mr. YOUNG, in recognizing the author of this legislation, Mr. SAXTON, for his leadership in all of the areas that he has worked on, especially in this area. Those comments of my colleague from Alaska were very well said. For years, Mr. SAXTON has been a champion for the marine environment, and his passion for our oceans will be missed.

Mr. Speaker, it's well-known that more and more people are moving to the coast to enjoy its beauty and its recreational opportunities. An estimated 60 percent of Americans will live along our coasts during the next 2 years. More than ever, the pressures of urbanization and of coastal pollution threaten to impair watersheds, to impact wildlife habitat and to cause irreparable damage to our fragile coastal ecology.

We see strong signals of what continuing down this path could bring us: beach closings, fish kills, human health impacts, and a lack of public access to beaches and to coastal waters. That's why we need initiatives like the Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program, the CELCP program.

This existing program pairs willing sellers through community-based initiatives with sources of Federal funds in order to enhance environmental protection. Lands can be acquired in full or through easements, and none of the lands purchased through this program would be held by the Federal Government. It puts land conservation initiatives in the hands of State and local communities. That's why it's supported by the Coastal States Organization.

In my congressional district, we've worked collaboratively with coastal communities, with environmental groups, with willing sellers, and with the State to conserve lands around the Morro Bay National Estuary, on the nationally significant Gaviota Coast and near the Piedras Blancas Outstanding Natural Area.

These lands are home to a wide variety of plants and animal species that are particularly threatened by encroaching development and pollution. By working with local communities to purchase lands and easements, California has been able to successfully preserve the natural and scenic heritage of some of its last undeveloped stretches of coastline.

Mr. Speaker, programs like CELCP will help other coastal States to participate in these community-based conservation efforts. Given the importance of healthy, productive and accessible coastal areas, it's time to formally authorize CELCP. This legislation makes important improvements in the program. It provides a better framework for its administration, and it will ensure the consistent implementation throughout the country.

I know that we all would like to do something like this in honor and in the memory of our good friend in his days in Congress, Mr. SAXTON. So I want to thank the chairwoman and Mr. SAXTON for their leadership on this legislation. I look forward to working with them in the coming days to ensure its passage so that we can fill this vital need for coastal protection. I urge all of my colleagues to support H.R. 1907.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, at this time, I will recognize Mrs. MUSGRAVE from Colorado for as much time as she may consume.

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Mr. Speaker, due to a traffic problem, I am a little bit late in getting into this Chamber to make comment on H.R. 3299, and I so much appreciate the opportunity.

That bill under consideration today provides for a boundary adjustment to the Roosevelt National Forest to correct an erroneous survey.

In May of 2006, a number of my constituents who live in the Crystal Lakes Subdivision in Larimer County, Colorado contacted my office after they received notice from the Forest Service that they were encroaching upon Federal property. You can imagine what a surprise this was to those folks. Many of those people who had purchased the land in the 1970s, improved it, built homes on it and had literally lived there for decades.

However, the Forest Service informed these homeowners that a survey that had been conducted in 2003 and in 2004 had found that the earlier survey that was conducted in 1975 was, indeed, inaccurate. This 1975 survey was privately commissioned and was used in the development of the Crystal Lakes Subdivision.

Thirty years after the property was originally developed, landowners have now been informed that the portions of the land they paid for and that they improved may actually be on Federal property. Even more, a number of these landowners were faced with the reality that their homes might be on Federal land.

□ 1400

The property owners bought this land and made the improvements all in good faith, and are now faced with an undue burden to deal with this mistake.

The only recourse for individuals whose homes are within the area of dispute is the Small Tracts Act. However, this requires homeowners to pay for this land a second time at current fair market value. Obviously, the land prices in this beautiful area have increased dramatically over the past three decades and this purchase would place an enormous financial burden on these homeowners. The uncertainty associated with this dispute has made it difficult for impacted property owners to sell their property. H.R. 3299 would remedy these problems by conveying without consideration the disputed areas to the impacted homeowners.

The 7 acres involved in this boundary dispute are a miniscule fraction of the 1.3 million acres of the Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forest. Because this land has been cleared and it has been occupied, obviously, for a number of years, transferring it back to the Forest Service would not enhance the environment or the scenic attributes of the area. Additionally, H.R. 3299 would not in any way impact the integrity or affect the operation of the forest.

The landowners impacted by this boundary dispute need resolution and certainty. H.R. 3299 did that by allowing them to keep the land they purchased and improved.

Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to thank Chairman RAHALL and Congressman YOUNG, as well as Chairman GRIJALVA and Mr. BISHOP for moving this legislation through the Natural Resources Committee. I am grateful for the support of my colleagues of H.R. 3299.

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

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I too would like to go on record as commending Mr. SAXTON for his long and

distinguished career as a champion for the oceans. We will all miss him and his passion for protecting the marine environment.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to support the bill before us today. In closing, I would like to thank the gentleman from Alaska, the distinguished ranking member of the Natural Resources Committee, Mr. YOUNG, for managing the bills with me today.

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to join me in supporting authorization of the Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program. H.R. 1907—the Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program Act authorizes a voluntary partnership program to provide badly needed Federal funds for the purchase and protection of sensitive coastal ecosystems with the goal of better ensuring the ecological and economic health of our coastal communities.

It is well known that more and more people are moving to the coast to enjoy its beauty and recreational opportunities. An estimated 60 percent of Americans will live along our coasts by 2010. Fourteen of our Nation's 20 largest cities are located on the coast. More than ever, the pressures of urbanization and pollution along our Nation's shores threaten to impair watersheds, impact wildlife habitat and cause irreparable damage to the fragile coastal ecology.

Created by Congress in fiscal year 2002, the Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program—also known as CELP—was modeled after the successful Forest Legacy Program. To date, this program has invested nearly $200 million towards 150 conservation projects in 26 of the Nation's 35 coastal and Great Lakes States and territories. This Federal investment has leveraged more than an equal amount of State, local and private funding, demonstrating the importance of coastal protection throughout the Nation and the critical role of Federal funding to its success.

More importantly, the program has helped to conserve lands and waters that will offer numerous benefits to local communities by preserving water quality, natural areas for wildlife and birds, and outdoor recreational opportunities—thereby protecting for the future the very things we love about the coasts. Although the program has been in existence for six years, it has yet to be formally authorized. This legislation seeks to do just that.

This bill will formally authorize this Federal/State partnership program explicitly for conservation of coastal lands. CELP will award grants on a competitive basis to the 35 coastal and Great Lakes States and territories or National Estuarine Research Reserves for the purpose of protecting lands that are critical to the health of our coasts and estuaries. This legislation will allow coastal States to compete for 1 to 1 matching funds to acquire land or easements from willing sellers to protect coastal areas that have considerable conservation, recreation, ecological, historical or aesthetic values threatened by development or conversion.

By establishing a plan for the preservation of our coastal areas, the Act will build on the foundation laid down by the Coastal Zone Management Act, and will encourage voluntary land conservation partnerships among the Federal Government, State agencies, local governments, private landowners and non-profits. It will not only improve the quality of coastal areas and the marine life they support, but also sustain surrounding communities and their way of life.

I thank Representative CAPPS and all of our cosponsors for their support of H.R. 1907 and I ask my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1907 the Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation and Protection Act authored by my friend and fellow co-chair of the House Oceans Caucus from New Jersey, Mr. JIM SAXTON.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude for all that Mr. SAXTON has done during his distinguished career in this House to help protect and promote the oceans. He has been a great ally in the fight to keep our oceans from harm and make sure that they will be healthy and productive for our grandchildren's grandchildren. Mr. SAXTON joined me in coauthoring a comprehensive ocean management bill, H.R. 21, known as Oceans–21, that would create a national ocean policy and create coordinated State and Federal management of our oceans. I will continue the fight for the oceans but I will miss having the leadership, friendship, and vision of JIM SAXTON next year.

The conservation of coastal habitat a necessary action identified in the final reports of both the Pew Oceans Commission and the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy. Coastal areas are vitally important to our ocean health, since most of our use of the oceans, both recreational and commercial take place in the coastal zone. Estuaries provide even-more important services such as mitigating the impacts from runoff and are known to be the nurseries that support our country's fisheries.

This bill is necessary to authorize a coastal land conservation program and extend the utility of one of our best ocean management laws: the Coastal Zone Management Act. The Coastal Zone Management Act allows States and the Federal Government to cooperate in the management of the resources and environment of the coasts. States which have approved coastal management plans and National Estuarine Research Reserves will be eligible for grants to conserve coastal lands and estuaries that have significant conservation, recreation, ecological, historical, or aesthetic values, or that are threatened by conversion from their natural, undeveloped, or recreational state to other uses or could be managed or restored to effectively conserve, enhance, or restore ecological function.

I also lend my support to this bill because I have seen the good that this program can do. The Elkhorn Slough, covering 1,330 acres in my district, is one of the relatively few coastal wetlands remaining in California. It became a part of the National Estuarine Research Reserve System in 1979. The main channel of the slough, which winds inland nearly seven miles, is flanked by a broad salt marsh second in size in California only to San Francisco Bay.

Elkhorn Slough is home to more than 400 species of invertebrates, 80 species of fish and 200 species of birds. The channels and tidal creeks of the slough are nurseries for many species of fish and help support fishing off of the West Coast. At least six threatened or endangered species utilize the slough or its surrounding uplands, including peregrine falcons, Santa Cruz long-toed salamanders, California red-legged frogs, brown pelicans, least terns and Southern Sea Otters. The slough is also an important stop on the Pacific Flyway, providing feeding and resting ground for many types of migrating waterfowl and shorebirds.

Mr. Speaker, this bill authorizes a program that is necessary for the protection of our coasts and our oceans for future generations. I cannot emphasize enough the need for this Congress to provide for ocean stewardship now. I support the Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation and Protection Act and I urge my colleagues to join me.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ELLISON). The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1907, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

GREAT LAKES—ST. LAWRENCE RIVER BASIN WATER RESOURCES COMPACT

Ms. SUTTON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate joint resolution (S.J. Res. 45) expressing the consent and approval of Congress to an interstate compact regarding water resources in the Great Lakes—St. Lawrence River Basin.

The Clerk read the title of the Senate joint resolution.

The text of the Senate joint resolution is as follows:

S.J. RES. 45

Whereas the interstate compact regarding water resources in the Great Lakes—St. Lawrence River Basin reads as follows:

"AGREEMENT

"Section 1. The states of Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, New York, Ohio and Wisconsin and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania hereby solemnly covenant and agree with each other, upon enactment of concurrent legislation by the respective state legislatures and consent by the Congress of the United States as follows:

"GREAT LAKES—ST. LAWRENCE RIVER BASIN WATER RESOURCES COMPACT

"ARTICLE 1

"SHORT TITLE, DEFINITIONS, PURPOSES AND DURATION

"Section 1.1. Short Title. This act shall be known and may be cited as the ''Great Lakes—St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact.''

"Section 1.2. Definitions. For the purposes of this Compact, and of any supplemental or concurring legislation enacted pursuant thereto, except as may be otherwise required by the context:

"Adaptive Management means a Water resources management system that provides a systematic process for evaluation, monitoring and learning from the outcomes of

operational programs and adjustment of policies, plans and programs based on experience and the evolution of scientific knowledge concerning Water resources and Water Dependent Natural Resources.

"Agreement means the Great Lakes—St. Lawrence River Basin Sustainable Water Resources Agreement.

"Applicant means a Person who is required to submit a Proposal that is subject to management and regulation under this Compact. **Application** has a corresponding meaning.

"Basin or **Great Lakes—St. Lawrence River Basin** means the watershed of the Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence River upstream from Trois-Rivières, Québec within the jurisdiction of the Parties.

"Basin Ecosystem or **Great Lakes—St. Lawrence River Basin Ecosystem** means the interacting components of air, land, Water and living organisms, including humankind, within the Basin.

"Community within a Straddling County means any incorporated city, town or the equivalent thereof, that is located outside the Basin but wholly within a County that lies partly within the Basin and that is not a Straddling Community.

"Compact means this Compact.

"Consumptive Use means that portion of the Water Withdrawn or withheld from the Basin that is lost or otherwise not returned to the Basin due to evaporation, incorporation into Products, or other processes.

"Council means the Great Lakes—St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Council, created by this Compact.

"Council Review means the collective review by the Council members as described in Article 4 of this Compact.

"County means the largest territorial division for local government in a State. The County boundaries shall be defined as those boundaries that exist as of December 13, 2005.

"Cumulative Impacts mean the impact on the Basin Ecosystem that results from incremental effects of all aspects of a Withdrawal, Diversion or Consumptive Use in addition to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future Withdrawals, Diversions and Consumptive Uses regardless of who undertakes the other Withdrawals, Diversions and Consumptive Uses. Cumulative Impacts can result from individually minor but collectively significant Withdrawals, Diversions and Consumptive Uses taking place over a period of time.

"Decision-Making Standard means the decision-making standard established by Section 4.11 for Proposals subject to management and regulation in Section 4.10.

"Diversion means a transfer of Water from the Basin into another watershed, or from the watershed of one of the Great Lakes into that of another by any means of transfer, including but not limited to a pipeline, canal, tunnel, aqueduct, channel, modification of the direction of a water course, a tanker ship, tanker truck or rail tanker but does not apply to Water that is used in the Basin or a Great Lake watershed to manufacture or produce a Product that is then transferred out of the Basin or watershed. **Divert** has a corresponding meaning.

"Environmentally Sound and Economically Feasible Water Conservation Measures mean those measures, methods, technologies or practices for efficient water use and for reduction of water loss and waste or for reducing a Withdrawal, Consumptive Use or Diversion that i) are environmentally sound, ii) reflect best practices applicable to the water use sector, iii) are technically feasible and available, iv) are economically feasible and cost effective based on an analysis that considers direct and avoided economic and environmental costs and v) consider the particular facilities and processes involved, taking into account the environmental impact, age of equipment and facilities involved, the processes employed, energy impacts and other appropriate factors.

"Exception means a transfer of Water that is excepted under Section 4.9 from the prohibition against Diversions in Section 4.8.

"Exception Standard means the standard for Exceptions established in Section 4.9.4.

"Intra-Basin Transfer means the transfer of Water from the watershed of one of the Great Lakes into the watershed of another Great Lake.

"Measures means any legislation, law, regulation, directive, requirement, guideline, program, policy, administrative practice or other procedure.

"New or Increased Diversion means a new Diversion, an increase in an existing Diversion, or the alteration of an existing Withdrawal so that it becomes a Diversion.

"New or Increased Withdrawal or Consumptive Use means a new Withdrawal or Consumptive Use or an increase in an existing Withdrawal or Consumptive Use.

"Originating Party means the Party within whose jurisdiction an Application or registration is made or required.

"Party means a State party to this Compact.

"Person means a human being or a legal person, including a government or a non-governmental organization, including any scientific, professional, business, non-profit, or public interest organization or association that is neither affiliated with, nor under the direction of a government.

"Product means something produced in the Basin by human or mechanical effort or through agricultural processes and used in manufacturing, commercial or other processes or intended for intermediate or end use consumers. (i) Water used as part of the packaging of a Product shall be considered to be part of the Product. (ii) Other than Water used as part of the packaging of a Product, Water that is used primarily to transport materials in or out of the Basin is not a Product or part of a Product. (iii) Except as provided in (i) above, Water which is transferred as part of a public or private supply is not a Product or part of a Product. (iv) Water in its natural state such as in lakes, rivers, reservoirs, aquifers, or water basins is not a Product.

"Proposal means a Withdrawal, Diversion or Consumptive Use of Water that is subject to this Compact.

"Province means Ontario or Québec.

"Public Water Supply Purposes means water distributed to the public through a physically connected system of treatment, storage and distribution facilities serving a group of largely residential customers that may also serve industrial, commercial, and other institutional operators. Water Withdrawn directly from the Basin and not through such a system shall not be considered to be used for Public Water Supply Purposes.

"Regional Body means the members of the Council and the Premiers of Ontario and Québec or their designee as established by the Agreement.

"Regional Review means the collective review by the Regional Body as described in Article 4 of this Compact.

"Source Watershed means the watershed from which a Withdrawal originates. If Water is Withdrawn directly from a Great Lake or from the St. Lawrence River, then the Source Watershed shall be considered to be the watershed of that Great Lake or the watershed of the St. Lawrence River, respectively. If Water is Withdrawn from the watershed of a stream that is a direct tributary to a Great Lake or a direct tributary to the St. Lawrence River, then the Source Watershed shall be considered to be the watershed of that Great Lake or the watershed of the St. Lawrence River, respectively, with a preference to the direct tributary stream watershed from which it was Withdrawn.

"Standard of Review and Decision means the Exception Standard, Decision-Making Standard and reviews as outlined in Article 4 of this Compact.

"State means one of the states of Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, New York, Ohio or Wisconsin or the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

"Straddling Community means any incorporated city, town or the equivalent thereof, wholly within any County that lies partly or completely within the Basin, whose corporate boundary existing as of the effective date of this Compact, is partly within the Basin or partly within two Great Lakes watersheds.

"Technical Review means a detailed review conducted to determine whether or not a Proposal that requires Regional Review under this Compact meets the Standard of Review and Decision following procedures and guidelines as set out in this Compact.

"Water means ground or surface water contained within the Basin.

"Water Dependent Natural Resources means the interacting components of land, Water and living organisms affected by the Waters of the Basin.

"Waters of the Basin or Basin Water means the Great Lakes and all streams, rivers, lakes, connecting channels and other bodies of water, including tributary groundwater, within the Basin.

"Withdrawal means the taking of water from surface water or groundwater. **Withdraw** has a corresponding meaning.

"Section 1.3. Findings and Purposes.

''The legislative bodies of the respective Parties hereby find and declare:

''1. Findings:

''a. The Waters of the Basin are precious public natural resources shared and held in trust by the States;

''b. The Waters of the Basin are interconnected and part of a single hydrologic system;

''c. The Waters of the Basin can concurrently serve multiple uses. Such multiple uses include municipal, public, industrial, commercial, agriculture, mining, navigation, energy development and production, recreation, the subsistence, economic and cultural activities of native peoples, Water quality maintenance, and the maintenance of fish and wildlife habitat and a balanced ecosystem. And, other purposes are encouraged, recognizing that such uses are interdependent and must be balanced;

''d. Future Diversions and Consumptive Uses of Basin Water resources have the potential to significantly impact the environment, economy and welfare of the Great Lakes—St. Lawrence River region;

''e. Continued sustainable, accessible and adequate Water supplies for the people and economy of the Basin are of vital importance; and,

''f. The Parties have a shared duty to protect, conserve, restore, improve and manage the renewable but finite Waters of the Basin for the use, benefit and enjoyment of all their citizens, including generations yet to come. The most effective means of protecting, conserving, restoring, improving and managing the Basin Waters is through the joint pursuit of unified and cooperative principles, policies and programs mutually-agreed upon, enacted and adhered to by all Parties.

''2. Purposes:

''a. To act together to protect, conserve, restore, improve and effectively manage the

Waters and Water Dependent Natural Resources of the Basin under appropriate arrangements for intergovernmental cooperation and consultation because current lack of full scientific certainty should not be used as a reason for postponing measures to protect the Basin Ecosystem;

''b. To remove causes of present and future controversies;

''c. To provide for cooperative planning and action by the Parties with respect to such Water resources;

''d. To facilitate consistent approaches to Water management across the Basin while retaining State management authority over Water management decisions within the Basin;

''e. To facilitate the exchange of data, strengthen the scientific information base upon which decisions are made and engage in consultation on the potential effects of proposed Withdrawals and losses on the Waters and Water Dependent Natural Resources of the Basin;

''f. To prevent significant adverse impacts of Withdrawals and losses on the Basin's ecosystems and watersheds;

''g. To promote interstate and State-Provincial comity; and,

''h. To promote an Adaptive Management approach to the conservation and management of Basin Water resources, which recognizes, considers and provides adjustments for the uncertainties in, and evolution of, scientific knowledge concerning the Basin's Waters and Water Dependent Natural Resources.

''Section 1.4. Science.

''1. The Parties commit to provide leadership for the development of a collaborative strategy with other regional partners to strengthen the scientific basis for sound Water management decision making under this Compact.

''2. The strategy shall guide the collection and application of scientific information to support:

''a. An improved understanding of the individual and Cumulative Impacts of Withdrawals from various locations and Water sources on the Basin Ecosystem and to develop a mechanism by which impacts of Withdrawals may be assessed;

''b. The periodic assessment of Cumulative Impacts of Withdrawals, Diversions and Consumptive Uses on a Great Lake and St. Lawrence River watershed basis;

''c. Improved scientific understanding of the Waters of the Basin;

''d. Improved understanding of the role of groundwater in Basin Water resources management; and,

''e. The development, transfer and application of science and research related to Water conservation and Water use efficiency.

''ARTICLE 2

''ORGANIZATION

''Section 2.1. Council Created.

''The Great Lakes—St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Council is hereby created as a body politic and corporate, with succession for the duration of this Compact, as an agency and instrumentality of the governments of the respective Parties.

''Section 2.2. Council Membership.

''The Council shall consist of the Governors of the Parties, ex officio.

''Section 2.3. Alternates.

''Each member of the Council shall appoint at least one alternate who may act in his or her place and stead, with authority to attend all meetings of the Council and with power to vote in the absence of the member. Unless otherwise provided by law of the Party for which he or she is appointed, each alternate shall serve during the term of the member appointing him or her, subject to removal at the pleasure of the member. In the event of a vacancy in the office of alternate, it shall be filled in the same manner as an original appointment for the unexpired term only.

''Section 2.4. Voting.

''1. Each member is entitled to one vote on all matters that may come before the Council.

''2. Unless otherwise stated, the rule of decision shall be by a simple majority.

''3. The Council shall annually adopt a budget for each fiscal year and the amount required to balance the budget shall be apportioned equitably among the Parties by unanimous vote of the Council. The appropriation of such amounts shall be subject to such review and approval as may be required by the budgetary processes of the respective Parties.

''4. The participation of Council members from a majority of the Parties shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at any meeting of the Council.

''Section 2.5. Organization and Procedure.

''The Council shall provide for its own organization and procedure, and may adopt rules and regulations governing its meetings and transactions, as well as the procedures and timeline for submission, review and consideration of Proposals that come before the Council for its review and action. The Council shall organize, annually, by the election of a Chair and Vice Chair from among its members. Each member may appoint an advisor, who may attend all meetings of the Council and its committees, but shall not have voting power. The Council may employ or appoint professional and administrative personnel, including an Executive Director, as it may deem advisable, to carry out the purposes of this Compact.

''Section 2.6. Use of Existing Offices and Agencies.

''It is the policy of the Parties to preserve and utilize the functions, powers and duties of existing offices and agencies of government to the extent consistent with this Compact. Further, the Council shall promote and aid the coordination of the activities and programs of the Parties concerned with Water resources management in the Basin. To this end, but without limitation, the Council may:

''1. Advise, consult, contract, assist or otherwise cooperate with any and all such agencies;

''2. Employ any other agency or instrumentality of any of the Parties for any purpose; and,

''3. Develop and adopt plans consistent with the Water resources plans of the Parties.

''Section 2.7. Jurisdiction.

''The Council shall have, exercise and discharge its functions, powers and duties within the limits of the Basin. Outside the Basin, it may act in its discretion, but only to the extent such action may be necessary or convenient to effectuate or implement its powers or responsibilities within the Basin and subject to the consent of the jurisdiction wherein it proposes to act.

''Section 2.8. Status, Immunities and Privileges.

''1. The Council, its members and personnel in their official capacity and when engaged directly in the affairs of the Council, its property and its assets, wherever located and by whomsoever held, shall enjoy the same immunity from suit and every form of judicial process as is enjoyed by the Parties, except to the extent that the Council may expressly waive its immunity for the purposes of any proceedings or by the terms of any contract.

''2. The property and assets of the Council, wherever located and by whomsoever held, shall be considered public property and shall be immune from search, requisition, confiscation, expropriation or any other form of taking or foreclosure by executive or legislative action.

''3. The Council, its property and its assets, income and the operations it carries out pursuant to this Compact shall be immune from all taxation by or under the authority of any of the Parties or any political subdivision thereof; provided, however, that in lieu of property taxes the Council may make reasonable payments to local taxing districts in annual amounts which shall approximate the taxes lawfully assessed upon similar property.

''Section 2.9. Advisory Committees.

''The Council may constitute and empower advisory committees, which may be comprised of representatives of the public and of federal, State, tribal, county and local governments, water resources agencies, water-using industries and sectors, water-interest groups and academic experts in related fields.

''ARTICLE 3

''GENERAL POWERS AND DUTIES

''Section 3.1. General.

''The Waters and Water Dependent Natural Resources of the Basin are subject to the sovereign right and responsibilities of the Parties, and it is the purpose of this Compact to provide for joint exercise of such powers of sovereignty by the Council in the common interests of the people of the region, in the manner and to the extent provided in this Compact. The Council and the Parties shall use the Standard of Review and Decision and procedures contained in or adopted pursuant to this Compact as the means to exercise their authority under this Compact.

The Council may revise the Standard of Review and Decision, after consultation with the Provinces and upon unanimous vote of all Council members, by regulation duly adopted in accordance with Section 3.3 of this Compact and in accordance with each Party's respective statutory authorities and applicable procedures.

The Council shall identify priorities and develop plans and policies relating to Basin Water resources. It shall adopt and promote uniform and coordinated policies for Water resources conservation and management in the Basin.

''Section 3.2. Council Powers.

''The Council may: plan; conduct research and collect, compile, analyze, interpret, report and disseminate data on Water resources and uses; forecast Water levels; conduct investigations; institute court actions; design, acquire, construct, reconstruct, own, operate, maintain, control, sell and convey real and personal property and any interest therein as it may deem necessary, useful or convenient to carry out the purposes of this Compact; make contracts; receive and accept such payments, appropriations, grants, gifts, loans, advances and other funds, properties and services as may be transferred or made available to it by any Party or by any other public or private agency, corporation or individual; and, exercise such other and different powers as may be delegated to it by this Compact or otherwise pursuant to law, and have and exercise all powers necessary or convenient to carry out its express powers or which may be reasonably implied therefrom.

''Section 3.3. Rules and Regulations.

''1. The Council may promulgate and enforce such rules and regulations as may be necessary for the implementation and enforcement of this Compact. The Council may adopt by regulation, after public notice and public hearing, reasonable Application fees with respect to those Proposals for Exceptions that are subject to Council review

under Section 4.9. Any rule or regulation of the Council, other than one which deals solely with the internal management of the Council or its property, shall be adopted only after public notice and hearing.

''2. Each Party, in accordance with its respective statutory authorities and applicable procedures, may adopt and enforce rules and regulations to implement and enforce this Compact and the programs adopted by such Party to carry out the management programs contemplated by this Compact.

''Section 3.4. Program Review and Findings.

''1. Each Party shall submit a report to the Council and the Regional Body detailing its Water management and conservation and efficiency programs that implement this Compact. The report shall set out the manner in which Water Withdrawals are managed by sector, Water source, quantity or any other means, and how the provisions of the Standard of Review and Decision and conservation and efficiency programs are implemented. The first report shall be provided by each Party one year from the effective date of this Compact and thereafter every 5 years.

''2. The Council, in cooperation with the Provinces, shall review its Water management and conservation and efficiency programs and those of the Parties that are established in this Compact and make findings on whether the Water management program provisions in this Compact are being met, and if not, recommend options to assist the Parties in meeting the provisions of this Compact. Such review shall take place:

''a. 30 days after the first report is submitted by all Parties; and,

''b. Every five years after the effective date of this Compact; and,

''c. At any other time at the request of one of the Parties.

''3. As one of its duties and responsibilities, the Council may recommend a range of approaches to the Parties with respect to the development, enhancement and application of Water management and conservation and efficiency programs to implement the Standard of Review and Decision reflecting improved scientific understanding of the Waters of the Basin, including groundwater, and the impacts of Withdrawals on the Basin Ecosystem.

''ARTICLE 4

''WATER MANAGEMENT AND REGULATION

''Section 4.1. Water Resources Inventory, Registration and Reporting.

''1. Within five years of the effective date of this Compact, each Party shall develop and maintain a Water resources inventory for the collection, interpretation, storage, retrieval exchange, and dissemination of information concerning the Water resources of the Party, including, but not limited to, information on the location, type, quantity, and use of those resources and the location, type, and quantity of Withdrawals, Diversions and Consumptive Uses. To the extent feasible, the Water resources inventory shall be developed in cooperation with local, State, federal, tribal and other private agencies and entities, as well as the Council. Each Party's agencies shall cooperate with that Party in the development and maintenance of the inventory.

''2. The Council shall assist each Party to develop a common base of data regarding the management of the Water Resources of the Basin and to establish systematic arrangements for the exchange of those data with other States and Provinces.

''3. To develop and maintain a compatible base of Water use information, within five years of the effective date of this Compact any Person who Withdraws Water in an amount of 100,000 gallons per day or greater average in any 30-day period (including Consumptive Uses) from all sources, or Diverts Water of any amount, shall register the Withdrawal or Diversion by a date set by the Council unless the Person has previously registered in accordance with an existing State program. The Person shall register the Withdrawal or Diversion with the Originating Party using a form prescribed by the Originating Party that shall include, at a minimum and without limitation: the name and address of the registrant and date of registration; the locations and sources of the Withdrawal or Diversion; the capacity of the Withdrawal or Diversion per day and the amount Withdrawn or Diverted from each source; the uses made of the Water; places of use and places of discharge; and, such other information as the Originating Party may require. All registrations shall include an estimate of the volume of the Withdrawal or Diversion in terms of gallons per day average in any 30-day period.

''4. All registrants shall annually report the monthly volumes of the Withdrawal, Consumptive Use and Diversion in gallons to the Originating Party and any other information requested by the Originating Party.

''5. Each Party shall annually report the information gathered pursuant to this Section to a Great Lakes—St. Lawrence River Water use data base repository and aggregated information shall be made publicly available, consistent with the confidentiality requirements in Section 8.3.

''6. Information gathered by the Parties pursuant to this Section shall be used to improve the sources and applications of scientific information regarding the Waters of the Basin and the impacts of the Withdrawals and Diversions from various locations and Water sources on the Basin Ecosystem, and to better understand the role of groundwater in the Basin. The Council and the Parties shall coordinate the collection and application of scientific information to further develop a mechanism by which individual and Cumulative Impacts of Withdrawals, Consumptive Uses and Diversions shall be assessed.

''Section 4.2. Water Conservation and Efficiency Programs.

''1. The Council commits to identify, in cooperation with the Provinces, Basin-wide Water conservation and efficiency objectives to assist the Parties in developing their Water conservation and efficiency program. These objectives are based on the goals of:

''a. Ensuring improvement of the Waters and Water Dependent Natural Resources;

''b. Protecting and restoring the hydrologic and ecosystem integrity of the Basin;

''c. Retaining the quantity of surface water and groundwater in the Basin;

''d. Ensuring sustainable use of Waters of the Basin; and,

''e. Promoting the efficiency of use and reducing losses and waste of Water.

''2. Within two years of the effective date of this Compact, each Party shall develop its own Water conservation and efficiency goals and objectives consistent with the Basin-wide goals and objectives, and shall develop and implement a Water conservation and efficiency program, either voluntary or mandatory, within its jurisdiction based on the Party's goals and objectives. Each Party shall annually assess its programs in meeting the Party's goals and objectives, report to the Council and the Regional Body and make this annual assessment available to the public.

''3. Beginning five years after the effective date of this Compact, and every five years thereafter, the Council, in cooperation with the Provinces, shall review and modify as appropriate the Basin-wide objectives, and the Parties shall have regard for any such modifications in implementing their programs. This assessment will be based on examining new technologies, new patterns of Water use, new resource demands and threats, and Cumulative Impact assessment under Section 4.15.

''4. Within two years of the effective date of this Compact, the Parties commit to promote Environmentally Sound and Economically Feasible Water Conservation Measures such as:

''a. Measures that promote efficient use of Water;

''b. Identification and sharing of best management practices and state of the art conservation and efficiency technologies;

''c. Application of sound planning principles;

''d. Demand-side and supply-side Measures or incentives; and,

''e. Development, transfer and application of science and research.

''5. Each Party shall implement in accordance with paragraph 2 above a voluntary or mandatory Water conservation program for all, including existing, Basin Water users. Conservation programs need to adjust to new demands and the potential impacts of cumulative effects and climate.

''Section 4.3. Party Powers and Duties.

''1. Each Party, within its jurisdiction, shall manage and regulate New or Increased Withdrawals, Consumptive Uses and Diversions, including Exceptions, in accordance with this Compact.

''2. Each Party shall require an Applicant to submit an Application in such manner and with such accompanying information as the Party shall prescribe.

''3. No Party may approve a Proposal if the Party determines that the Proposal is inconsistent with this Compact or the Standard of Review and Decision or any implementing rules or regulations promulgated thereunder. The Party may approve, approve with modifications or disapprove any Proposal depending on the Proposal's consistency with this Compact and the Standard of Review and Decision.

''4. Each Party shall monitor the implementation of any approved Proposal to ensure consistency with the approval and may take all necessary enforcement actions.

''5. No Party shall approve a Proposal subject to Council or Regional Review, or both, pursuant to this Compact unless it shall have been first submitted to and reviewed by either the Council or Regional Body, or both, and approved by the Council, as applicable. Sufficient opportunity shall be provided for comment on the Proposal's consistency with this Compact and the Standard of Review and Decision. All such comments shall become part of the Party's formal record of decision, and the Party shall take into consideration any such comments received.

''Section 4.4. Requirement for Originating Party Approval.

''No Proposal subject to management and regulation under this Compact shall hereafter be undertaken by any Person unless it shall have been approved by the Originating Party.

''Section 4.5. Regional Review.

''1. General.

''a. It is the intention of the Parties to participate in Regional Review of Proposals with the Provinces, as described in this Compact and the Agreement.

''b. Unless the Applicant or the Originating Party otherwise requests, it shall be the goal of the Regional Body to conclude its review no later than 90 days after notice under Section 4.5.2 of such Proposal is received from the Originating Party.

''c. Proposals for Exceptions subject to Regional Review shall be submitted by the Originating Party to the Regional Body for Regional Review, and where applicable, to the Council for concurrent review.

''d. The Parties agree that the protection of the integrity of the Great Lakes—St. Lawrence River Basin Ecosystem shall be the overarching principle for reviewing Proposals subject to Regional Review, recognizing uncertainties with respect to demands that may be placed on Basin Water, including groundwater, levels and flows of the Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence River, future changes in environmental conditions, the reliability of existing data and the extent to which Diversions may harm the integrity of the Basin Ecosystem.

''e. The Originating Party shall have lead responsibility for coordinating information for resolution of issues related to evaluation of a Proposal, and shall consult with the Applicant throughout the Regional Review Process.

''f. A majority of the members of the Regional Body may request Regional Review of a regionally significant or potentially precedent setting Proposal. Such Regional Review must be conducted, to the extent possible, within the time frames set forth in this Section. Any such Regional Review shall be undertaken only after consulting the Applicant.

''2. Notice from Originating Party to the Regional Body.

''a. The Originating Party shall determine if a Proposal is subject to Regional Review. If so, the Originating Party shall provide timely notice to the Regional Body and the public.

''b. Such notice shall not be given unless and until all information, documents and the Originating Party's Technical Review needed to evaluate whether the Proposal meets the Standard of Review and Decision have been provided.

''c. An Originating Party may:

''i. Provide notice to the Regional Body of an Application, even if notification is not required; or,

''ii. Request Regional Review of an application, even if Regional Review is not required. Any such Regional Review shall be undertaken only after consulting the Applicant.

''d. An Originating Party may provide preliminary notice of a potential Proposal.

''3. Public Participation.

''a. To ensure adequate public participation, the Regional Body shall adopt procedures for the review of Proposals that are subject to Regional Review in accordance with this Article.

''b. The Regional Body shall provide notice to the public of a Proposal undergoing Regional Review. Such notice shall indicate that the public has an opportunity to comment in writing to the Regional Body on whether the Proposal meets the Standard of Review and Decision.

''c. The Regional Body shall hold a public meeting in the State or Province of the Originating Party in order to receive public comment on the issue of whether the Proposal under consideration meets the Standard of Review and Decision.

''d. The Regional Body shall consider the comments received before issuing a Declaration of Finding.

''e. The Regional Body shall forward the comments it receives to the Originating Party.

''4. Technical Review.

''a. The Originating Party shall provide the Regional Body with its Technical Review of the Proposal under consideration.

''b. The Originating Party's Technical Review shall thoroughly analyze the Proposal and provide an evaluation of the Proposal sufficient for a determination of whether the Proposal meets the Standard of Review and Decision.

''c. Any member of the Regional Body may conduct their own Technical Review of any Proposal subject to Regional Review.

''d. At the request of the majority of its members, the Regional Body shall make such arrangements as it considers appropriate for an independent Technical Review of a Proposal.

''e. All Parties shall exercise their best efforts to ensure that a Technical Review undertaken under Sections 4.5.4.c and 4.5.4.d does not unnecessarily delay the decision by the Originating Party on the Application. Unless the Applicant or the Originating Party otherwise requests, all Technical Reviews shall be completed no later than 60 days after the date the notice of the Proposal was given to the Regional Body.

''5. Declaration of Finding.

''a. The Regional Body shall meet to consider a Proposal. The Applicant shall be provided with an opportunity to present the Proposal to the Regional Body at such time.

''b. The Regional Body, having considered the notice, the Originating Party's Technical Review, any other independent Technical Review that is made, any comments or objections including the analysis of comments made by the public, First Nations and federally recognized Tribes, and any other information that is provided under this Compact shall issue a Declaration of Finding that the Proposal under consideration:

''i. Meets the Standard of Review and Decision;

''ii. Does not meet the Standard of Review and Decision; or,

''iii. Would meet the Standard of Review and Decision if certain conditions were met.

''c. An Originating Party may decline to participate in a Declaration of Finding made by the Regional Body.

''d. The Parties recognize and affirm that it is preferable for all members of the Regional Body to agree whether the Proposal meets the Standard of Review and Decision.

''e. If the members of the Regional Body who participate in the Declaration of Finding all agree, they shall issue a written Declaration of Finding with consensus.

''f. In the event that the members cannot agree, the Regional Body shall make every reasonable effort to achieve consensus within 25 days.

''g. Should consensus not be achieved, the Regional Body may issue a Declaration of Finding that presents different points of view and indicates each Party's conclusions.

''h. The Regional Body shall release the Declarations of Finding to the public.

''i. The Originating Party and the Council shall consider the Declaration of Finding before making a decision on the Proposal.

''Section 4.6. Proposals Subject to Prior Notice.

''1. Beginning no later than five years of the effective date of this Compact, the Originating Party shall provide all Parties and the Provinces with detailed and timely notice and an opportunity to comment within 90 days on any Proposal for a New or Increased Consumptive Use of 5 million gallons per day or greater average in any 90-day period. Comments shall address whether or not the Proposal is consistent with the Standard of Review and Decision. The Originating Party shall provide a response to any such comment received from another Party.

''2. A Party may provide notice, an opportunity to comment and a response to comments even if this is not required under paragraph 1 of this Section. Any provision of such notice and opportunity to comment shall be undertaken only after consulting the Applicant.

''Section 4.7. Council Actions.

''1. Proposals for Exceptions subject to Council Review shall be submitted by the Originating Party to the Council for Council Review, and where applicable, to the Regional Body for concurrent review.

''2. The Council shall review and take action on Proposals in accordance with this Compact and the Standard of Review and Decision. The Council shall not take action on a Proposal subject to Regional Review pursuant to this Compact unless the Proposal shall have been first submitted to and reviewed by the Regional Body. The Council shall consider any findings resulting from such review.

''Section 4.8. Prohibition of New or Increased Diversions.

''All New or Increased Diversions are prohibited, except as provided for in this Article.

''Section 4.9. Exceptions to the Prohibition of Diversions.

''1. Straddling Communities. A Proposal to transfer Water to an area within a Straddling Community but outside the Basin or outside the source Great Lake Watershed shall be excepted from the prohibition against Diversions and be managed and regulated by the Originating Party provided that, regardless of the volume of Water transferred, all the Water so transferred shall be used solely for Public Water Supply Purposes within the Straddling Community, and:

''a. All Water Withdrawn from the Basin shall be returned, either naturally or after use, to the Source Watershed less an allowance for Consumptive Use. No surface water or groundwater from outside the Basin may be used to satisfy any portion of this criterion except if it:

''i. Is part of a water supply or wastewater treatment system that combines water from inside and outside of the Basin;

''ii. Is treated to meet applicable water quality discharge standards and to prevent the introduction of invasive species into the Basin;

''iii. Maximizes the portion of water returned to the Source Watershed as Basin Water and minimizes the surface water or groundwater from outside the Basin;

''b. If the Proposal results from a New or Increased Withdrawal of 100,000 gallons per day or greater average over any 90-day period, the Proposal shall also meet the Exception Standard; and,

''c. If the Proposal results in a New or Increased Consumptive Use of 5 million gallons per day or greater average over any 90-day period, the Proposal shall also undergo Regional Review.

''2. Intra-Basin Transfer. A Proposal for an Intra-Basin Transfer that would be considered a Diversion under this Compact, and not already excepted pursuant to paragraph 1 of this Section, shall be excepted from the prohibition against Diversions, provided that:

''a. If the Proposal results from a New or Increased Withdrawal less than 100,000 gallons per day average over any 90-day period, the Proposal shall be subject to management and regulation at the discretion of the Originating Party.

''b. If the Proposal results from a New or Increased Withdrawal 100,000 gallons per day or greater average over any 90-day period and if the Consumptive Use resulting from the Withdrawal is less than 5 million gallons per day average over any 90-day period:

''i. The Proposal shall meet the Exception Standard and be subject to management and regulation by the Originating Party, except that the Water may be returned to another Great Lake watershed rather than the Source Watershed;

''ii. The Applicant shall demonstrate that there is no feasible, cost effective, and environmentally sound water supply alternative within the Great Lake watershed to which

the Water will be transferred, including conservation of existing water supplies; and,

''iii. The Originating Party shall provide notice to the other Parties prior to making any decision with respect to the Proposal.

''c. If the Proposal results in a New or Increased Consumptive Use of 5 million gallons per day or greater average over any 90-day period:

''i. The Proposal shall be subject to management and regulation by the Originating Party and shall meet the Exception Standard, ensuring that Water Withdrawn shall be returned to the Source Watershed;

''ii. The Applicant shall demonstrate that there is no feasible, cost effective, and environmentally sound water supply alternative within the Great Lake watershed to which the Water will be transferred, including conservation of existing water supplies;

''iii. The Proposal undergoes Regional Review; and,

''iv. The Proposal is approved by the Council. Council approval shall be given unless one or more Council Members vote to disapprove.

''3. Straddling Counties. A Proposal to transfer Water to a Community within a Straddling County that would be considered a Diversion under this Compact shall be excepted from the prohibition against Diversions, provided that it satisfies all of the following conditions:

''a. The Water shall be used solely for the Public Water Supply Purposes of the Community within a Straddling County that is without adequate supplies of potable water;

''b. The Proposal meets the Exception Standard, maximizing the portion of water returned to the Source Watershed as Basin Water and minimizing the surface water or groundwater from outside the Basin;

''c. The Proposal shall be subject to management and regulation by the Originating Party, regardless of its size;

''d. There is no reasonable water supply alternative within the basin in which the community is located, including conservation of existing water supplies;

''e. Caution shall be used in determining whether or not the Proposal meets the conditions for this Exception. This Exception should not be authorized unless it can be shown that it will not endanger the integrity of the Basin Ecosystem;

''f. The Proposal undergoes Regional Review; and,

''g. The Proposal is approved by the Council. Council approval shall be given unless one or more Council Members vote to disapprove.

A Proposal must satisfy all of the conditions listed above. Further, substantive consideration will also be given to whether or not the Proposal can provide sufficient scientifically based evidence that the existing water supply is derived from groundwater that is hydrologically interconnected to Waters of the Basin.

''4. Exception Standard. Proposals subject to management and regulation in this Section shall be declared to meet this Exception Standard and may be approved as appropriate only when the following criteria are met:

''a. The need for all or part of the proposed Exception cannot be reasonably avoided through the efficient use and conservation of existing water supplies;

''b. The Exception will be limited to quantities that are considered reasonable for the purposes for which it is proposed;

''c. All Water Withdrawn shall be returned, either naturally or after use, to the Source Watershed less an allowance for Consumptive Use. No surface water or groundwater from the outside the Basin may be used to satisfy any portion of this criterion except if it:

''i. Is part of a water supply or wastewater treatment system that combines water from inside and outside of the Basin;

''ii. Is treated to meet applicable water quality discharge standards and to prevent the introduction of invasive species into the Basin;

''d. The Exception will be implemented so as to ensure that it will result in no significant individual or cumulative adverse impacts to the quantity or quality of the Waters and Water Dependent Natural Resources of the Basin with consideration given to the potential Cumulative Impacts of any precedent-setting consequences associated with the Proposal;

''e. The Exception will be implemented so as to incorporate Environmentally Sound and Economically Feasible Water Conservation Measures to minimize Water Withdrawals or Consumptive Use;

''f. The Exception will be implemented so as to ensure that it is in compliance with all applicable municipal, State and federal laws as well as regional interstate and international agreements, including the Boundary Waters Treaty of 1909; and,

''g. All other applicable criteria in Section 4.9 have also been met.

''Section 4.10. Management and Regulation of New or Increased Withdrawals and Consumptive Uses.

''1. Within five years of the effective date of this Compact, each Party shall create a program for the management and regulation of New or Increased Withdrawals and Consumptive Uses by adopting and implementing Measures consistent with the Decision-Making Standard. Each Party, through a considered process, shall set and may modify threshold levels for the regulation of New or Increased Withdrawals in order to assure an effective and efficient Water management program that will ensure that uses overall are reasonable, that Withdrawals overall will not result in significant impacts to the Waters and Water Dependent Natural Resources of the Basin, determined on the basis of significant impacts to the physical, chemical, and biological integrity of Source Watersheds, and that all other objectives of the Compact are achieved. Each Party may determine the scope and thresholds of its program, including which New or Increased Withdrawals and Consumptive Uses will be subject to the program.

''2. Any Party that fails to set threshold levels that comply with Section 4.10.1 any time before 10 years after the effective date of this Compact shall apply a threshold level for management and regulation of all New or Increased Withdrawals of 100,000 gallons per day or greater average in any 90 day period.

''3. The Parties intend programs for New or Increased Withdrawals and Consumptive Uses to evolve as may be necessary to protect Basin Waters. Pursuant to Section 3.4, the Council, in cooperation with the Provinces, shall periodically assess the Water management programs of the Parties. Such assessments may produce recommendations for the strengthening of the programs, including without limitation, establishing lower thresholds for management and regulation in accordance with the Decision-Making Standard.

''Section 4.11. Decision-Making Standard.

''Proposals subject to management and regulation in Section 4.10 shall be declared to meet this Decision-Making Standard and may be approved as appropriate only when the following criteria are met:

''1. All Water Withdrawn shall be returned, either naturally or after use, to the Source Watershed less an allowance for Consumptive Use;

''2. The Withdrawal or Consumptive Use will be implemented so as to ensure that the Proposal will result in no significant individual or cumulative adverse impacts to the quantity or quality of the Waters and Water Dependent Natural Resources and the applicable Source Watershed;

''3. The Withdrawal or Consumptive Use will be implemented so as to incorporate Environmentally Sound and Economically Feasible Water Conservation Measures;

''4. The Withdrawal or Consumptive Use will be implemented so as to ensure that it is in compliance with all applicable municipal, State and federal laws as well as regional interstate and international agreements, including the Boundary Waters Treaty of 1909;

''5. The proposed use is reasonable, based upon a consideration of the following factors:

''a. Whether the proposed Withdrawal or Consumptive Use is planned in a fashion that provides for efficient use of the water, and will avoid or minimize the waste of Water;

''b. If the Proposal is for an increased Withdrawal or Consumptive use, whether efficient use is made of existing water supplies;

''c. The balance between economic development, social development and environmental protection of the proposed Withdrawal and use and other existing or planned withdrawals and water uses sharing the water source;

''d. The supply potential of the water source, considering quantity, quality, and reliability and safe yield of hydrologically interconnected water sources;

''e. The probable degree and duration of any adverse impacts caused or expected to be caused by the proposed Withdrawal and use under foreseeable conditions, to other lawful consumptive or non-consumptive uses of water or to the quantity or quality of the Waters and Water Dependent Natural Resources of the Basin, and the proposed plans and arrangements for avoidance or mitigation of such impacts; and,

''f. If a Proposal includes restoration of hydrologic conditions and functions of the Source Watershed, the Party may consider that.

''Section 4.12. Applicability.

''1. Minimum Standard. This Standard of Review and Decision shall be used as a minimum standard. Parties may impose a more restrictive decision-making standard for Withdrawals under their authority. It is also acknowledged that although a Proposal meets the Standard of Review and Decision it may not be approved under the laws of the Originating Party that has implemented more restrictive Measures.

''2. Baseline.

''a. To establish a baseline for determining a New or Increased Diversion, Consumptive Use or Withdrawal, each Party shall develop either or both of the following lists for their jurisdiction:

''i. A list of existing Withdrawal approvals as of the effective date of the Compact;

''ii. A list of the capacity of existing systems as of the effective date of this Compact. The capacity of the existing systems should be presented in terms of Withdrawal capacity, treatment capacity, distribution capacity, or other capacity limiting factors. The capacity of the existing systems must represent the state of the systems. Existing capacity determinations shall be based upon approval limits or the most restrictive capacity information.

''b. For all purposes of this Compact, volumes of Diversions, Consumptive Uses, or Withdrawals of Water set forth in the list(s) prepared by each Party in accordance with

this Section, shall constitute the baseline volume.

''c. The list(s) shall be furnished to the Regional Body and the Council within one year of the effective date of this Compact.

''3. Timing of Additional Applications. Applications for New or Increased Withdrawals, Consumptive Uses or Exceptions shall be considered cumulatively within ten years of any application.

''4. Change of Ownership. Unless a new owner proposes a project that shall result in a Proposal for a New or Increased Diversion or Consumptive Use subject to Regional Review or Council approval, the change of ownership in and of itself shall not require Regional Review or Council approval.

''5. Groundwater. The Basin surface water divide shall be used for the purpose of managing and regulating New or Increased Diversions, Consumptive Uses or Withdrawals of surface water and groundwater.

''6. Withdrawal Systems. The total volume of surface water and groundwater resources that supply a common distribution system shall determine the volume of a Withdrawal, Consumptive Use or Diversion.

''7. Connecting Channels. The watershed of each Great Lake shall include its upstream and downstream connecting channels.

''8. Transmission in Water Lines. Transmission of Water within a line that extends outside the Basin as it conveys Water from one point to another within the Basin shall not be considered a Diversion if none of the Water is used outside the Basin.

''9. Hydrologic Units. The Lake Michigan and Lake Huron watersheds shall be considered to be a single hydrologic unit and watershed.

''10. Bulk Water Transfer. A Proposal to Withdraw Water and to remove it from the Basin in any container greater than 5.7 gallons shall be treated under this Compact in the same manner as a Proposal for a Diversion. Each Party shall have the discretion, within its jurisdiction, to determine the treatment of Proposals to Withdraw Water and to remove it from the Basin in any container of 5.7 gallons or less.

''Section 4.13. Exemptions.

''Withdrawals from the Basin for the following purposes are exempt from the requirements of Article 4.

''1. To supply vehicles, including vessels and aircraft, whether for the needs of the persons or animals being transported or for ballast or other needs related to the operation of the vehicles.

''2. To use in a non-commercial project on a short-term basis for firefighting, humanitarian, or emergency response purposes.

''Section 4.14. U.S. Supreme Court Decree: Wisconsin et al. v. Illinois et al.

''1. Notwithstanding any terms of this Compact to the contrary, with the exception of Paragraph 5 of this Section, current, New or Increased Withdrawals, Consumptive Uses and Diversions of Basin Water by the State of Illinois shall be governed by the terms of the United States Supreme Court decree in Wisconsin et al. v. Illinois et al. and shall not be subject to the terms of this Compact nor any rules or regulations promulgated pursuant to this Compact. This means that, with the exception of Paragraph 5 of this Section, for purposes of this Compact, current, New or Increased Withdrawals, Consumptive Uses and Diversions of Basin Water within the State of Illinois shall be allowed unless prohibited by the terms of the United States Supreme Court decree in Wisconsin et al. v. Illinois et al.

''2. The Parties acknowledge that the United States Supreme Court decree in Wisconsin et al. v. Illinois et al. shall continue in full force and effect, that this Compact shall not modify any terms thereof, and that this Compact shall grant the parties no additional rights, obligations, remedies or defenses thereto. The Parties specifically acknowledge that this Compact shall not prohibit or limit the State of Illinois in any manner from seeking additional Basin Water as allowed under the terms of the United States Supreme Court decree in Wisconsin et al. v. Illinois et al., any other party from objecting to any request by the State of Illinois for additional Basin Water under the terms of said decree, or any party from seeking any other type of modification to said decree. If an application is made by any party to the Supreme Court of the United States to modify said decree, the Parties to this Compact who are also parties to the decree shall seek formal input from the Canadian Provinces of Ontario and Québec, with respect to the proposed modification, use best efforts to facilitate the appropriate participation of said Provinces in the proceedings to modify the decree, and shall not unreasonably impede or restrict such participation.

''3. With the exception of Paragraph 5 of this Section, because current, New or Increased Withdrawals, Consumptive Uses and Diversions of Basin Water by the State of Illinois are not subject to the terms of this Compact, the State of Illinois is prohibited from using any term of this Compact, including Section 4.9, to seek New or Increased Withdrawals, Consumptive Uses or Diversions of Basin Water.

''4. With the exception of Paragraph 5 of this Section, because Sections 4.3, 4.4, 4.5, 4.6, 4.7, 4.8, 4.9, 4.10, 4.11, 4.12 (Paragraphs 1, 2, 3, 4, 6 and 10 only), and 4.13 of this Compact all relate to current, New or Increased Withdrawals, Consumptive Uses and Diversions of Basin Waters, said provisions do not apply to the State of Illinois. All other provisions of this Compact not listed in the preceding sentence shall apply to the State of Illinois, including the Water Conservation Programs provision of Section 4.2.

''5. In the event of a Proposal for a Diversion of Basin Water for use outside the territorial boundaries of the Parties to this Compact, decisions by the State of Illinois regarding such a Proposal would be subject to all terms of this Compact, except Paragraphs 1, 3 and 4 of this Section.

''6. For purposes of the State of Illinois' participation in this Compact, the entirety of this Section 4.14 is necessary for the continued implementation of this Compact and, if severed, this Compact shall no longer be binding on or enforceable by or against the State of Illinois.

''Section 4.15. Assessment of Cumulative Impacts.

''1. The Parties in cooperation with the Provinces shall collectively conduct within the Basin, on a Lake watershed and St. Lawrence River Basin basis, a periodic assessment of the Cumulative Impacts of Withdrawals, Diversions and Consumptive Uses from the Waters of the Basin, every 5 years or each time the incremental Basin Water losses reach 50 million gallons per day average in any 90-day period in excess of the quantity at the time of the most recent assessment, whichever comes first, or at the request of one or more of the Parties. The assessment shall form the basis for a review of the Standard of Review and Decision, Council and Party regulations and their application. This assessment shall:

''a. Utilize the most current and appropriate guidelines for such a review, which may include but not be limited to Council on Environmental Quality and Environment Canada guidelines;

''b. Give substantive consideration to climate change or other significant threats to Basin Waters and take into account the current state of scientific knowledge, or uncertainty, and appropriate Measures to exercise caution in cases of uncertainty if serious damage may result;

''c. Consider adaptive management principles and approaches, recognizing, considering and providing adjustments for the uncertainties in, and evolution of science concerning the Basin's water resources, watersheds and ecosystems, including potential changes to Basin-wide processes, such as lake level cycles and climate.

''2. The Parties have the responsibility of conducting this Cumulative Impact assessment. Applicants are not required to participate in this assessment.

''3. Unless required by other statutes, Applicants are not required to conduct a separate cumulative impact assessment in connection with an Application but shall submit information about the potential impacts of a Proposal to the quantity or quality of the Waters and Water Dependent Natural Resources of the applicable Source Watershed. An Applicant may, however, provide an analysis of how their Proposal meets the no significant adverse Cumulative Impact provision of the Standard of Review and Decision.

''ARTICLE 5

''TRIBAL CONSULTATION

''Section 5.1. Consultation with Tribes.

''1. In addition to all other opportunities to comment pursuant to Section 6.2, appropriate consultations shall occur with federally recognized Tribes in the Originating Party for all Proposals subject to Council or Regional Review pursuant to this Compact. Such consultations shall be organized in the manner suitable to the individual Proposal and the laws and policies of the Originating Party.

''2. All federally recognized Tribes within the Basin shall receive reasonable notice indicating that they have an opportunity to comment in writing to the Council or the Regional Body, or both, and other relevant organizations on whether the Proposal meets the requirements of the Standard of Review and Decision when a Proposal is subject to Regional Review or Council approval. Any notice from the Council shall inform the Tribes of any meeting or hearing that is to be held under Section 6.2 and invite them to attend. The Parties and the Council shall consider the comments received under this Section before approving, approving with modifications or disapproving any Proposal subject to Council or Regional Review.

''3. In addition to the specific consultation mechanisms described above, the Council shall seek to establish mutually-agreed upon mechanisms or processes to facilitate dialogue with, and input from federally recognized Tribes on matters to be dealt with by the Council; and, the Council shall seek to establish mechanisms and processes with federally recognized Tribes designed to facilitate on-going scientific and technical interaction and data exchange regarding matters falling within the scope of this Compact. This may include participation of tribal representatives on advisory committees established under this Compact or such other processes that are mutually-agreed upon with federally recognized Tribes individually or through duly-authorized intertribal agencies or bodies.

''ARTICLE 6

''PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

''Section 6.1. Meetings, Public Hearings and Records.

''1. The Parties recognize the importance and necessity of public participation in promoting management of the Water Resources of the Basin. Consequently, all meetings of the Council shall be open to the public, except with respect to issues of personnel.

''2. The minutes of the Council shall be a public record open to inspection at its offices during regular business hours.

"Section 6.2. Public Participation.

''It is the intent of the Council to conduct public participation processes concurrently and jointly with processes undertaken by the Parties and through Regional Review. To ensure adequate public participation, each Party or the Council shall ensure procedures for the review of Proposals subject to the Standard of Review and Decision consistent with the following requirements:

''1. Provide public notification of receipt of all Applications and a reasonable opportunity for the public to submit comments before Applications are acted upon.

''2. Assure public accessibility to all documents relevant to an Application, including public comment received.

''3. Provide guidance on standards for determining whether to conduct a public meeting or hearing for an Application, time and place of such a meeting(s) or hearing(s), and procedures for conducting of the same.

''4. Provide the record of decision for public inspection including comments, objections, responses and approvals, approvals with conditions and disapprovals.

"ARTICLE 7

"DISPUTE RESOLUTION AND ENFORCEMENT

"Section 7.1. Good Faith Implementation.

''Each of the Parties pledges to support implementation of all provisions of this Compact, and covenants that its officers and agencies shall not hinder, impair, or prevent any other Party carrying out any provision of this Compact.

"Section 7.2. Alternative Dispute Resolution.

''1. Desiring that this Compact be carried out in full, the Parties agree that disputes between the Parties regarding interpretation, application and implementation of this Compact shall be settled by alternative dispute resolution.

''2. The Council, in consultation with the Provinces, shall provide by rule procedures for the resolution of disputes pursuant to this section.

"Section 7.3. Enforcement.

''1. Any Person aggrieved by any action taken by the Council pursuant to the authorities contained in this Compact shall be entitled to a hearing before the Council. Any Person aggrieved by a Party action shall be entitled to a hearing pursuant to the relevant Party's administrative procedures and laws. After exhaustion of such administrative remedies, (i) any aggrieved Person shall have the right to judicial review of a Council action in the United States District Courts for the District of Columbia or the District Court in which the Council maintains offices, provided such action is commenced within 90 days; and, (ii) any aggrieved Person shall have the right to judicial review of a Party's action in the relevant Party's court of competent jurisdiction, provided that an action or proceeding for such review is commenced within the time frames provided for by the Party's law. For the purposes of this paragraph, a State or Province is deemed to be an aggrieved Person with respect to any Party action pursuant to this Compact.

''2. a. Any Party or the Council may initiate actions to compel compliance with the provisions of this Compact, and the rules and regulations promulgated hereunder by the Council. Jurisdiction over such actions is granted to the court of the relevant Party, as well as the United States District Courts for the District of Columbia and the District Court in which the Council maintains offices. The remedies available to any such court shall include, but not be limited to, equitable relief and civil penalties.

''b. Each Party may issue orders within its respective jurisdiction and may initiate actions to compel compliance with the provisions of its respective statutes and regulations adopted to implement the authorities contemplated by this Compact in accordance with the provisions of the laws adopted in each Party's jurisdiction.

''3. Any aggrieved Person, Party or the Council may commence a civil action in the relevant Party's courts and administrative systems to compel any Person to comply with this Compact should any such Person, without approval having been given, undertake a New or Increased Withdrawal, Consumptive Use or Diversion that is prohibited or subject to approval pursuant to this Compact.

''a. No action under this subsection may be commenced if:

''i. The Originating Party or Council approval for the New or Increased Withdrawal, Consumptive Use or Diversion has been granted; or,

''ii. The Originating Party or Council has found that the New or Increased Withdrawal, Consumptive Use or Diversion is not subject to approval pursuant to this Compact.

''b. No action under this subsection may be commenced unless:

''i. A Person commencing such action has first given 60 days prior notice to the Originating Party, the Council and Person alleged to be in noncompliance; and,

''ii. Neither the Originating Party nor the Council has commenced and is diligently prosecuting appropriate enforcement actions to compel compliance with this Compact.

The available remedies shall include equitable relief, and the prevailing or substantially prevailing party may recover the costs of litigation, including reasonable attorney and expert witness fees, whenever the court determines that such an award is appropriate.

''4. Each of the Parties may adopt provisions providing additional enforcement mechanisms and remedies including equitable relief and civil penalties applicable within its jurisdiction to assist in the implementation of this Compact.

"ARTICLE 8

"ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS

"Section 8.1. Effect on Existing Rights.

''1. Nothing in this Compact shall be construed to affect, limit, diminish or impair any rights validly established and existing as of the effective date of this Compact under State or federal law governing the Withdrawal of Waters of the Basin.

''2. Nothing contained in this Compact shall be construed as affecting or intending to affect or in any way to interfere with the law of the respective Parties relating to common law Water rights.

''3. Nothing in this Compact is intended to abrogate or derogate from treaty rights or rights held by any Tribe recognized by the federal government of the United States based upon its status as a Tribe recognized by the federal government of the United States.

''4. An approval by a Party or the Council under this Compact does not give any property rights, nor any exclusive privileges, nor shall it be construed to grant or confer any right, title, easement, or interest in, to or over any land belonging to or held in trust by a Party; neither does it authorize any injury to private property or invasion of private rights, nor infringement of federal, State or local laws or regulations; nor does it obviate the necessity of obtaining federal assent when necessary.

"Section 8.2. Relationship to Agreements Concluded by the United States of America.

''1. Nothing in this Compact is intended to provide nor shall be construed to provide, directly or indirectly, to any Person any right, claim or remedy under any treaty or international agreement nor is it intended to derogate any right, claim, or remedy that already exists under any treaty or international agreement.

''2. Nothing in this Compact is intended to infringe nor shall be construed to infringe upon the treaty power of the United States of America, nor shall any term hereof be construed to alter or amend any treaty or term thereof that has been or may hereafter be executed by the United States of America.

''3. Nothing in this Compact is intended to affect nor shall be construed to affect the application of the Boundary Waters Treaty of 1909 whose requirements continue to apply in addition to the requirements of this Compact.

"Section 8.3. Confidentiality.

''1. Nothing in this Compact requires a Party to breach confidentiality obligations or requirements prohibiting disclosure, or to compromise security of commercially sensitive or proprietary information.

''2. A Party may take measures, including but not limited to deletion and redaction, deemed necessary to protect any confidential, proprietary or commercially sensitive information when distributing information to other Parties. The Party shall summarize or paraphrase any such information in a manner sufficient for the Council to exercise its authorities contained in this Compact.

"Section 8.4. Additional Laws.

''Nothing in this Compact shall be construed to repeal, modify or qualify the authority of any Party to enact any legislation or enforce any additional conditions and restrictions regarding the management and regulation of Waters within its jurisdiction.

"Section 8.5. Amendments and Supplements.

''The provisions of this Compact shall remain in full force and effect until amended by action of the governing bodies of the Parties and consented to and approved by any other necessary authority in the same manner as this Compact is required to be ratified to become effective.

"Section 8.6. Severability.

''Should a court of competent jurisdiction hold any part of this Compact to be void or unenforceable, it shall be considered severable from those portions of the Compact capable of continued implementation in the absence of the voided provisions. All other provisions capable of continued implementation shall continue in full force and effect.

"Section 8.7. Duration of Compact and Termination.

''Once effective, the Compact shall continue in force and remain binding upon each and every Party unless terminated.

This Compact may be terminated at any time by a majority vote of the Parties. In the event of such termination, all rights established under it shall continue unimpaired.

"ARTICLE 9

"EFFECTUATION

"Section 9.1. Repealer.

''All acts and parts of acts inconsistent with this act are to the extent of such inconsistency hereby repealed.

"Section 9.2. Effectuation by Chief Executive.

''The Governor is authorized to take such action as may be necessary and proper in his or her discretion to effectuate the Compact and the initial organization and operation thereunder.

"Section 9.3. Entire Agreement.

''The Parties consider this Compact to be complete and an integral whole. Each provision of this Compact is considered material to the entire Compact, and failure to implement or adhere to any provision may be considered a material breach. Unless otherwise noted in this Compact, any change or amendment made to the Compact by any Party in

its implementing legislation or by the U.S. Congress when giving its consent to this Compact is not considered effective unless concurred in by all Parties.

"Section 9.4. Effective Date and Execution.

''This Compact shall become binding and effective when ratified through concurring legislation by the states of Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, New York, Ohio and Wisconsin and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and consented to by the Congress of the United States. This Compact shall be signed and sealed in nine identical original copies by the respective chief executives of the signatory Parties. One such copy shall be filed with the Secretary of State of each of the signatory Parties or in accordance with the laws of the state in which the filing is made, and one copy shall be filed and retained in the archives of the Council upon its organization. The signatures shall be affixed and attested under the following form:

''In Witness Whereof, and in evidence of the adoption and enactment into law of this Compact by the legislatures of the signatory parties and consent by the Congress of the United States, the respective Governors do hereby, in accordance with the authority conferred by law, sign this Compact in nine duplicate original copies, attested by the respective Secretaries of State, and have caused the seals of the respective states to be hereunto affixed this _____ day of (month), (year).'': Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That—

(1) Congress consents to and approves the interstate compact regarding water resources in the Great Lakes—St. Lawrence River Basin described in the preamble;

(2) until a Great Lakes Water Compact is ratified and enforceable, laws in effect as of the date of enactment of this resolution provide protection sufficient to prevent Great Lakes water diversions; and

(3) Congress expressly reserves the right to alter, amend, or repeal this resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. SUTTON) and the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. COBLE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Ohio.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

Ms. SUTTON. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation gives congressional consent to the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact. Before I continue, I would like to commend the distinguished chairman of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, Mr. JAMES OBERSTAR, who sponsored the House version of this legislation, as well as the senior Senator from Michigan, CARL LEVIN, for their hard work in spearheading this effort. I would also like to thank the distinguished chairman of the Judiciary Committee, Congressman JOHN CONYERS, for his support.

Today, Congress considers this legislation pursuant to our duty in article I, section 10, clause 3 of the Constitution, the ''compacts clause,'' to review and approve agreements between States or between States and foreign governments to ensure that they are consistent with the broader national interests.

In the case before us, there is no question that the compact designed and agreed to by eight States is in our national interest. The Great Lakes Compact will help to preserve and improve this important natural resource, our Great Lakes, for years to come. The Great Lakes are one of our greatest treasures, an important natural asset that we must never take for granted and that we must always protect.

With one-fifth of the world's fresh water, the Great Lakes attracted the early settlers to the legion, and today nearly 33 million people live and work within the basin, spanning eight States: Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Pennsylvania, New York and my home State of Ohio.

Mr. Speaker, the Great Lakes are not only a source of drinking water, but they are also essential for recreation, jobs and the overall health of our economy. Lake Erie alone supports 240,000 jobs and $5.8 billion in wages. The Great Lakes are also highways, moving goods, people and services throughout the region. In addition, the Great Lakes support a multi-billion dollar a year sport fishing and recreational boating industry, and also support travel and tourism throughout the region.

However, the Great Lakes are vulnerable to depletion. Each year, rainfall and snowmelt replenish only about 1 percent of the water in the basin. Uncontrolled and careless diversions of water could thus be highly detrimental to the health of the Great Lakes. This compact will bring an end to destructive diversions of water from the basin.

The purpose of this compact is to formalize cooperation among the Great Lakes States, to develop and implement regional goals and objectives for water conservation while preserving the States' flexibility regarding their water management programs.

New or increased diversions of water from the basin will be banned and community rights will be respected as long as appropriately rigorous standards are met. In addition, every 5 years the regional goals and objectives for water conservation will be reviewed to deal with any new issues that arise.

As is routinely the case, Mr. Speaker, Congress expressly reserves the right to alter, amend or repeal this resolution in the future and to strengthen the compact, if necessary.

The people of the eight States have worked diligently to craft this compact to preserve this vital resource, and it is urgent that we approve it now to ensure that our Great Lakes are here for future generations.

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

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

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

Mr. Speaker, the gentlewoman from Ohio pretty thoroughly covered this already.

The compact we are called upon to approve today caps off years of effort. That effort has been undertaken by the Great Lakes States to address jointly the use of one of our Nation's greatest features, the abundant waters of the Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence River Basin.

This compact embodies important advances in the management of these extraordinary bodies of water. The States, users of these waters in the United States, and Canadian authorities that share interest in the basin, all support the compact.

Earlier this year, we passed H.R. 6577 to approve this compact. In all essential respects, Senate Joint Resolution 45 is identical to H.R. 6577. I am therefore pleased to support our adoption of the Senate resolution so that this important legislation can be passed and signed into law as soon as possible.

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

Ms. SUTTON. Mr. Speaker, before I yield to the distinguished gentleman from Michigan, at this time I would like to insert into the RECORD correspondence between Representatives PETER VISCLOSKY and DAVID HOBSON and Governor Jim Doyle, Chair of the Council of Great Lakes Governors. This correspondence clarifies the Council's intent and interpretation of section 4.11.2 of the Compact's decisionmaking standard relating to the scale and scope of impacts that would be deemed sufficiently significant such to preclude approval of a withdrawal proposal.

I would like to thank Representatives VISCLOSKY and HOBSON for their dedicated efforts on this matter and their continued dedication to preserving our Great Lakes.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, August 25, 2008.

Hon. JIM DOYLE,
Chairman, Council of Great Lakes Governors, East Wacker Drive, Chicago, Illinois.

DEAR GOVERNOR DOYLE: We write regarding H.R. 6577, a measure to approve the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact.

It has been brought to our attention that there are concerns regarding the scope and scale of impacts considered in the Decision-Making Standard under Section 4.11.2 of H.R. 6577. As the House proceeds forward with action to approve the Compact, we are writing to clarify and confirm the interpretation of this provision.

As you are aware, as part of the criteria governing review and approval of proposals for water withdrawals, Section 4.11.2 of the Compact requires a demonstration that ''Withdrawal or Consumptive Use will be implemented so as to ensure that the Proposal will result in no significant individual or cumulative adverse impacts to the quantity

and quality of the Waters and Water Dependant Natural Resources and the applicable Source Watershed.'' During the states' adoption of the Compact, a concern was raised in a number of jurisdictions regarding a potential ambiguity as to the scale of impacts that would preclude withdrawal approvals.

This issue is of particular importance, because interpreted improperly, this provision could thwart economic development and threaten existing operations seeking to expand. Because of the ambiguity in terms of how the definition of ''Source Watershed'' and Section 4.11.2 work together, the question has been raised as to whether the significance of impacts is to be judged based on impacts upon the overall Source Watershed, which is defined as the drainage area of each Great Lake, or can measurable impacts on flow within just a few hundred feet of a stream, which occurs with many withdrawals, be enough to preclude a project. If Section 4.11.2 is misread, it could become a serious impediment to the states' undertaking and approving economic development projects, which we are sure is not the Governors' intent.

On December 5, 2005, Sam Speck, Chair of the Working Group that drafted the Compact, indicated that the Working Group intended the term ''Waters and Water Dependant Natural Resources'' to refer to all waters of the Basin, and that the scope of impact consideration is to assure that ''there be no significant adverse impacts to the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin as a whole'' as well as no significant adverse impacts to the Source Watershed as a whole.

Several state legislatures, including Indiana, Ohio, and Pennsylvania, reflected this position in their respective legislation adopting the Compact. Those states included in their legislation provisions expressing and clarifying the intent of the legislatures in adopting Section 4.11.2 (see Indiana Senate Enrolled Act No. 45 of 2008 at Section 10; Ohio House Bill 416 (as adopted) at Section 1522.07(B); and Pennsylvania Act 43 of 2008 at Section 5(3)).

Consistent with Chairman Speck and the statements of legislative intent provided by the above states, we would respectfully request that you confirm that the following interpretation correctly expresses the understanding and view of the Council of Great Lakes Governors, as prime drafters and sponsors of the Compact, with respect to the scope of impact question:

1. Section 4.11.2 of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact is intended to require that a withdrawal or consumptive use of Great Lakes water will be implemented so as to ensure that the withdrawal or consumptive use will result in no significant individual or cumulative adverse impacts to the quantity or quality of the waters and water dependent natural resources of either of the following:

(a) The basin considered as a whole;

(b) The applicable source watershed considered as a whole.

2. States may take into consideration, as part of the evaluation of reasonable use as provided in Section 4.11.5 of the Compact, those impacts of a withdrawal or consumptive use on the quantity or quality of waters and water dependent natural resources that have only localized impacts which are not of import to the basin or source watershed considered as a whole.

3. As provided in Section 4.12.1 of the Compact, the Compact's standard is a minimum standard and that states may, as a matter of state law, adopt by state statutes, regulations or other means relating to the assessment and consideration of impacts which are more stringent than the decision-making standard set forth in the Compact.

We would appreciate your written response confirming the able interpretation, which we would intend be reflected in the legislative history of the Compact as the House proceeds. We look forward to working with you and the other Council members in continuing efforts to approve the Compact before the end of this session.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. Do not hesitate to let us know if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

PETER J. VISCLOSKY,
Member of Congress.
DAVID L. HOBSON,
Member of Congress.

COUNCIL OF
GREAT LAKES GOVERNORS,
Chicago, IL, August 28, 2008.

Hon. PETER J. VISCLOSKY,
Rayburn HOB,
Washington, DC.
Hon. DAVID L. HOBSON,
Rayburn HOB,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE VISCLOSKY AND REPRESENTATIVE HOBSON: Thank you for your letter dated August 25, 2008 regarding H.R. 6577. The interpretation of Section 4.11.2 of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact included in your letter is consistent with the Great Lakes Governors' interpretation of Section 4.11.2.

Thank you again for your commitment to ensure that the Great Lakes are sustainably managed for the benefit of generations to come. If we can be of assistance as our shared efforts move forward, please do not hesitate to contact me or David Naftzger, Executive Director of the Council of Great Lakes Governors.

Sincerely,

JIM DOYLE,
Governor of Wisconsin,
Chair, Council of Great Lakes Governors.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. STUPAK).

Mr. STUPAK. I thank the gentlewoman for yielding time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resource Compact. I am deeply concerned that this compact would allow Great Lakes water to be defined as a product. By allowing water to be defined as a product, the compact would subject the Great Lakes to international trade agreements, such as the North America Free Trade Agreement or the World Trade Organization.

There is also no language in the compact that recognizes the Great Lakes waters held in trust. The public owns the water of the Great Lakes, and anything we pass should preserve this.

While the original intent of the Great Lakes Compact was to protect our water from diversion, the compact that the States have sent to Congress may unintentionally have the opposite effect and set a precedent that would open the door to diversions.

The Great Lakes Governors have spent more than 3 years addressing the local and State implications of the compact. Unfortunately, we have not done the same deliberative process. We have spent less than 20 legislative days since the introduction of this legislation. We have had no hearings in the House to consider the Federal or international implications. We are rushing to a vote when one of our Nation's most precious natural resources, the Great Lakes, is at stake.

Before we ratify the Great Lakes Compact, the following questions must be fully investigated. How does the compact's exemption of water in a container smaller than 5.7 gallons affect the Federal prohibition on diversions of water under the Water Resources Development Act?

Will creating a definition of Great Lakes water as a product subject it to international trade law or agreements such as NAFTA?

Would actions taken by the Great Lakes States to protect the Great Lakes against efforts by international commercial entities who seek to privatize the Great Lakes ever be subject to claims under the general agreements on tariffs and trade or to WTO?

I have asked these questions of the International Joint Commission, the United States Trade Representative and the Department of State before Congress adjourned for the August recess. While these agencies have acknowledged my request, they were unable to provide me with any substantive responses. This alone should be reason enough to vote on this legislation until we have the answers to my questions.

I cannot in good conscience vote to approve legislation that may unintentionally open the Great Lakes to diversions through privatization, commercialization and exportation. It is imperative that we take our time to ensure that the legal protections we seek to enact and preserve to restore the quality and quantity of the Great Lakes water be done properly.

I urge my colleagues to vote ''no'' on Senate Joint Resolution 45 so that we may fully address the questions and pass a compact that protects the Great Lakes.

In my 16 years here in the House of Representatives, I have fought to protect these Great Lakes. Why are we rushing now to do a compact that we have not had time to examine, when the State Department cannot answer our questions, when we don't have the answers?

After we pass this legislation, it will be too late to say, oh, we might have made a mistake here. Let's not open up our Great Lakes water to commercialization and to international agreements we have no control over. Let's get the answers before we pass this legislation.

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

Ms. SUTTON. I thank the gentleman from Michigan for his passionate statement.

We have specifically retained the right to amend and alter the compact. I would just also mention that we have worked to effectively address the gentleman's concerns in the committee report.

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, will the gentlewoman yield?

Ms. SUTTON. I yield to the gentleman from Michigan.

Mr. STUPAK. What assurance do we have that if we seek to amend the compact after this is passed that the States are going to go along with us?

Ms. SUTTON. I think we have the assurances that the States will act reasonably in their best interests and our best interests as a region.

Mr. STUPAK. But once the law is passed, you can't go back and amend it, unless the States take the initiative, because under WRDA and what you are verifying here, the States would have control over it. So even if the Congress wanted us to change the compact because they are diverting our water, we can't do it unless the States act first. You are giving up the right. You are ratifying this compact, and the only way you can only come back into this compact is through the States, and not necessarily the Federal Government.

□ 1415

Ms. SUTTON. Well, I respectfully disagree with the gentleman. We are not really giving up our rights. This has always been a joint effort with a specific responsibility left with the States, a specific responsibility left with this Congress, and we retained this.

Mr. STUPAK. Four of the five Great Lakes are international bodies of water where the States have no say over it. That's why the Federal Government must ratify it. If we continue to ratify this compact without getting our answers, you cannot go back and reopen the international agreement unless both sides agree, including the eight States and the two provinces of Canada.

Ms. SUTTON. I thank the gentleman for the point that he raises. I believe that the agreement and the committee report language effectively addresses that concern.

Mr. STUPAK. I have one other inquiry: Why are we rushing this compact? There is no end date that it has to be done before the end of the year.

It's an open-ended commitment. Why can't we wait? What's the rush?

Ms. SUTTON. I will take back my time, and I will answer the gentleman's question.

Mr. Speaker, our Great Lakes' water is currently, at present, at risk to be carelessly diverted from our basin, and that is why action is so important here today. If we allow that to happen, this water will never return.

All eight Great Lakes States have agreed to this compact. I would like to thank Ohio's Governor Ted Strickland for guiding this essential compact through the Ohio State House and Senate.

A stretch of Lake Erie shoreline touches my congressional district, and Lake Erie contributes over $9 billion in tourism and travel revenue to our State's economy. In my district we already utilize Lake Erie commercially through Lorain Harbor, and we need this compact to protect our Great Lakes, our water, our source of recreation, our jobs and our economy, and we need this compact now.

For the overall health of our Great Lakes and our region, we must pass this compact today to protect our Great Lakes and ensure that future generations will have this great resource. I urge my colleagues to support the Great Lakes compact.

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of S.J. Res. 45, the Great Lakes—St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact. This resolution represents the culmination of efforts, which started nearly a decade ago, to create a framework to govern water withdrawals from the Great Lakes Basin.

The Great Lakes comprise the largest source of freshwater in the world—20 percent of the Earth's total and 95 percent of the surface freshwater in the United States—and they provide drinking water, transportation and recreation to tens of millions of people in the United States and Canada. Although the Great Lakes contain copious amounts of fresh water, less than one percent of the water in the Great Lakes is renewed every year through rain, snow melt, and groundwater recharge, with the remaining ninety-nine percent remaining in the lakes each year. In other words, the Great Lakes are a non-renewable resource that is currently at jeopardy from large-scale water diversions outside the Great Lakes Basin.

The catalyst for the creation of a Great Lakes Compact came in 1998 when the government of Ontario granted a permit to a private Canadian company to ship up to 160 million gallons of water per year to Asia. Thankfully, the public outcry was so strongly opposed that the deal died.

In the wake of this incident, Congress included language in the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2000 which prohibited the export of Great Lakes water from the basin unless the request for withdrawal received unanimous approval of all eight Great Lakes governors. WRDA 2000 also encouraged the Great Lakes states, in consultation with Canada, to develop and implement a compact that would govern withdrawals of water from the Great Lakes Basin.

In 2005, the 8 Great Lakes governors, in collaboration with the Canadian provinces of Ontario and Quebec, local governments, and other stakeholders, endorsed the Great Lakes Compact and referred it to the state legislatures for consideration.

On July 9, 2008, my home state of Michigan became the last Great Lake state to approve the Compact—sending it to Congress for final ratification.

The Senate passed S.J. Res. 45 by unanimous consent on August 1 and the House Judiciary Committee approved a similar House version (H.R. 6577) by voice vote on July 30. I am an original cosponsor of H.R. 6577.

The Great Lakes Compact prohibits new or increased out-of-basin, large-scale water diversions except under special circumstances, and it requires all of the Great Lakes states to develop water conservation and efficiency programs.

With respect to small-scale water diversions (containers less than 5.7 gallons), such as for bottled water, beer, and canned foods, the Compact allows states to choose how to regulate these small transfers. For instance, Michigan regulates bottled water under the Compact by requiring producers to obtain a state permit for new or increased water withdrawals of more than 200,000 gallons per day. Under Michigan law, a permit may be granted if, among other requirements, there are no individual or cumulative adverse impacts, the water withdrawal is reasonable under common law principles, and the producer has certified that it is in compliance with water conservation measures.

Although some have voiced concern over this "bottled water exemption," I believe these small-scale withdrawals are better left to the states to regulate. In addition, much of the bottled water will likely remain the Great Lakes watershed, and changing the agreement now would mean the entire process must start over. With water predicted to become the oil of the future, it is imperative that we pass this agreement now so that we ensure the water in the Great Lakes Basin stays within the basin.

I hope my colleagues will join me, the Great Lakes governors, state legislatures, the U.S. Senate, and President Bush in supporting the Great Lakes Compact. Vote for S.J. Res. 45.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of S.J. Res. 45, the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact.

In July, I, together with the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS, Jr.), Chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATOURETTE), and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. EHLERS), introduced H.R. 6577, the "Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact", the House companion bill for the legislation that we consider today.

H.R. 6577 received the bipartisan support of almost 50 Great Lakes Members and the Committee on the Judiciary ordered the bill reported favorably to the House on July 30. However, to expedite implementation of the Compact, the House agreed to consider the Senate companion legislation (S.J. Res. 45), which the other body passed on August 1. Today, we hope to complete the long process for implementation of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact by sending this "consent of Congress" directly to the President, where he has said he will sign it. I strongly urge my colleagues to support this important legislation for the protection of the Great Lakes for current and future generations.

Mr. Speaker, the Great Lakes are national and international treasures, serving as both the nation's largest fresh water resource and one of the largest systems of fresh water on earth—containing nearly 20 percent of the world supply. Formed by melting glaciers 10,000 to 12,000 years ago, the Great Lakes contain enough fresh water to cover the entire landmass of the continental United States to a depth of almost 10 feet.

Yet, despite their massive volume, the Lakes' water is a fragile resource. Rainfall and snowmelt replenish only about one percent of the water in the Great Lakes each year, with the remaining 99 percent of the volume being carried over from year-to-year. It is this unique circumstance that requires the nation, and

Congress, to be vigilant in protecting the waters of the Great Lakes for the use and sustainability of the environmental, economic, and public health of the Great Lakes Basin.

The Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure has been integral in protecting the waters of the Great Lakes from water diversions. In the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (''WRDA 1986''), the Committee required that each of eight Great Lakes States consent to any diversion of water from the Great Lakes Basin. WRDA 1986 prohibited any diversion of Great Lakes water by any State, Federal agency, or private entity for use outside the Great Lakes Basin without the consent of each of the eight Governors of the Great Lakes States.

Unfortunately, however, the waters of the Great Lakes are still at risk.

In 1998, Congress learned of a plan, approved by the Canadian province of Ontario, to export up to 160 million gallons of water from Lake Superior for sale to Asia. After this incident, a decision was made by the Governors of the eight Great Lakes States and Congress to strengthen Federal and interstate protections of Great Lakes waters.

In the Water Resources Development Act of 2000, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure strengthened the prohibition on diversions of Great Lakes waters by explicitly prohibiting exports, and ''encourage[d] the Great Lakes, in consultation with the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec, to develop and implement a mechanism that provides a common conservation standard embodying the principles of water conservation and resource improvement for making decisions concerning the withdrawal and use of water from the Great Lakes Basin.''

This ''common conservation standard'' is embodied in the Great Lakes—St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact (''Compact''), as proposed for the consent of Congress in S.J. Res. 45. The protections contained in the Compact are consistent with the underlying prohibition of diversions and exports of Great Lakes water without consent of all eight Great Lakes States under section 1109 of WRDA 1986. In addition, the Compact should be viewed as supplementary to current laws and regulations, and as an effort by the eight Great Lakes States and Congress to strengthen protections already in place.

First, the Compact establishes that ''all new or increased diversions of Great Lakes waters are prohibited,'' except within the limited exceptions contained in the Compact.

The Compact also requires each of the Great Lakes States to regulate any proposed new or increased withdrawals of Great Lakes water so as to not ''physically impact'' the waters and water-dependent natural resources of the Basin, including the physical, chemical, and biological integrity of the Basin watersheds.

In addition, the Compact establishes a process for the inventory, registration, and reporting of Great Lakes water withdrawals, diversions, and consumptive uses within the Basin.

With respect to small-scale water uses, such as bottled water, beer, and canned goods, the Compact allows individual States to choose how to regulate smaller transfers of water in products. For example, the State of Michigan chose to regulate bottled water under the Compact by requiring producers to obtain a permit for new or increased water withdrawals of more than 200,000 gallons per day. Under Michigan law, a permit may be granted if, among other requirements, there are no individual or cumulative adverse impacts, the water withdrawal is reasonable under state common law principles, and the producer has certified that it is in compliance with water conservation measures. This state program ensures that bottled water proposals receive careful scrutiny.

It is time for the U.S. House of Representatives to join with the Governors and State legislatures of all eight Great Lakes States, the U.S. Senate, and the administration in support of the Great Lakes—St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact.

I strongly urge my colleagues to join me in supporting S.J. Res. 45.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the legislation before the House to grant congressional approval of the Great Lakes Compact.

Passage of this legislation today is essential to the health of the Great Lakes. With the approval of the Compact, at long last we will close the door to bulk diversion of Great Lakes water. The Compact also establishes a comprehensive management framework to protect this shared resource and requires Great Lake states to control their own large-scale water use.

Some will say that the agreement does not go far enough and that Congress should hold off approving the Compact until changes are made. We have to be careful not to let the perfect become the enemy of the good. The agreement before us is the product of years of effort and enjoys broad support from all eight Great Lakes states, the environmental community, conservation groups, and other key stakeholders. The region has come together behind this plan as the best way to protect the Great Lakes. It is now time for Congress to act.

There is no question that we're in a much stronger position to protect the Great Lakes with the Compact than without it. I urge the House to join me in supporting this vital legislation.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. SUTTON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate joint resolution, S.J. Res. 45.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

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

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

NATIONWIDE MORTGAGE FRAUD TASK FORCE ACT OF 2008

Ms. SUTTON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6853) to establish in the Federal Bureau of Investigation the Nationwide Mortgage Fraud Task Force to address mortgage fraud in the United States, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6853

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Nationwide Mortgage Fraud Coordinator Act of 2008''.

SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT IN THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION OF THE NATIONWIDE MORTGAGE FRAUD COORDINATOR.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation shall assign the Chief of its Financial Crimes Section, Criminal Investigative Division, in addition to other assigned duties, to be the Nationwide Mortgage Fraud Coordinator.

(b) DUTIES OF THE COORDINATOR.—The Nationwide Mortgage Fraud Coordinator shall oversee all Federal Bureau of Investigation activities related to the investigation of mortgage fraud, including the following:

(1) Establishing and operating regional task forces, consisting of the voluntary participation of Federal, State, and local law enforcement and prosecutorial agencies, to organize initiatives to investigate mortgage fraud, including initiatives to enforce all pertinent Federal and State mortgage fraud laws.

(2) Providing training to Federal, State, and local law enforcement and prosecutorial agencies with respect to mortgage fraud, including related Federal and State laws.

(3) Collecting and disseminating data with respect to mortgage fraud, including, to the extent practicable, Federal, State, and local data relating to mortgage fraud investigations and prosecutions.

(4) Preparing an annual report describing the Federal Bureau of Investigation's efforts to combat mortgage fraud and the results of these efforts. This report shall be submitted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation to Congress. The initial report shall be submitted no later one year after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(5) Making recommendations to the Director as to the need for resources to combat mortgage fraud.

(6) Performing other duties as assigned that are related to the investigation and prosecution of mortgage fraud.

(c) OPTIONAL FUNCTIONS.—The Nationwide Mortgage Fraud Coordinator shall have the following optional responsibilities:

(1) Establishing a toll free hotline and other information systems for—

(A) receiving reports of mortgage fraud;

(B) providing the public with access to information and resources with respect to mortgage fraud; and

(C) directing reports or allegations of mortgage fraud to the appropriate Federal, State, or local law enforcement and prosecutorial agency, including any appropriate regional task force.

(2) Creating a database with respect to suspensions and revocations of mortgage industry licenses and certifications to facilitate the sharing of such information by States.

(d) OPTIONAL RESPONSIBILITY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE.—The Department of Justice, upon consideration of any recommendations by the Nationwide Mortgage Fraud Coordinator, may—

(1) propose legislation to Federal, State, and local legislative bodies to assist in the detection, investigation, and prosecution of

mortgage fraud, including measures to address mortgage loan procedures and property appraiser practices that provide opportunities for mortgage fraud; and

(2) make recommendations to Congress as to the need for additional resources to combat mortgage fraud.

(e) SUNSET.—This section shall sunset September 30, 2015.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. SUTTON) and the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. COBLE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Ohio.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

H.R. 6853, as amended, the Nationwide Mortgage Fraud Task Force Act, was introduced by Congressman MEEK from Florida. H.R. 6853 directs the Federal Bureau of Investigation to designate a high-level official to coordinate mortgage fraud investigations.

Mortgage fraud is one of the fastest-growing white-collar crimes in the United States. The FBI estimates that the number of cases grew from approximately 17,000 in 2004 to 46,000 in 2007.

The losses from these crimes amount to billions of dollars spread among the financial institutions that have been struggling in the wake of the collapse of the real estate market.

Beyond the direct harm to the defrauded lender, this crime has far wider ripple effects in our neighborhoods and in our national economy.

In our neighborhoods, mortgage fraud has resulted in abandoned houses that cannot be easily resold because they are now owned by a bank and tied up in litigation. These houses often sit empty, deteriorating and becoming overgrown with weeds, an invitation to burglars or other criminal elements, and a blight on the entire neighborhood. In our economy, mortgage fraud has exacerbated the subprime loan crisis that is now having wide-spread effects on the entire financial system.

Mortgage fraud can take many forms and may involve dishonest borrowers, appraisers, settlement agents, loan officers, brokers or other persons, including phony straw purchasers under the direction of others. These can be difficult, time consuming and resource-intensive cases to investigate and prosecute. This bill will help the FBI meet these challenges by directing it to appoint a nationwide mortgage fraud coordinator to coordinate the FBI's efforts.

The coordinator would supervise regional task forces, coordinate investigations and facilitate appropriate training and information sharing. They would also prepare reports to assist Congress in undertaking any additional legislative response as may be warranted.

This is an important bill that addresses an important issue facing our communities and our families. I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

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

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

I rise in support of H.R. 6853, the Nationwide Mortgage Fraud Task Force Act of 2008. I appreciate the willingness of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to address some concerns that we had with the bill.

However, I understand that despite improvements to the bill, there was a rush to bring it to the floor. The Judiciary Committee held no hearings or markups on the bill. At a minimum, the committee could have sought the input of FBI Director Mueller when he appeared before our committee last Tuesday. Unfortunately, however, we were not aware of the majority desire to move this legislation at that time.

The subprime mortgage crisis has taken a toll on millions of Americans across the country. Inflated housing prices, combined with fluctuating mortgage interest rates, have left many homeowners struggling to make their monthly mortgage payments or, worse, facing foreclosure on their homes.

Many factors have contributed to this crisis, including predatory lending by corrupt lenders, mortgage fraud and even foreclosure fraud. Estimated losses for mortgage fraud are between 4 and 6 billion dollars, with $813 million in losses in fiscal year 2007 alone.

According to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the western region of the United States led the Nation with 37 percent of mortgage fraud-related reports filed during fiscal year 2007. States with the most significant mortgage fraud problems in 2008 include Florida, Nevada, Michigan, California, Utah, Georgia, Virginia, Illinois, New York and Minnesota. Other States significantly affected by mortgage fraud included Arizona, Maryland, Utah, Nevada, Missouri, Indiana, Tennessee, Virginia, New Jersey and Connecticut.

Clearly this is a nationwide problem. The FBI has been actively investigating mortgage fraud since 1999. In his testimony before our Judiciary Committee last week, FBI Director Robert Mueller informed us that 42 FBI mortgage fraud task forces are currently handling 1,400 mortgage fraud investigations across the country. This includes 24 investigations into large-scale corporate fraud. The FBI's Operation Malicious Mortgage is an immense multiagency operation focused primarily on three types of mortgage fraud, lending fraud, foreclosure rescue schemes and mortgage-related bankruptcy schemes.

As of June, this operation has nabbed more than 400 defendants, 173 convictions, and 81 sentencings in crimes accounting for more than $1 billion in estimated losses. Just last month, in my home State of North Carolina, four defendants were indicted in Federal court for using various fraud schemes, including inflated property values and false representations to lenders to secure financing for the purchase of property and mobile homes.

H.R. 6853 lends additional support to the FBI for its mortgage fraud investigations and provides additional tools to State and local law enforcement. The bill designates the chief of the FBI's Financial Crimes Section as the nationwide mortgage fraud coordinator and directs her to oversee all mortgage fraud investigations, provide additional training to State and local law enforcement, and collect and report annual mortgage fraud data to the Congress.

Again, I thank my colleagues for amending the bill to address our objections and concerns, and I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

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

Ms. SUTTON. Mr. Speaker, at this time it's my honor to yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Florida, the sponsor of this bill, Mr. MEEK.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. I want to thank the gentlewoman from the great State of Ohio for yielding to me and my good friend from North Carolina. Both of their explanations about H.R. 6853 are very accurate of the situation.

Mr. Speaker, we have a number of Americans that are trying to get homes or tried to get homes, and we have individuals that are preying upon them. This is really one of the most egregious white-collar crimes that are out there right now.

With this bill, it will give the FBI some direction in working with local law enforcement to bring about the kind of coordination we need in our country to be able to assist Americans or be able to save Americans from falling victim to mortgage fraud.

In my community alone, in Miami-Dade County, there was a task force set up. Just last year, they were able to not only arrest 71 individuals, but they were able to generate more cases because of the coordination they have and expertise that they have, but that's a metropolitan city. With this legislation, it will bring about the coordination of smaller police departments and also prosecutor offices that will be able to move faster on these mortgage crimes.

Many of the Members have been given the statistics that have plagued our country thus far, but this legislation is very, very urgent. Right now, we are facing a crisis on Wall Street, but we have a number of Americans that are facing a crisis because they have been had by those that are out there preying upon them and that are coordinating themselves in a more detailed way than law enforcement at

this time. But we are catching up and legislation, like the legislation that is before us, will allow us to do so.

I want to commend the FBI for what they have been able to do thus far. With this legislation, it will give even more focus to mortgage fraud.

Also, I just want to state for the record that we have been in communication with the FBI. They are fully aware of this. I think the reason why we have an amendment, this bill has been amended, is the fact that the coordinator will serve better than just an overall task force that will create regional task forces, that will then come back to the Congress and give us some legislative ideas on how we can even pinpoint more efforts towards this particular crime.

As you know, many, many Americans, many Americans have saved up their money to be able to purchase their first home. Many of these individuals that are out there coordinating to take their money, to take their life savings, to be able to take every little thing that they have punched in for and punched out for many, many years, some of them have taken the money their loved ones left for them once they have passed on to be able to buy that first home, and for them to be taken advantage of is one of the bad things that we look at in our society.

We do know we have undesirables out there that are willing to prey on hard-working Americans. This legislation is urgent. It's right now for the moment.

I am glad we are on the floor. I want to thank the chairman of the committee, and, also, our colleagues on the other side of the aisle, for working to push this legislation to passage here in the House and hopefully through the Senate and on to the President of the United States, so that we don't have to continue to see the number of victims, especially seniors and especially first-time home buyers, fall victim to these individuals that are out there.

I ask for the Members to please support H.R. 6853, the legislation that would create a nationwide mortgage coordinator in the FBI.

□ 1430

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BROUN).

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that people who commit fraud should be held responsible at the highest degree. I think the greatest form of fraud that we have in America and has been part of the problem that has created this financial crisis is an act passed by Congress called the Community Development Act. This has created a system that people are fraudulently giving mortgages, but it has also created a system where groups, community development organizations such as Acorn are holding financial institutions hostage. They use threats, extortion and bribes to try to get these financial institutions to give loans to people who can't pay, and it has created a system in America that has caused a meltdown in our whole financial system.

If we are going to start dealing with fraud in America, we need to start dealing with the greatest source of fraud, and the Community Development Act is one of those. We need to repeal the Community Development Act. We need to stop Acorn and other types of organizations like this from threatening our financial institutions. We need to put America back on a strong financial basis. Only by repealing the Community Development Act will we do so. We have to find solutions. We can't just play around the edges as we are doing now.

We will be voting on a bill very shortly to try to bail out financial institutions in America. I am very skeptical of the bill, frankly. But we do know that there are some very inherent problems in bills that were passed by this House as well as the Senate and put into law.

We need to repeal the Community Development Act as well as other acts such as that which have created this house of cards financially that is collapsing around our ears.

Ms. SUTTON. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire how many more speakers the gentleman from North Carolina has.

Mr. COBLE. I have no more speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. SUTTON. I thank the distinguished gentleman from North Carolina.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 6853 is an important bill that addresses a large problem that is facing our communities and families. I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. SUTTON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6853, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

ELDER ABUSE VICTIMS ACT OF 2008

Ms. SUTTON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5352) to protect seniors in the United States from elder abuse by establishing specialized elder abuse prosecution and research programs and activities to aid victims of elder abuse, to provide training to prosecutors and other law enforcement related to elder abuse prevention and protection, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5352

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Elder Abuse Victims Act of 2008''.

TITLE I—ELDER ABUSE VICTIMS

SEC. 101. ANALYSIS, REPORT, AND RECOMMENDATIONS RELATED TO ELDER JUSTICE PROGRAMS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the availability of appropriations to carry out this section, the Attorney General, in consultation with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, shall carry out the following:

(1) STUDY.—Conduct a study of laws and practices relating to elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation, which shall include—

(A) a comprehensive description of State laws and practices relating to elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation;

(B) a comprehensive analysis of the effectiveness of such State laws and practices; and

(C) an examination of State laws and practices relating to specific elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation issues, including—

(i) the definition of—

(I) ''elder'';

(II) ''abuse'';

(III) ''neglect'';

(IV) ''exploitation''; and

(V) such related terms the Attorney General determines to be appropriate;

(ii) mandatory reporting laws, with respect to—

(I) who is a mandated reporter;

(II) to whom must they report and within what time frame; and

(III) any consequences for not reporting;

(iii) evidentiary, procedural, sentencing, choice of remedies, and data retention issues relating to pursuing cases relating to elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation;

(iv) laws requiring reporting of all nursing home deaths to the county coroner or to some other individual or entity;

(v) fiduciary laws, including guardianship and power of attorney laws;

(vi) laws that permit or encourage banks and bank employees to prevent and report suspected elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation;

(vii) laws relating to fraud and related activities in connection with mail, telemarketing, or the Internet;

(viii) laws that may impede research on elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation;

(ix) practices relating to the enforcement of laws relating to elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation; and

(x) practices relating to other aspects of elder justice.

(2) DEVELOPMENT OF PLAN.—Develop objectives, priorities, policies, and a long-term plan for elder justice programs and activities relating to—

(A) prevention and detection of elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation;

(B) intervention and treatment for victims of elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation;

(C) training, evaluation, and research related to elder justice programs and activities; and

(D) improvement of the elder justice system in the United States.

(3) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, submit to the chairman and ranking member of the Special Committee on Aging of the Senate,

and the Speaker and minority leader of the House of Representatives, and the Secretary of Health and Human Services, and make available to the States, a report that contains—

(A) the findings of the study conducted under paragraph (1);

(B) a description of the objectives, priorities, policies, and a long-term plan developed under paragraph (2); and

(C) a list, description, and analysis of the best practices used by States to develop, implement, maintain, and improve elder justice systems, based on such findings.

(b) GAO RECOMMENDATIONS.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall report to Congress any recommendations with respect to any Federal legislation, regulations, or programs determined by the Comptroller General to be necessary to improve elder justice in the United States.

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section $6,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2009 through 2015.

SEC. 102. VICTIM ADVOCACY GRANTS.

(a) GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—The Attorney General, after consultation with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, may award grants to eligible entities to study the special needs of victims of elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation.

(b) AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES.—Funds awarded pursuant to subsection (a) shall be used for pilot programs that—

(1) develop programs for and provide training to health care, social, and protective services providers, law enforcement, fiduciaries (including guardians), judges and court personnel, and victim advocates; and

(2) examine special approaches designed to meet the needs of victims of elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation.

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section $3,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2009 through 2015.

SEC. 103. SUPPORTING LOCAL PROSECUTORS AND COURTS IN ELDER JUSTICE MATTERS.

(a) GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—Subject to the availability of appropriations under this section, the Attorney General, after consultation with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, shall award grants to eligible entities to provide training, technical assistance, policy development, multidisciplinary coordination, and other types of support to local prosecutors and courts handling elder justice-related cases, including—

(1) funding specially designated elder justice positions or units in local prosecutors' offices and local courts; and

(2) funding the creation of a Center for the Prosecution of Elder Abuse, Neglect, and Exploitation to advise and support local prosecutors and courts nationwide in the pursuit of cases involving elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation.

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section $6,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2009 through 2015.

SEC. 104. SUPPORTING STATE PROSECUTORS AND COURTS IN ELDER JUSTICE MATTERS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the availability of appropriations under this section, the Attorney General, after consultation with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, shall award grants to eligible entities to provide training, technical assistance, multidisciplinary coordination, policy development, and other types of support to State prosecutors and courts, employees of State Attorneys General, and Medicaid Fraud Control Units handling elder justice-related matters.

(b) CREATING SPECIALIZED POSITIONS.—Grants under this section may be made for—

(1) the establishment of specially designated elder justice positions or units in State prosecutors' offices and State courts; and

(2) the creation of a position to coordinate elder justice-related cases, training, technical assistance, and policy development for State prosecutors and courts.

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section $6,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2009 through 2015.

SEC. 105. SUPPORTING LAW ENFORCEMENT IN ELDER JUSTICE MATTERS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the availability of appropriations under this section, the Attorney General, after consultation with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, the Postmaster General, and the Chief Postal Inspector for the United States Postal Inspection Service, shall award grants to eligible entities to provide training, technical assistance, multidisciplinary coordination, policy development, and other types of support to police, sheriffs, detectives, public safety officers, corrections personnel, and other first responders who handle elder justice-related matters, to fund specially designated elder justice positions or units designed to support first responders in elder justice matters.

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section $8,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2009 through 2015.

SEC. 106. EVALUATIONS.

(a) GRANTS UNDER THIS TITLE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the grant programs under this title, the Attorney General shall—

(A) require each recipient of a grant to use a portion of the funds made available through the grant to conduct a validated evaluation of the effectiveness of the activities carried out through the grant by such recipient; or

(B) as the Attorney General considers appropriate, use a portion of the funds available under this title for a grant program under this title to provide assistance to an eligible entity to conduct a validated evaluation of the effectiveness of the activities carried out through such grant program by each of the grant recipients.

(2) APPLICATIONS.—

(A) SUBMISSION.—To be eligible to receive a grant under this title, an entity shall submit an application to the Attorney General at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Attorney General may require, which shall include—

(i) a proposal for the evaluation required in accordance with paragraph (1)(A); and

(ii) the amount of assistance under paragraph (1)(B) the entity is requesting, if any.

(B) REVIEW AND ASSISTANCE.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—An employee of the Department of Justice, after consultation with an employee of the Department of Health and Human Services with expertise in evaluation methodology, shall review each application described in subparagraph (A) and determine whether the methodology described in the proposal under subparagraph (A)(i) is adequate to gather meaningful information.

(ii) DENIAL.—If the reviewing employee determines the methodology described in such proposal is inadequate, the reviewing employee shall recommend that the Attorney General deny the application for the grant, or make recommendations for how the application should be amended.

(iii) NOTICE TO APPLICANT.—If the Attorney General denies the application on the basis of such proposal, the Attorney General shall inform the applicant of the reasons the application was denied, and offer assistance to the applicant in modifying the proposal.

(b) OTHER GRANTS.—Subject to the availability of appropriations under this section, the Attorney General shall award grants to appropriate entities to conduct validated evaluations of grant activities that are funded by Federal funds not provided under this title, or other funds, to reduce elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation.

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section $7,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2009 through 2015.

SEC. 107. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) ELDER.—The term ''elder'' means an individual age 60 or older.

(2) ELDER JUSTICE.—The term ''elder justice'' means—

(A) from a societal perspective, efforts to—

(i) prevent, detect, treat, intervene in, and prosecute elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation; and

(ii) protect elders with diminished capacity while maximizing their autonomy; and

(B) from an individual perspective, the recognition of an elder's rights, including the right to be free of abuse, neglect, and exploitation.

(3) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—The term ''eligible entity'' means a State or local government agency, Indian tribe or tribal organization, or any other public or nonprofit private entity that is engaged in and has expertise in issues relating to elder justice or a field necessary to promote elder justice efforts.

TITLE II—ELDER SERVE VICTIM GRANT PROGRAMS

SEC. 201. ESTABLISHMENT OF ELDER SERVE VICTIM GRANT PROGRAMS.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Attorney General, acting through the Director of the Office of Victims of Crime of the Department of Justice (in this section referred to as the ''Director''), shall, subject to appropriations, carry out a three-year grant program to be known as the Elder Serve Victim grant program (in this section referred to as the ''Program'') to provide grants to eligible entities to establish programs to facilitate and coordinate programs described in subsection (e) for victims of elder abuse.

(b) ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR GRANTEES.—To be eligible to receive a grant under the Program, an entity must meet the following criteria:

(1) ELIGIBLE CRIME VICTIM ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.—The entity is a crime victim assistance program receiving a grant under the Victims of Crime Act of 1984 (42 U.S.C. 1401 et seq.) for the period described in subsection (c)(2) with respect to the grant sought under this section.

(2) COORDINATION WITH LOCAL COMMUNITY BASED AGENCIES AND SERVICES.—The entity shall demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Director that such entity has a record of community coordination or established contacts with other county and local services that serve elderly individuals.

(3) ABILITY TO CREATE ECRT ON TIMELY BASIS.—The entity shall demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Director the ability of the entity to create, not later than 6 months after receiving such grant, an Emergency Crisis Response Team program described in subsection (e)(1) and the programs described in subsection (e)(2).

For purposes of meeting the criteria described in paragraph (2), for each year an entity receives a grant under this section the entity shall provide a record of community

coordination or established contacts described in such paragraph through memoranda of understanding, contracts, subcontracts, and other such documentation.

(c) ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.—

(1) CONSULTATION.—Each program established pursuant to this section shall be developed and carried out in consultation with the following entities, as appropriate:

(A) Relevant Federal, State, and local public and private agencies and entities, relating to elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation and other crimes against elderly individuals.

(B) Local law enforcement including police, sheriffs, detectives, public safety officers, corrections personnel, prosecutors, medical examiners, investigators, and coroners.

(C) Long term care and nursing facilities.

(2) GRANT PERIOD.—Grants under the Program shall be issued for a three-year period.

(3) LOCATIONS.—The Program shall be carried out in six geographically and demographically diverse locations, taking into account—

(A) the number of elderly individuals residing in or near an area; and

(B) the difficulty of access to immediate short-term housing and health services for victims of elder abuse.

(d) PERSONNEL.—In providing care and services, each program established pursuant to this section may employ a staff to assist in creating an Emergency Crisis Response Teams under subsection (e)(1).

(e) USE OF GRANTS.—

(1) EMERGENCY CRISIS RESPONSE TEAM.—Each entity that receives a grant under this section shall use such grant to establish an Emergency Crisis Response Team program by not later than the date that is six months after the entity receives the grant. Under such program the following shall apply:

(A) Such program shall include immediate, short-term emergency services, including shelter, care services, food, clothing, transportation to medical or legal appointment as appropriate, and any other life-services deemed necessary by the entity for victims of elder abuse.

(B) Such program shall provide services to victims of elder abuse, including those who have been referred to the program through the adult protective services agency of the local law enforcement or any other relevant law enforcement or referral agency.

(C) A victim of elder abuse may not receive short-term housing under the program for more than 30 consecutive days.

(D) The entity that established the program shall enter into arrangements with the relevant local law enforcement agencies so that the program receives quarterly reports from such agencies on elder abuse.

(2) ADDITIONAL SERVICES REQUIRED TO BE PROVIDED.—Not later than one year after the date an entity receives a grant under this section, such entity shall have established the following programs (and community collaborations to support such programs):

(A) COUNSELING.—A program that provides counseling and assistance for victims of elder abuse accessing health care, educational, pension, or other benefits for which seniors may be eligible under Federal or applicable State law.

(B) MENTAL HEALTH SCREENING.—A program that provides mental health screenings for victims of elder abuse to identify and seek assistance for potential mental health disorders such as depression or substance abuse.

(C) EMERGENCY LEGAL ADVOCACY.—A program that provides legal advocacy for victims of elder abuse and, as appropriate, their families.

(D) JOB PLACEMENT ASSISTANCE.—A program that provides job placement assistance and information on employment, training, or volunteer opportunities for victims of elder abuse.

(E) BEREAVEMENT COUNSELING.—A program that provides bereavement counseling for families of victims of elder abuse.

(F) OTHER SERVICES.—A program that provides such other care, services, and assistance as the entity considers appropriate for purposes of the program.

(f) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Director shall enter into contracts with private entities with experience in elder abuse coordination or victim services to provide such technical assistance to grantees under this section as the entity determines appropriate.

(g) REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 12 months after the commencement of the Program, and annually thereafter, the entity shall submit a report to the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives, and the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Special Committee on Aging of the Senate. Each report shall include the following:

(1) A description and assessment of the implementation of the Program.

(2) An assessment of the effectiveness of the Program in providing care and services to seniors, including a comparative assessment of effectiveness for each of the locations designated under subsection (c)(3) for the Program.

(3) An assessment of the effectiveness of the coordination for programs described in subsection (e) in contributing toward the effectiveness of the Program.

(4) Such recommendations as the entity considers appropriate for modifications of the Program in order to better provide care and services to seniors.

(h) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section:

(1) ELDER ABUSE.—The term ''elder abuse'' means any type of violence or abuse, whether mental or physical, inflicted upon an elderly individual, and any type of criminal financial exploitation of an elderly individual.

(2) ELDERLY INDIVIDUAL.—The term ''elderly individual'' means an individual who is age 60 or older.

(i) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated for the Department of Justice to carry out this section $3,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2009 through 2011.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. SUTTON) and the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. COBLE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Ohio.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. SUTTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. SUTTON. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, it is estimated that each year perhaps as many as 5 million elders are abused, neglected and exploited. And the incidence of elder abuse is likely to only get worse in coming years as 76 million baby boomers reach retirement age.

The legal protections against elder abuse vary significantly from State to State, and the National Center on Elder Abuse has estimated that only one in six cases even gets reported. H.R. 5352, the Elder Abuse Victims Act of 2008, is sponsored by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SESTAK).

H.R. 5352 will help provide training, technical assistance and other support to State and local law enforcement officials to help them catch and prosecute those who prey on elders. This bill will authorize funding for specialized elder justice police officers and units, as well as for special elder justice positions and units within State and local prosecutors' offices and courts.

It will also help provide other services to elders who are victimized. In addition to training for health care, social, and protective service providers, it establishes an Elder Serve Victim Grant Program with regional emergency crisis response teams. These teams will provide short term emergency service to elder victims, including shelter, care, food, clothing, transportation to legal or medical appointments, and other life services as warranted.

Finally, it asks the Attorney General and the GAO to examine State and Federal laws and recommend ways to more effectively address this outrageous and growing problem.

In addition to Congressman SESTAK, I also want to commend the gentleman from Illinois, RAHM EMANUEL, and the gentleman from New York, PETER KING, and the distinguished gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. YARMUTH) for their leadership in making this a bipartisan initiative. I urge my colleagues to support it.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5352, the Elder Abuse Victims Act of 2008. I wish to thank my colleagues on the other side of the aisle for having worked with the Judiciary Committee Republicans to address our concern with this bill. I am pleased that we now have legislation before us that enjoys bipartisan support.

Elder abuse is a serious problem facing our older Americans. Adults over the age of 50 account for 12 percent of our Nation's murder victims and 7 percent of other serious and violent crime victims, and our eldest seniors, those over 80 years of age, are abused and neglected at two to three times the proportion of all other senior citizens.

With the population of people aged 85 or older expected to double by 8.9 million by the year 2030, the problem is inevitably sure to grow. H.R. 5352, the Elder Abuse Victims Act, seeks to curb these acts of abuse against the elderly. The bill authorizes grants to State and local law enforcement, prosecutors, and courts to aid in the investigation and prosecution of elder abuse.

The bill directs the Justice Department to complete a study of State laws and practices relating to elder abuse,

neglect and exploitation. The bill also directs the Department to develop a long-term plan addressing the prevention and detection of elder abuse, intervention and treatment of victims, and training and evaluation of elder abuse programs. The National Institute of Justice within the Department has been studying elder justice issues for several years and issued a preliminary report on the subject in 2006. It is fitting that the National Institute of Justice continue its work and undertake the study directed by this legislation.

During the Judiciary Committee markup of H.R. 5352, we expanded the scope of these grants to include identity theft, mail fraud, and telemarketing fraud as additional types of victimization for elder abuse grants. The bill now also authorizes the Department of Justice to award grants for electronic monitoring of older Americans. These funds will support monitoring programs offered by local law enforcement agencies and first responders to locate missing elderly.

These changes, among others, have improved H.R. 5352 and will assist States with protecting our senior citizens and prosecuting elder abuse.

I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SUTTON. Mr. Speaker, I am the last speaker on my side, so I reserve the balance of my time to close.

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

Ms. SUTTON. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 5352, the Elder Abuse Victims Act, is a good bill. Our seniors deserve to know that we are doing everything we can to protect them from abuse. I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of Elder Abuse Victims Act of 2008, which includes the ElderServe Act, which I introduced last May to protect our Nation's senior citizens from abuse through better coordination of services.

In my hometown of Louisville, for over half a century, we've seen first-hand as ElderServe Inc, a local non-profit, has facilitated the coordination necessary for thousands and thousands of seniors to have peace in their golden years.

One of the many areas that ElderServe has excelled is providing emergency services to seniors who experience physical or psychological abuse and neglect—problems that afflict more than two million victims nationwide.

Experts estimate that only 20 percent of all cases of elder abuse are reported. Still 70 percent of the caseload at Adult Protective Services comes from victims over the age of 65. These instances of abuse and neglect know no boundaries, affecting men and women across all racial, social, socio-economic, and geographic divides. And with the country's 76 million baby boomers approaching retirement age, the problems will only intensify if we don't create a network equipped to respond.

The ElderServe Act will create Emergency Crisis Response Teams, or ECRT's, that foster community collaboration between existing services and consolidating services for elder abuse victims. In most communities, victims of elder abuse have great difficulty navigating services and aid. But in Louisville, ECRT's have been incredibly successful in bringing various entities together to provide immediate help and services to elder abuse victims. The approach ensures that elder abuse victims no longer fall through the cracks and are given the housing, healthcare, and follow up they need. For those who cannot go to law enforcement, law enforcement will come to them.

The ElderServe Act authorizes the creation of pilot programs that will coordinate local law enforcement, short-term housing placements, bereavement services, adult protective services, legal advocacy services, job placement assistance, health care, and other services.

If the program is infused with same passion and care as we have seen in Louisville; if we provide necessary resources, we will have created a reliable place that a senior can turn to, anywhere in the Nation, to recover from and also to prevent elder abuse.

America's seniors spent decades working, contributing, and raising families in our communities. Yet each day thousands are assaulted or neglected, with nowhere to turn but an overtaxed, under-coordinated system. For many they receive help too late or not at all. Many give up waiting for help, and others never seek assistance in the first place. The ElderServe Act can change all that. I, therefore, strongly urge my colleagues to join me in supporting Elder Abuse Victims Act and working to eliminate elder abuse forever.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker. I rise today in strong support of H.R. 5352, the "Elder Abuse Victims Act of 2008". This bills addresses health and safety issues for elders. This bill will protect the most vulnerable members of our society: the elderly.

I strongly support this bill and have authored an amendment that was accepted in Committee. I will discuss more about my amendment later. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Each year in the United States, between one-half million to five million elders are abused, neglected or exploited. Experts agree that most cases are never reported. Data collected on the problem is minimal, and there has been no comprehensive national approach to solving the many problems. In fact, the House has held only one hearing on elder abuse, over 16 years ago, in 1991. These problems likely will increase in the next 30 years, as 76 million baby boomers approach retirement.

H.R. 5352 establishes a national Elder Justice Coordinating Council and Advisory Board on Elder Abuse, Neglect, and Exploitation. Its purpose is to protect seniors in the United States from elder abuse by establishing specialized elder abuse prosecution and research programs and providing training for law enforcement and prosecutors.

My amendment, which was included at the Committee, allows a voluntary electronic monitoring pilot program to assist with the elderly when they are reported missing. Specifically, my amendment allows the Attorney General, in consultation with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, to issue grants to states and local government to carry out pilot programs to provide voluntary electronic monitoring services to elderly individuals to assist in the location of such individuals when they are reported missing. This amendment helps elderly people. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Ms. SUTTON. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. SUTTON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5352, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

COMMEMORATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AZOREAN REFUGEE ACT OF 1958

Ms. SUTTON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1438) commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Azorean Refugee Act of 1958 and celebrating the extensive contributions of Portuguese-American communities to the United States.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1438

Whereas from September 27, 1957, until October 24, 1958, a series of violent eruptions and earthquakes that amounted to a natural calamity destroyed the economic infrastructure in Faial Island, Portugal, and impacted all of the 9 islands in the Azores archipelago;

Whereas most of Faial Island's 25,000 people lost their livelihoods in the midst of fumes, smoke, lava, and constant earthquakes, and had no choice but to escape to other islands in the Azores;

Whereas the United States offered a helping hand to the distressed people of the Azores by introducing and passing the Azorean Refugee Act, spearheaded by Senators John Pastore of Rhode Island and John F. Kennedy of Massachusetts, which became Public Law 85–892;

Whereas the Azorean Refugee Act made 1,500 special nonquota immigrant visas available to the destitute victims of the Capelinhos Volcano in the Azores, and was extended until 1962 to allow the entry of an even greater number of refugees;

Whereas the eruption of the Capelinhos Volcano led to a wave of Portuguese immigration that brought more than 175,000 Azoreans to the United States between 1960 and 1980;

Whereas according to the United States Census from the year 2000, there were 1,176,615 Portuguese-Americans in the United States, and the vast majority of these were of Azorean descent;

Whereas major communities of Portuguese-Americans of Azorean descent can be found in southeastern New England; the areas around San Francisco, San Diego, and the San Joaquin Valley, California; Hawaii; and the New Jersey/New York metropolitan area;

Whereas these recent immigrants have built on the work initiated by earlier arrivals, and through their remarkable work

ethic have, among other activities, distinguished themselves in farming and fishing;

Whereas by the 1970s, roughly half of all dairy farms in the San Joaquin Valley were owned and operated by Portuguese-Americans and contributed to making California the number one dairy producing State in the Nation;

Whereas the Portuguese of the American east coast have dominated the fishing industry, and contributed to making New Bedford, Massachusetts, one of our Nation's greatest seaports;

Whereas Portuguese immigrants and their descendants have contributed substantially to American workforce, leadership, and culture, and produced successful physicians, lawyers, and university professors;

Whereas in the public sector, Portuguese-Americans have become legislators at the local, State, and Federal level, State attorney generals, justices, judges, and successful lawyers, and are members of school committees and boards, as well as city councils;

Whereas as the governor of California, Ronald Reagan proclaimed the 2nd week of March as Portuguese Immigrant Week in 1969; and

Whereas President John F. Kennedy recognized that immigrants coming from the Azores had made excellent contributions to our Nation as citizens: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) commemorates the 50th anniversary of the Azorean Refugee Act of 1958;

(2) celebrates the Azorean Refugee Act of 1958 as worthy and admirable legislation that represented America at its finest, reaching out to people in need; and

(3) recognizes the momentous contributions of Portuguese immigrants and their descendants to the United States, who have so greatly enriched our Nation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. SUTTON) and the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. COBLE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Ohio.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. SUTTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. SUTTON. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H. Res. 1438 is sponsored by our colleagues from California, Representatives NUNES and COSTA.

H. Res. 1438 commemorates the 50th anniversary of the Azorean Refugee Act of 1958, and celebrates the extensive contributions of Portuguese-American communities to the United States.

From September 27, 1957, until October 24, 1958, a series of violent disruptions and earthquakes destroyed the infrastructure of Faial Island, in Portgual's Azores archipelago, and impacted the other eight islands in the Azores as well.

The majority of the Faial Island's 25,000 people lost their livelihoods in the midst of fumes, smoke, lava and constant earthquakes, and had no choice but to escape to other islands in the Azores.

The United States, as we so often have in crises of these magnitudes, offered a helping hand to the distressed people of the region through the Azorean Refugee Act. This was spearheaded by Senators John Pastore of Rhode Island and John F. Kennedy of Massachusetts.

The Azorean Refugee Act made 1,500 special non-quota immigrant visas available to the destitute victims of the Capelinhos Volcano in the Azores. It was later extended to allow entry of an even greater number of refugees.

As a result, more than 175,000 Azoreans came to the United States between 1960 and 1980. The 2000 census placed the total number of Portuguese Americans at 1,176,615. The vast majority of these are of Azorean descent.

The communities founded by those immigrants can be found in southeastern New England, the areas around San Francisco, San Diego, and San Joaquin Valley, California, Hawaii, and the New Jersey/New York metropolitan area.

In a very short period of time, these immigrants have built on the accomplishments of earlier arrivals. Through their remarkable work ethic, they have distinguished themselves in innumerable fields of endeavor, especially in farming and fishing. By the 1970s, roughly half of all of the dairy farms in the San Joaquin Valley were owned and operated by Portuguese Americans, helping to make California the number one dairy-producing State in the Nation.

□ 1445

On the East Coast, Portuguese-Americans have played a prominent role in the fishing industry, and contributed to making New Bedford, Massachusetts one of our Nation's greatest seaports.

Portuguese immigrants and their descendants have contributed substantially to this Nation. They are leaders in business, culture and many other professions. They are found in every level of government and in our military, proudly serve the Nation that offered them a helping hand when they needed it most.

This Nation has been repaid many times over during the last half century by these immigrants from the Azores and their descendents. Their success story is a demonstration of just what makes our country so great and so strong. By welcoming people with talent and initiative from around the world, we have become a better nation. The Azoreans are a prime example of just how important this has been to the United States over the generations.

I am pleased to stand with my colleagues to mark the 50th anniversary of the Azorean Refugee Act of 1958. It is fitting that we honor this group of Americans and recall how well they have repaid our generosity and our openness. It is a lesson for our generation and for future generations.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I support this resolution. H. Res. 1438, Mr. Speaker, commemorates the 50th anniversary of the Azorean Refugee Act of 1958, and celebrates the contributions that Portuguese-Americans have made to the United States.

In the late 1950s a series of volcanic eruptions and earthquakes devastated the Portuguese Azorean islands. In an important humanitarian gesture, the United States absorbed thousands of Azorean refugees following the enactment of the Azorean Refugee Act of 1958.

Since that time, hundreds of thousands of Azoreans and other Portuguese have migrated to the United States. They have made important contributions to many aspects of American society and the American economy. They are most well-known for their contributions to America's fishing and dairy industries.

President Jaime Gama of the Portuguese Parliament, the Assembly of the Republic, is currently heading a delegation visiting Washington. This is a perfect opportunity for us to pass H. Res. 1438 to commemorate the Azorean Refugee Act, and to acknowledge the continuing friendship between the American and the Portuguese people.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SUTTON. Mr. Speaker, at this time it is my honor to yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. COSTA).

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, today it is my honor to rise in strong support of House Resolution 1438, which commemorates, as noted by the two previous speakers, the 50th anniversary of the Azorean Refugee Act of 1958.

This resolution is sponsored by the Portuguese Caucus, my colleagues and good friend Congressman DEVIN NUNES and Congressman DENNIS CARDOZA. We've worked on this together, not only to take note of this significant anniversary, but also to coordinate with our guests, the President of the Portuguese Parliament and three members of the House of Deputies.

It was September 27, 1957, when the island of Faial experienced a series of volcanic eruptions that lasted for over a year and shattered the economic infrastructure of that island, and had impacts throughout the Archipelago.

During that time, two great United States Senators, John Pastore of Rhode Island, who represented a large Portuguese constituency, and Senator John F. Kennedy of Massachusetts, later to become the 35th President of the United States, offered to help those who were suffering as a result of this natural event that devastated the islands. They did so by drafting and passing the law of Azorean Refugee Act of 1958.

It made available special non-quota immigrant visas available to the victims of the earthquakes and volcanoes, and it was extended until 1963, that allowed even more refugees to come to the United States.

Between 1960 and 1980, over 175,000 Azoreans have come to establish and develop their roots in the United States and, at the same time, maintain their family relationships to their friends and their members of their families in the Azores and in Portugal. In fact, the 2000 U.S. Census showed that there were almost 2 million Portuguese-Americans in the United States, many of them of Azorean descent.

Mr. Speaker, these Portuguese immigrants have contributed greatly to the fabric of our Nation, not only in the Northeast and New England, but in California as well. As has been noted, they have participated in all walks of life. In my district and Mr. CARDOZA and Mr. NUNES' the Portuguese-Americans have been dominant in the San Joaquin Valley, not just in the dairy industry, but yes, they've also become teachers and doctors and judges and yes, even Members of Congress.

The Portuguese culture is thriving in the San Joaquin Valley, and there are many festas throughout the year, family reunions, the exchanges of those traditions and the ties that bind us quite well.

It's important to note that we have, as I mentioned a moment ago, a visiting delegation. Up in the gallery we have the President of the Assembly of the Republic of Portugal, President Jaime Gama. With him are the former Speaker, Joao Moto Amaral, next to him is a member of the House of Deputies, Antonio Filipe, as well as Ricardo Rodrigues. And we're very appreciative that they be could be here to witness this 50th anniversary and this acknowledgment, because we need to understand that it's more than just like immigrants before and immigrants since. We have had a solid relationship with Portugal with the largest Air Force base, military strategic diplomatic involvement as it relates to just not Europe but the Middle East and Africa, all very vital to America's interests.

Again, we want to recognize all those Portuguese-Americans for their contributions to our Nation, the Azoreans who came to America under this Azorean Refugee Act. We want to thank our Portuguese Caucus, Congressman NUNES, CARDOZA, Congressman FRANK, Congressman KENNEDY and MCGOVERN, all who are cosponsors of this resolution who represent significant Portuguese communities.

We also want to thank Chairman CONYERS, Ranking Member LAMAR SMITH and the leadership on both sides for moving this resolution in an expedited fashion through the committee process and onto the floor. We urge an ''aye'' vote.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman is reminded that it is improper to refer to guests in the gallery.

Ms. SUTTON. May I inquire how many more speakers the gentleman from North Carolina has?

Mr. COBLE. I have no more speakers, and I yield back, Mr. Speaker.

Ms. SUTTON. I thank my friend from North Carolina, not only for his work in support of this resolution, but for all the things that we're able to work together on in the Judiciary Committee.

Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 1438 is an important bill to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Azorean Refugee Act and celebrate the extensive contributions of Portuguese-American communities to our Nation.

I commend the distinguished gentleman, Mr. COSTA, for his leadership on this issue. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

Mr. NUNES. Mr. Speaker, I would like to begin by taking us back 50 years ago, to the islands of the Azores, in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean. At that time, the peaceful communities of these islands relied on each other to maintain their livelihood, and the mainly agrarian lifestyles of its peoples were sustained by this interconnectedness. Then, in 1957, a tragic and unexpected turn of events, brought about by a natural disaster, severely destabilized the lives of these proud and hard-working people.

It was September 27, 1957, when the island of Faial experienced a series of volcanic eruptions that lasted for over a year and immediately shattered its economic infrastructure. In its aftermath, the Capelinhos volcano left behind overwhelming material, physical and psychological damage.

The cohesive Portuguese communities already present in the United States at the time rallied behind the victims of this volcano, and unified into a great movement that called for special quotas to allow these victims into the United States. In 1958, in great part resulting from these efforts, Senator John Pastore from Rhode Island introduced S. 3942, the Azorean Refugee Act. This bill proposed the issuance of 1,500 non-quota visas to the Faial victims, providing relief in face of such devastating tragedy. Senator John Fitzgerald Kennedy cosponsored this bill, and along with Senator Pastore, became one of the leading proponents of this legislation. Their efforts finally materialized on August 18, 1958, when the Azorean Refugee Act was finally signed into law, becoming Public Law 85–892.

By November of 1959, the 1,500 special quota visas allowed by the Azorean Refugee Act had already been issued, with more than 3,000 persons from Faial having already immigrated to United States. With the rippling effects of the Capelinhos volcano still being felt in the Azores, the number of visas was elevated to 2,000 in 1960, and then in 1961, a new law permitted the entrance for 2,500 additional Azorean refugees. In total, more then 5,000 visas were issued, effectively shifting the formerly restrictive immigration laws of our country.

The Portuguese community's push to liberalize our immigration policies transformed this Act into one of the most important special laws in our history. In this sense, it was the most important contribution of the Portuguese-American community to the eventual reform of American immigration policy in 1965. As a direct result of the Azorean Refugee Act, the United States Government began to liberalize its immigration laws, and around 25,000 Portuguese citizens eventually immigrated to this country. This law revitalized the long history of Portuguese immigration to the United States, and once again, allowed our great Nation to benefit from the many qualities these people had to offer.

The immigrants arriving from the Azores reached the shores of the United States as manual laborers, and without much proper education they relied solely on the fruits of their hard work to earn their living. Portuguese immigrants distinguished themselves in farming, fishing, and other trades, and built for this Nation a solid foundation of honesty and pride in their work. Subsequent generations have rested upon this heritage to succeed in our society, with a great many Portuguese-American communities producing professors, lawyers, physicians, judges, politicians and other leading figures of our society.

Fifty years later, the admirable successes of Portuguese-American communities throughout California, New England, and elsewhere are a testament to their remarkable work ethic and integrity, which truly inspire us all. Their story is one of sweat, toils, and struggles before a new land, and in itself reflects the very spirit o$ this nation.

For all of that, this resolution recognizes the great importance, of the Azorean Refugee Act, and the vast contributions made by these Azorean communities, who truly turned tragedy into triumph. Let us never forget that America's strength rests on the inclusion of people from all parts of the world and in the generosity that flows from our ideals of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

Ms. SUTTON. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. SUTTON) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1438.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECOGNIZING AND HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF AARP

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1464) recognizing and honoring the 50th anniversary of the founding of AARP.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1464

Whereas AARP is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization with over 40 million members that is dedicated to improving the quality of life of people 50 and over as they age;

Whereas AARP was founded in 1958 by Ethel Percy Andrus, a retired educator from

California, around the principles of promoting independence, dignity and purpose for older Americans and encouraging current and future generations ''To Serve, not to be served'';

Whereas AARP's vision is ''A society in which everyone ages with dignity and purpose and in which AARP helps people fulfill their goals and dreams'';

Whereas AARP's mission is dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for all as we age, leading positive social change and delivering value to members through information, advocacy, and service;

Whereas AARP's nonpartisan advocacy activities help millions of individuals participate in the Nation's legislative, judicial, and administrative processes;

Whereas AARP is a trusted source of reliable information on health, financial security, and other important issues of the 50+ population;

Whereas AARP provides an opportunity for volunteerism and service for its millions of members to better their families, communities, and the Nation;

Whereas AARP Services is a leader in the marketplace by being a force influencing companies to offer new and better services for AARP's members;

Whereas AARP Foundation, its philanthropic arm, delivers information, education, and direct service program to the most vulnerable age 50+ Americans;

Whereas AARP Foundation's Tax Aide, the Nation's largest, free, volunteer-run tax preparation program has helped over 40 million low- and middle-income taxpayers;

Whereas AARP Foundation's job placement program has helped over 400,000 low-income older Americans find jobs, giving them purpose and dignity;

Whereas AARP's Driver Safety Program has helped over 10 million old drivers sharpen their driving skills; and

Whereas, in 2008, its 50th anniversary, AARP renews its commitment to improving the quality of life for all older Americans and helping people of all generations fulfill their goals and dreams: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives recognizes and commends AARP for 50 years of outstanding service, promoting the lives and retirement security of older persons age 50 and older, and to future generations for aging Americans.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. DAVIS) and the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. BOUSTANY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I request 5 legislative days during which Members may revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous material on House Resolution 1464 into the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

Mrs. DAVIS of California. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor and privilege that I rise in support of House Resolution 1464 in commemoration and recognition of the AARP's 50th anniversary.

In what started as a campaign to obtain affordable health care for retired teachers, AARP founder, Ethel Percy Andrus, began a movement dedicated to serving and advocating for its nearly 40 million members and all Americans over the age of 50. For the past 50 years, the AARP has advocated tirelessly to address the needs of the elderly, contributing immensely to the greater well-being of some of our most vulnerable citizens.

During this time, the AARP has also provided trusted research and information that continues to shape public policy. This national organization exemplifies the ideals of service and advocacy, and has been a tremendous force in enhancing opportunities for older Americans in their search for quality health care, pension and retirement security, financial and overall well-being.

In addition, I would also like to thank and congratulate AARP's CEO, Bill Novelli and the countless volunteers and staff for their leadership and commitment to furthering the organization's mission of a healthy and secure elderly population in the United States. I would like to extend my congratulations and appreciation to the AARP for their exceptional dedication and service, and I wish this organization continued success in years to come.

I urge the adoption of this resolution, and reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleague from California in support of House Resolution 1464, recognizing and honoring the 50th anniversary of the founding of the AARP. While I urge my colleagues to support this resolution, I must also remind all of my colleagues that we, in Congress, must do our part to serve our constituents over the age of 50 by approving an all-of-the-above comprehensive energy package that will put our Nation on the path to energy independence, a real energy policy, and not one that just pays lip service to parts and parcel of energy policy, one that really looks at solving our energy problems going forward.

With that, I would say that I urge my colleagues to support this resolution, and I urge my Democratic colleagues to work with us across the aisle and to serve those constituents that the AARP serves in approving essential energy policy as well.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BOUSTANY. I yield back.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor and privilege that I rise in support of H. Res. 1464, in commemoration and recognition of the AARP's 50th anniversary of providing outstanding service and advocacy on the behalf of America's aging citizens.

In what started as a campaign to attain affordable healthcare for retired teachers, AARP founder Ethel Percy Andrus began a movement that has become a committed organization championing the needs of nearly 40 million members and all Americans over the age of 50.

The AARP has enjoyed 50 years of nonpartisan advocacy for consumer rights, has provided trusted research and information that continues to shape public policy, and has addressed consumer needs of the elderly, contributing immensely to the greater necessities of some of our most vulnerable citizens.

This national organization exemplifies the ideals of service and outreach, and has been a tremendous force in enhancing opportunities for older Americans in their search for quality healthcare, pension and retirement security, financial and overall well-being.

I would like to extend my congratulations and appreciation to the AARP for their exceptional dedication and service, and I wish this organization continued success in the great work that they do for years to come.

I would also like to thank and congratulate AARP's CEO, Bill Novelli, and the countless volunteers and staff, for their leadership and commitment to furthering the organization's mission of a healthy and secure elderly population in the United States.

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of this resolution, and yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1464.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1500

ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION HURRICANE RECOVERY RELIEF

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6890) to extend the waiver authority for the Secretary of Education under section 105 of subtitle A of title IV of division B of Public Law 109–148, relating to elementary and secondary education hurricane recovery relief, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6890

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

SECTION 1. EXTENSION OF WAIVER AUTHORITY TO EASE FISCAL BURDENS.

Section 105 of subtitle A of title IV of division B of Public Law 109–148 (119 Stat. 2797) is amended—

(1) in the second sentence of subsection (b), by striking ''2008'' and inserting ''2009''; and

(2) in subsection (c)(2), by striking ''for fiscal year 2006 or 2007'' and inserting ''for any fiscal year''.

SEC. 2. HOLD HARMLESS FOR LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCIES SERVING MAJOR DISASTER AREAS.

In the case of a local educational agency that serves an area in which the President has declared that a major disaster exists in accordance with section 401 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170), related to severe storms, tornadoes, or flooding in the

Midwest or hurricanes in the Gulf of Mexico in calendar year 2008, the amount made available for such local educational agency under each of sections 1124, 1124A, 1125, and 1125A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6333, 6334, 6335, and 6337) for fiscal year 2009 shall be not less than the amount made available for such local educational agency under each of such sections for fiscal year 2008.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. DAVIS) and the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. BOUSTANY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I request 5 legislative days during which Members may revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous material into the RECORD on H.R. 6890.

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

There was no objection.

Mrs. DAVIS of California. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 6890 which will aid schools affected by Hurricanes Gustav, Ike, Katrina, and Rita in addition to those impacted by this summer's flooding in the Midwest.

This August marked the third year since Hurricanes Katrina and Rita struck the gulf coast. People lost their homes, their livelihoods, and their family members. Entire towns were leveled and cities emptied. While in the past 3 years, the affected States have made great strides towards normalcy, many school districts, many school districts still struggle to deal with the loss of students, teachers, facilities, and funding.

And only a few weeks ago, Hurricanes Gustav and Ike hit the still-recovering region causing an incredible amount of damage to its communities, the extent of which has yet to be fully realized. Many students are not yet back in their homes. Many schools were destroyed by the storms or by flooding. Many teachers have not yet returned, and much of the affected States' resources have gone to addressing other recovery needs.

It is not surprising that as a result of storms like these, school budgets are stretched thin and students' education suffers.

As part of the Hurricane Education Recovery Act of 2005, Congress granted the Secretary of Education the authority to waive several requirements in order to ease fiscal burdens on the States where a major disaster had been declared. These provisions have proved useful to all States affected by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita with Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas all applying for and receiving waivers.

This bill extends the waivers allowing Restart programs to be more flexible with their fiscal resources. It will allow schools in the affected regions to continue on their road to recovery by devoting funds to their most pressing needs so that they can better serve students who have been through so much in the past few years.

This bill also guarantees that schools affected by the most recent storms and flooding will maintain the same level of funding under Federal grant programs in the 2009 and 2010 school year as they received for the current school year. By allowing school districts to maintain their previous level of funding for the next year, this provision allows them to rebuild and prepare for the return of their students without having to deal with the additional challenge of reduced resources.

It reassures families that when they do return to their homes, their children's education will not suffer. By bringing students and families back to the region, it's an important step in helping those devastated areas recover and become vibrant communities once more.

Mr. Speaker, once again, I urge the adoption of H.R. 6890.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I rise today in support of H.R. 6890 which would extend the authority of the Secretary of Education to waive certain requirements for those States impacted by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. The legislation would also ensure that those school districts that experienced widespread damage by the severe storms, tornadoes, or flooding in the Midwest or hurricanes in the gulf coast receive the same amount of funding under the title I program as they did last year.

I want to thank my fellow members of the Louisiana delegation for working with me in introducing this bill and their ongoing work alongside with me to assist those impacted by the devastating natural disasters that have hit the gulf coast as well as the Midwest.

Mr. Speaker, the events over the past month when Hurricane Ike hit the Texas and Louisiana coast and Hurricane Gustav hit the Louisiana coast remind us of the damaging impact that natural disasters have on our Nation's residents and their local communities. As thousands of residents return to their homes and towns, they'll need help in rebuilding their houses and their livelihoods. Local elementary and secondary schools—both public and private—will need help in replacing textbooks and other instructional materials so that students can get back to learning and a little bit of normalcy.

Just over 3 years ago, our Nation experienced one of the worst disasters in our history when Hurricanes Katrina and Rita devastated Louisiana and the Mississippi gulf coast. More than 1,100 public and private schools were forced to close, and approximately 158,000 students were displaced as a direct result of the hurricanes. The loss of business and government infrastructure, jobs, and housing deprived school districts of local property taxes that normally fund school operations.

In the Midwest, we know that the massive flooding experienced over the summer in Iowa and recently in Illinois has devastated local communities and schools. Louisiana and Texas are still assessing the damage done as a result of Hurricanes Gustav and Ike, but the initial assessments paint a grim picture.

In the aftermath of these natural disasters, Congress should assist those public and private elementary, middle, and high schools that are struggling to re-open and re-enroll students for families returning to these devastated areas.

In 2006, we provided funds to States and public and private schools in the gulf region impacted by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita to replace instructional materials, recover student and personnel data systems, and other important services to get schools back up and running. We also guaranteed that those school districts in the gulf coast receive the same amount of funding under the title I program for fiscal year 2006 as they received for fiscal year 2005.

We provided the Secretary of Education with limited authority to waive certain financial requirements to ensure that those states that were heavily impacted by the destruction could use several funds to meet their financial commitments. These waivers have proven critical to the recovery of schools in several impacted areas and enabled them to access much-needed reconstruction funds.

The bill we have before us today, H.R. 6890, would extend this temporary authority for another fiscal year through September 30, 2009.

As we continue to assess the damage in the Midwest and along the gulf coast, similar to the assistance provided back in 2006, H.R. 6890 also guarantees that those school districts in the Midwest impacted by flooding and the gulf coast impacted by Hurricanes Gustav and Ike receive the same amount of funding under the title I program for this upcoming school year as they received for the last school year.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 6890. I'm thankful to the committee and to the gentlelady from California for bringing this resolution to the floor.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague, and I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I urge the adoption of H.R. 6890, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CLAY). The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6890, as amended.

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

The title was amended so as to read: ''A bill to extend the waiver authority for the Secretary of Education under section 105 of subtitle A of title IV of division B of Public Law 109–148, relating to elementary and secondary education hurricane recovery relief, and for other purposes.''.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS OF THE NATIONAL LEARN AND SERVE CHALLENGE

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1463) recognizing the benefits of service-learning as a teaching strategy to effectively engage youth in the community and classroom, and supporting the goals of the National Learn and Serve Challenge, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1463

Whereas service-learning is a teaching method that enhances academic learning by integrating classroom content with relevant activities aimed at addressing identified community or school needs;

Whereas service-learning has been used both in school and community-based settings as a teaching strategy to enhance learning by building on youth experiences, granting youth a voice in learning, and making instructional goals and objectives more relevant to youth;

Whereas service-learning has been identified as an effective tool in addressing the Nation's dropout epidemic by making education more hands-on and relevant, especially to disadvantaged youth;

Whereas service-learning provides great benefits to disadvantaged and at-risk youth by building self-confidence, which often translates into overall academic and personal success;

Whereas service-learning provides not only meaningful experiences, but a greater quantity and quality of interactions between youth and potential mentors in the community;

Whereas service-learning simultaneously empowers youth as both engaged learners and actively engaged citizens and contributors to the community;

Whereas youth engaged in service-learning provide critical service to the community by addressing a variety of needs in American towns, cities, and States, including needs such as tutoring for young children, elderly care, community nutrition, disaster relief, environmental stewardship, financial education, public safety, and a host of other needs;

Whereas far reaching and diverse research shows that service-learning enhances the academic, career, cognitive, and civic development of kindergarten through 12th-grade students, and of higher education students;

Whereas service-learning strengthens and increases the number of partnerships among institutions of higher education, local schools, and communities, which strengthen communities and improve academic learning;

Whereas service-learning programs unleash a multitude of skilled and enthusiastic college students to serve in the communities surrounding their colleges;

Whereas service-learning programs engage students in community-based research and are strengthening the ability of America's nonprofit organizations to meet community needs;

Whereas Learn and Serve America, the only federally funded program dedicated to service-learning, annually engages over 1,500,000 youth in service-learning;

Whereas Learn and Serve America engages these youth by leveraging public-private investment that leads to a highly cost-effective $25 per participant amount;

Whereas the National Learn and Serve Challenge is an annual event that takes place from October 6 through October 12 that spotlights the value of service-learning to youth as well as to schools, college campuses, and communities; and

Whereas the National Learn and Serve Challenge encourages others to launch service-learning activities, and increases the recognition of Learn and Serve America: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes the benefits of service-learning in enriching and enhancing academic outcomes for youth, engaging youth in positive experiences in the community, and making more constructive choices regarding their lives;

(2) encourages schools, school districts, college campuses, community-based organizations, non-profits, and faith-based organizations to work towards providing youth with more service-learning opportunities; and

(3) expresses support for the goals of the National Learn and Serve Challenge.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. DAVIS) and the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. BOUSTANY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I request 5 legislative days during which Members may revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous material on House Resolution 1463 into the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

Mrs. DAVIS of California. I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the benefits of service learning as a teaching strategy and to support the goals of the National Learn and Serve Challenge.

Service learning is an educational model that can be used from kindergarten to the university level across all subjects and disciplines. More than just community service, service learning challenges students to apply their classroom lessons by asking them to investigate a problem in their community, plan solutions, take action through service, and then reflect on their experience.

By integrating classroom learning with real-world challenges in the community, service learning can make school assignments come alive for our students. At the same time, we are also encouraging our young people to help improve our local neighborhoods. Studies have shown a connection between service learning and higher academic achievement, enhanced classroom engagement, increased attendance, better problem solving skills, and a deeper understanding of cognitive complexities.

Research also suggests that students involved in service-learning opportunities build self-confidence, leadership skills, and increase their tolerance of others. This all makes service learning a successful strategy in reducing negative behaviors such as those that lead to dropping out, arrest, or unintended pregnancies.

In addition, service learning promotes involvement in our democracy, development of strong ethics, and a sense of social responsibilities. For example, studies have shown that high school students that participated in service learning are more likely to vote 15 years after their experience than those that did not participate.

And finally, students who are exposed to service learning build important social and personal skills. Service learning is an onramp to civic engagement for a lifetime.

In order to call attention to the many benefits of service learning, the National Learn and Serve Challenge will take place October 6–12. This week-long nationwide celebration of service will raise awareness of service learning and foster collaborative partnerships between local schools, institutions of higher education, and their surrounding communities. The organization has set an ambitious goal of having 5 million college students and 50 percent of K–12 schools engaged in meaningful service by 2010.

Mr. Speaker, once again, I express my support for the National Learn and Serve Challenge, and I encourage more schools to take advantage of the many benefits service learning can have on our students and our communities.

I urge the adoption of this resolution.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I might consume.

I rise today in support of House Resolution 1463 which recognizes the benefits of service learning as a teaching strategy to effectively engage youth in the community and classroom, and it supports the goals of the National Learn and Serve Challenge.

Young Americans, from kindergartners to college students, have the desire, power, and ability to make a real difference in their communities. Service learning offers a unique opportunity for them to get involved in a concrete way by integrating community service projects with classroom learning. It enriches the learning experience, teaches civic responsibility, and strengthens communities.

Research has shown that service-learning programs can have positive

impacts on youth in three general areas: academic engagement and achievement; civic attitudes and behaviors; and social and personal skills. The studies also demonstrate that students gain the maximum benefit when their service-learning experience includes a direct tie to the curriculum, planning, and design of service projects by students, structured reflection on the service experience in the classroom, and continuity of service for at least one semester.

Service-learning programs work. They meet the Nation's needs by putting the talents and energies of America's youth to work solving real issues in their communities such as homelessness, elderly care, and illiteracy. In addition, students' lives are enriched through service learning as they become engaged in their own educational process. We see the results and benefits of the work they do, and they become civic-minded Americans who make a contribution to the communities in which they live.

Learn and Service America is the only Federally funded program dedicated to service learning and enables over 1.5 million students to make meaningful contributions to their community while building academic and civic skills. Through its annual weeklong National Learn and Serve Challenge, the program spotlights the value of service learning to youth, schools, and communities and instills an ethic of lifelong community service.

In light of the recent natural disasters that have stricken our Nation, it is important that young people are encouraged to incorporate service into their lives and make a difference in their community and country. The intangible benefits alone—such as pride, satisfaction, and accomplishment—are worthwhile reasons to serve.

Today I applaud the efforts of Learn and Serve America and the millions of dedicated youth volunteers for their service, and I would like to encourage all Americans to work together so we can more effectively meet the pressing needs facing our Nation.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

□ 1515

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I urge the adoption of this resolution, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1463, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

HONORABLE STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES COLLEGE FIRE PREVENTION ACT

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 642) to establish a demonstration incentive program within the Department of Education to promote installation of fire sprinkler systems, or other fire suppression or prevention technologies, in qualified student housing and dormitories, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 642

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Honorable Stephanie Tubbs Jones College Fire Prevention Act''.

SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE HONORABLE STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES FIRE SUPPRESSION DEMONSTRATION INCENTIVE PROGRAM.

(a) GRANTS.—The Secretary of Education (in this Act referred to as the ''Secretary''), in consultation with the United States Fire Administration, shall establish a demonstration program to award grants on a competitive basis to eligible entities for the purpose of installing fire sprinkler systems, or other fire suppression or prevention technologies, in student housing and dormitories owned or controlled by such entities.

(b) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—For purposes of this Act, the term ''eligible entity'' means any of the following:

(1) An institution of higher education (as that term is defined in section 102 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1002)), including an institution eligible to receive assistance under part A or B of title III or title V of such Act.

(2) A social fraternity or sorority exempt from taxation under section 501(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (26 U.S.C. 501(a)), the active membership of which consists primarily of students in attendance at an institution of higher education (as that term is defined in section 102 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1002)).

(c) SELECTION PRIORITY.—In making grants under subsection (a), the Secretary shall give priority to eligible entities that demonstrate the greatest financial need.

(d) RESERVED AMOUNTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Of the amount made available to the Secretary for grants under this section for each fiscal year, the Secretary shall award—

(A) not less than 10 percent to eligible entities that are institutions described in subsection (b)(1) that are eligible to receive assistance under part A or B of title III or title V of the Higher Education Act of 1965 ; and

(B) not less than 10 percent to eligible entities that are social fraternities and sororities described in subsection (b)(2).

(2) PLAN REQUIRED.—The Secretary shall develop a plan to inform entities described in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (1) that such entities may be eligible to apply for grants under this section.

(3) INSUFFICIENT APPLICANTS.—If the Secretary determines that there are an insufficient number of qualified applicants to award the reserved amounts required in accordance with paragraph (1), the Secretary shall make available the remainder of such reserved amounts for use by other eligible entities.

(e) APPLICATION.—To seek a grant under this section, an eligible entity shall submit an application to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and accompanied by such information as the Secretary may require.

(f) MATCHING REQUIREMENT.—As a condition of receipt of a grant under subsection (a), the applicant shall provide (directly or through donations from public or private entities) non-Federal matching funds in an amount equal to not less than 50 percent of the cost of the activities for which assistance is sought.

(g) SUPPLEMENT NOT SUPPLANT.—Funds made available under this program shall be used to supplement, not supplant, other funds that would otherwise be expended to carry out fire safety activities.

(h) LIMITATION ON ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—Not more than 2 percent of a grant made under subsection (a) may be expended for administrative expenses with respect to the grant.

(i) REPORTS.—Not later than 12 months after the date of the first award of a grant under this section and annually thereafter until completion of the program, the Secretary shall provide to the Congress a report that includes the following:

(1) The number and types of eligible entities receiving assistance under this section.

(2) The amounts of such assistance, the amounts and sources of non-Federal funding leveraged for activities under grants under this section, and any other relevant financial information.

(3) The number and types of student housing fitted with fire suppression or prevention technologies with assistance under this section, and the number of students protected by such technologies.

(4) The types of fire suppression or prevention technologies installed with assistance under this section, and the costs of such technologies.

(5) Identification of Federal and State policies that present impediments to the development and installation of fire suppression or prevention technologies.

(6) Any other information determined by the Secretary to be useful to evaluating the overall effectiveness of the program established under this section in improving the fire safety of student housing.

(j) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this Act such sums for each of the fiscal years 2009 through 2011.

SEC. 3. ADMISSIBILITY AS EVIDENCE.

(a) PROHIBITION.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law and subject to subsection (b), any application for assistance under this Act, any negative determination on the part of the Secretary with respect to such application, or any statement of reasons for the determination, shall not be admissible as evidence in any proceeding of any court, agency, board, or other entity.

(b) EXCEPTION.—This section does not apply to the admission of an application, determination, or statement described in subsection (a) as evidence in a proceeding to enforce an agreement entered into between the Secretary and an eligible entity under section 2.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. DAVIS) and the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. BOUSTANY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I request 5 legislative days during which Members may revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous material on H.R. 642 into the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

Mrs. DAVIS of California. I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 642, the College Fire Prevention Act. This legislation is the result of the life work of the late Representative Stephanie Tubbs Jones.

Many of us know the commitment of Representative Tubbs Jones to the cause of campus fire safety. Every September, she would come to the floor to advocate for the recognition of September as Campus Fire Safety Month. Because of her efforts, States around the country also recognized September as Campus Fire Safety Month and helped to make students aware of the dangers they face and to ensure that colleges and universities do all they can to assist students.

H.R. 642 builds on Representative Tubbs Jones' work to protect students on campus by creating a demonstration program within the Department of Education to encourage colleges and universities to install fire sprinkler systems and other fire suppression and prevention technologies in student housing and dormitories.

I can think of no better time to talk about campus fire safety than now, when our students are returning to schools. We all know that in the hustle and bustle of moving in and getting ready for class, thoughts of whether one is prepared for a fire can sometimes get lost.

Historically, August and September are two of the most fatal months for campus fires. We can assist institutions in avoiding these preventable tragedies by encouraging colleges and universities to educate students about fire safety before they arrive on campus.

In passing this legislation here today, we not only honor the work of Representative Stephanie Tubbs Jones, but we also ensure the safety of students on campus.

I urge the passage of this timely and important legislation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I rise in support of H.R. 642, the Honorable Stephanie Tubbs Jones College Fire Prevention Act, and I join my colleagues in honoring our colleague.

So often in this Chamber, we consider legislation to expand access to college and strengthen our Federal higher education programs. Today, we have an opportunity to discuss the need to bolster safety on college campuses, specifically fire safety.

The timing and the name of this bill are appropriate because this month is often designated as Campus Fire Safety Month, and there was no Member more concerned about protecting our college students from the dangers of fire than the late Representative Stephanie Tubbs Jones. This bill would honor Representative Tubbs Jones by naming a demonstration program in her honor.

Our Nation's college students should be able to live on campus with the confidence that they will be safe in their dorms, apartments, or other housing. This measure will take a step toward ensuring that colleges have the ability to ensure their buildings are properly equipped with the latest fire safety measures.

This measure, combined with the provisions enacted by Congress in the Higher Education Opportunity Act, will increase campus fire safety on colleges and universities. The provisions included in the Higher Education Opportunity Act required colleges to provide a fire safety report to the Secretary of Education. The report must include statistics showing the number of fires and injuries resulting from fires on campus over the past year. It will also require colleges to report on the type of fire prevention technologies they are utilizing and any plans the colleges may have to improve their fire prevention and detection technologies. The bill before us today will help colleges think creatively about fire safety and ensure that they have the funds to move forward with their plans.

Today, we have the opportunity to honor Representative Tubbs Jones' commitment to the safety of college students and pass a measure that will help colleges keep our young people safe from devastating fires.

While I urge my colleagues to support this resolution, our efforts to help college students will be incomplete until we also approve a true and honest all-of-the-above energy reform package that puts our Nation on the path to energy independence. Our higher education system is being squeezed by high energy costs just as the rest of society is. Schools are being forced to limit their operations and reduce the number of school days just to save on utility costs and save their students the price of a day's commute.

The majority met behind closed doors to craft a bill that offers more in the way of political cover than actual energy reform. This is not the change Americans need, and it's not the change they deserve. We need a real energy policy, not one that looks good on paper but keeps vital American resources under lock and key.

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

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to recognize the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. CLYBURN) for as much time as he may consume.

Mr. CLYBURN. Let me begin by thanking Representative SUSAN DAVIS for allowing me to participate in this session here this afternoon.

I would like to take a moment to say a personal word about my dear friend Stephanie Tubbs Jones, who was a powerful voice for justice, equality and opportunity, who served the people of Ohio's 11th Congressional District and this Nation with passion and dedication. Unfortunately, Stephanie passed away unexpectedly last month, and it is a great loss to this cause and to our country.

Throughout her five terms in Congress, Representative Tubbs Jones tirelessly advocated for campus fire safety and was the author of numerous pieces of legislation on the issue. She introduced, and saw pass, a resolution supporting the goals and ideals of Campus Fire Safety Month. She was also the primary sponsor of the College Fire Prevention Act, which she introduced in the 107th Congress and then reintroduced in the 108th, the 109th and the 110th.

I am here today to pay tribute to her efforts as a champion for campus fire safety and am proud to take her place as the lead sponsor of the College Fire Prevention Act so that we can continue her legacy by passing this important measure and renaming it the Stephanie Tubbs Jones College Fire Prevention Act.

The Stephanie Tubbs Jones College Fire Prevention Act will establish a demonstration incentive program within the Department of Education to promote the installation of fire sprinkler systems, or other fire suppression or prevention technologies, in qualified student housing or dormitories.

Since January 2000, over 125 people have died in campus-related fires, with over 83 percent of them occurring in off-campus housing. That is why National Campus Fire Safety Month is focused on educating students about fire safety so they can be prepared no matter where a fire should ignite.

Congress has not ignored this growing problem. We realize that knowledge is power, and that is why we passed the provisions of the Campus Fire Safety Right-to-Know Act in the 2008 Higher Education Opportunity Act, which became law last month.

This legislation requires the Secretary of Education to report the number of campus-related fires that have occurred and the number of deaths and interests that resulted from those fires. The report will also contain the number of residence hall rooms equipped with automatic fire sprinkler systems and fire alarms. It is also important that this report give parents and students an understanding of how much fire prevention training is provided to students and staff, the college or university's fire safety policies, and any future plans for improving fire safety.

Nearly a year ago, I took to this floor to offer my condolences to the families, friends and loved ones of students lost in a fire at Ocean Isle, North Carolina. Seven students perished in that fire; six from the University of South Carolina, which I proudly represent in this body, and one from Clemson University. At that time, we mourned their lives and the future promise they held and the fact that they were cut short in such a dramatic way.

However, today, I think we can see the legacy of their lives in this room. We have made strides in promoting campus fire safety because of their moving stories, and we will continue to improve campus fire safety to prevent other families from sharing in this tragic experience.

Today, I'm here to pay that favor forward.

□ 1530

I add my voice to those here today to pay tribute to Representative Tubbs Jones' courageous efforts and say that I am committed to the issue of campus fire safety.

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, we're pleased to join our colleagues on the other side of the aisle in paying this tribute to our colleague.

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

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, we come on the floor once again to honor the life and work of the late Stephanie Tubbs Jones, and we do that with this bill, very important bill, H.R. 642, the College Fire Prevention Act. I'm delighted that Mr. CLYBURN was able to be here and to continue her legacy in this way.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 642, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

PERMISSION FOR MEMBER TO BE CONSIDERED AS FIRST SPONSOR OF H.R. 642

Mr. CLYBURN (during consideration of H.R. 642). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that I may hereafter be considered to be the first sponsor of H.R. 642, a bill originally introduced by Representative Tubbs Jones of Ohio, for the purposes of adding cosponsors and requesting reprintings pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII.

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

There was no objection.

OREGON SURPLUS FEDERAL LAND ACT OF 2008

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6370) to transfer excess Federal property administered by the Coast Guard to the Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6370

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Oregon Surplus Federal Land Act of 2008''.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) COMMANDANT.—The term ''Commandant'' means the Commandant of the Coast Guard.

(2) LIGHT STATION.—The term ''Light Station'' means the Cape Arago Light Station on Chief's Island in the State of Oregon.

(3) MAPS.—The term ''maps'' means the maps filed under section 3(d).

(4) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of the Interior.

(5) TRIBES.—The Term ''Tribes'' means the Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians in the State of Oregon.

SEC. 3. TRANSFER OF ADMINISTRATIVE JURISDICTION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—As soon as practicable, but not later than 5 years, after the date of enactment of this Act and subject to subsection (c), the Commandant shall transfer to the Secretary, to hold in trust for the benefit of the Tribes, administrative jurisdiction over the Federal land described in subsection (b).

(b) DESCRIPTION OF LAND.—The Federal land referred to in subsection (a) consists of the parcels of Coast Guard land (including any improvements to the land) comprising approximately 24 acres, located in Coos County, Oregon, in the areas commonly know as ''Gregory Point'' and ''Chief's Island'', as depicted on the maps.

(c) CONDITIONS.—

(1) COMPLIANCE WITH APPLICABLE LAW.—Before completing the transfer of administrative jurisdiction under subsection (a), the Commandant shall execute any actions required to comply with applicable environmental and cultural resources laws.

(2) TRUST STATUS.—On transfer of administrative jurisdiction over the land under subsection (a), the land transferred to the Secretary shall be—

(A) held in trust by the United States for the Tribes; and

(B) included in the reservation of the Tribes.

(3) MAINTENANCE OF CAPE ARAGO LIGHT STATION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The transfer of administrative jurisdiction over the Light Station under subsection (a) shall be subject to the conditions that the Tribes—

(i) shall—

(I) use, and make reasonable efforts to maintain, the Light Station in accordance with—

(aa) the National Historic Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.);

(bb) the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties under part 68 of title 36, Code of Federal Regulations; and

(cc) any other applicable laws; and

(II) submit any proposed changes to the Light Station for review and approval by the Secretary, in consultation with the Oregon State Historic Preservation Officer, if the Secretary determines that the changes are consistent with—

(aa) section 800.5(a)(2)(vii) of title 36, Code of Federal Regulations; and

(bb) the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation under section 67.7 of title 36, Code of Federal Regulations;

(ii) shall make the Light Station available to the general public for educational, park, recreational, cultural, or historic preservation purposes at times and under conditions determined to be reasonable by the Secretary;

(iii) shall not—

(I) sell, convey, assign, exchange, or encumber the Cape Arago Light Station (or any part of the Light Station) or any associated historic artifact conveyed in conjunction with the transfer under subsection (a), unless the sale, conveyance, assignment, exchange, or encumbrance is approved by Secretary; or

(II) conduct any commercial activities at the Cape Arago Light Station (or any part of the Light Station) or in connection with any historic artifact conveyed in conjunction with the transfer under subsection (a) in any manner, unless the commercial activities are approved by the Secretary; and

(iv) shall allow the United States, at any time, to enter the Light Station without notice, for purposes of ensuring compliance with this section, to the extent that it is not practicable to provide advance notice.

(B) REVERSION.—If the Tribes fail to meet any condition described in subparagraph (A), the Light Station, or any associated historic artifact conveyed in conjunction with the transfer under subsection (a), shall, at the option of the Secretary—

(i) revert to the United States; and

(ii) be placed under the administrative control of the Secretary.

(d) MAPS AND LEGAL DESCRIPTIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant shall file the maps entitled ''Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Land Transfer Maps'' and legal descriptions of the parcels to be transferred under subsection (a) with—

(A) the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate;

(B) the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives; and

(C) the Secretary.

(2) FORCE OF LAW.—The maps and legal descriptions filed under paragraph (1) shall have the same force and effect as if included in this Act, except that the Commandant may correct any errors in the maps and legal descriptions.

(3) AVAILABILITY.—Each map and legal description filed under paragraph (1) shall be on file and available for public inspection in the appropriate office of the Department of the Interior.

(e) EASEMENTS.—The Coast Guard may retain easements on, or other property interests as may be necessary in, the land described in subsection (b) to operate, maintain, relocate, install, improve, replace, or remove any aid to navigation located on the land as may be required by the Coast Guard.

(f) TRIBAL FISHING RIGHTS.—No fishing rights of the Tribes that are in existence on the date of enactment of this Act shall be enlarged, impaired, or otherwise affected by the transfer of administrative jurisdiction under subsection (a).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) and the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members

may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 6370.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, the Oregon Surplus Federal Land Act requires the Commandant of the Coast Guard to transfer the Cape Arago Light Station and the surrounding area in Coos County, Oregon, in my congressional district, to the Secretary of the Interior to hold in trust for the benefit of the Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians.

Under this bill, the Confederated Tribes will assume responsibility for maintenance of the light station and must provide reasonable public access.

I would also like to point out that H.R. 6370 leaves it to the Secretary of the Interior and the Commandant of the Coast Guard to determine the exact amount of land that will be transferred and to develop the appropriate maps. This body has passed similar bills in the past.

H.R. 6370 clearly leaves all authority of the transfer and trust with the relevant agencies. The Coast Guard and the Coos County Commissioners support the transfer. And this bill will put an historic piece of land to good use while protecting and preserving its cultural significance.

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

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

I support the bill's purpose to transfer administrative jurisdiction over a light station and approximately 24 acres of public land in the State of Oregon from the Coast Guard to the Secretary of the Interior. The land and structures will be held in trust for a federally recognized tribe and would be available for tribal and public interests that were approved by the Secretary of the Interior. Lastly, the bill would prohibit the use of the land for any commercial activity that is not expressly approved by the Secretary.

However, I am disappointed that the bill is being brought to the floor without a map specifically detailing the location and amount of land which is to be transferred under the bill.

The land has not been surveyed, and there is a question between the Department of the Interior and Coast Guard on the boundaries of this land that is proposed for transfer.

I support the bill, but I do have reservations about the lack of a precise description of the land to be transferred. I hope that the majority, under Mr. DEFAZIO's leadership, will work with our side to ensure that the land is surveyed promptly and that the final transfer should be delayed until such maps are available.

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

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

I thought that we could have this issue resolved before we came to the floor. Unfortunately, the Coast Guard has to actually contract for a survey, which, through the Federal procurement process, takes a while. But I can assure the gentleman that there are a number of other bills I'm familiar with, mostly under the jurisdiction of the Resources Committee, that have had similar problems, and these issues were resolved before the interagency transfer was finalized and took place. That just is sort of logical; they need to know what they're transferring, and they need to have a legal description and map. So I assure the gentleman, to the best of my ability as a member of the legislative branch, that the administrative branch will fulfill their duties in this matter.

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

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 6370, the "Oregon Surplus Federal Land Act of 2008", introduced by the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO).

H.R. 6370 transfers 24 acres of federally owned land, which includes the Cape Arago Light Station, in Coos County, Oregon, from the Coast Guard to the Secretary of the Interior to be held in trust for the benefit of the Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians. The Commandant shall transfer the Light Station within 5 years of the date of enactment of this Act.

The Cape Arago Light Station no longer functions as an aid to navigation since the light has been extinguished. Over the past decade, the Coast Guard has been disposing of its lighthouses and has determined it no longer needs the property at Cape Arago. This is beneficial to the Confederated Tribes and they are eager to manage the land since it once served as a burial site and is sacred to them.

Under the bill, the Confederated Tribes are prohibited from selling, conveying, assigning, exchanging or encumbering the property in the future without the approval of the Secretary. The Tribes are also prohibited from conducting any commercial activities on the property without the approval of the Secretary. The property with the Light Station is to be made available to the general public for educational, park, recreational, cultural, or historic preservation purposes.

The Committee attempted to obtain maps of the actual property that is being transferred from the Coast Guard to the Secretary of the Interior. However, the Coast Guard has been unable to develop formal maps of the area yet. Therefore, the Coast Guard and the Secretary will have to develop maps depicting the property being transferred. This has been done numerous times before—such as in the conveyance of Sentinel Light Station in Alaska in the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2004 (P.L. 108–293) and the conveyance of the Naval Reserve Pier in Portland, Oregon, Slip Point Light Station in Callam County, Washington, and Point Pinos Light in Monterey County, California, in the Maritime Transportation Security Act of 2002 (P.L. 107–295).

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 6370.

Finally, I insert in the RECORD an exchange of letters between Chairman NICK J. RAHALL, II, Chairman of the Committee on Natural Resources, and me.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES,
Washington, DC, September 22, 2008.

Hon. JAMES OBERSTAR,
Chairman, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Washington, DC.

DEAR JIM: Thank you for the opportunity to work with you on H.R. 6370, the Oregon Surplus Federal Land Act of 2008, concerning provisions regarding a Native American tribe and the Secretary of the Interior which are within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Natural Resources.

Because of the continued cooperation and consideration that you have afforded me and my staff in developing these provisions, I will not seek a sequential referral of H.R. 6370. Of course, this waiver is not intended to prejudice any future jurisdictional claims over these provisions or similar language. I also reserve the right to seek to have conferees named from the Committee on Natural Resources on these provisions, and request your support if such a request is made.

Please place this letter into the committee report on H.R. 6370 and into the Congressional Record during consideration of the measure on the House floor.

With warm regards, I am

Sincerely,

NICK J. RAHALL, II,
Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE,
Washington, DC, September 22, 2008.

Hon. NICK J. RAHALL, II
Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN RAHALL: Thank you for your September 22, 2008 letter regarding H.R. 6370, the "Oregon Surplus Federal Land Act of 2008". Your support for this legislation and your assistance in ensuring its timely consideration are greatly appreciated.

I agree that provisions in the bill are of jurisdictional interest to the Committee on Natural Resources. I acknowledge that by forgoing a sequential referral, your Committee is not relinquishing its jurisdiction and I will fully support your request to be represented in a House-Senate conference on those provisions over which the Committee on Natural Resources has jurisdiction in H.R. 6370.

This exchange of letters will be placed in the Committee Report on H.R. 6370 and inserted in the Congressional Record as part of the consideration of this legislation in the House. Thank you for the cooperative spirit in which you have worked regarding this matter and others between our respective committees.

I look forward to working with you as we prepare to pass this important legislation.

Sincerely,

JAMES L. OBERSTAR, M.C.,
Chairman.

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. Speaker, again, I support H.R. 6370, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6370.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the

rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

AUTHORIZING GSA ACTIONS IN EASTLAKE, OHIO, AND KOOCHICHING COUNTY, MINNESOTA

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6524) to authorize the Administrator of General Services to take certain actions with respect to parcels of real property located in Eastlake, Ohio, and Koochiching County, Minnesota, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6524

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

SECTION 1. EASTLAKE, OHIO.

(a) RELEASE OF RESTRICTIONS.—Subject to the requirements of this section, the Administrator of General Services is authorized to release the restrictions contained in the deed that conveyed to the city of Eastlake, Ohio, the parcel of real property described in subsection (b).

(b) PROPERTY DESCRIPTION.—The parcel of real property referred to in subsection (a) is the site of the John F. Kennedy Senior Center located at 33505 Curtis Boulevard, city of Eastlake, Ohio, on 10.873 acres more or less as conveyed by the deed from the General Services Administration dated July 20, 1964, and recorded in the Lake County Ohio Recorder's Office in volume 601 at pages 40–47.

(c) CONSIDERATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The city of Eastlake shall pay to the Administrator $30,000 as consideration for executing the release under subsection (a).

(2) DEPOSIT OF PROCEEDS.—The Administrator shall deposit any funds received under paragraph (1) into the Federal Buildings Fund established under section 592 of title 40, United States Code.

(3) AVAILABILITY OF AMOUNTS DEPOSITED.—To the extent provided in appropriations Acts, amounts deposited into the Federal Buildings Fund under paragraph (2) shall be available for the uses described in section 592(b) of title 40, United States Code.

(d) FILING OF INSTRUMENTS TO EXECUTE RELEASE.—The Administrator shall execute and file in the appropriate office or offices a deed of release, amended deed, or other appropriate instrument effectuating the release under subsection (a).

SEC. 2. KOOCHICHING COUNTY, MINNESOTA.

(a) CONVEYANCE AUTHORIZED.—Subject to the requirements of this section, the Administrator of General Services shall convey to Koochiching County, Minnesota, the parcel of real property described in subsection (b), including any improvements thereon.

(b) PROPERTY DESCRIPTION.—The parcel of real property referred to in subsection (a) is the approximately 5.84 acre parcel located at 1804 3rd Avenue in International Falls, Minnesota, which is the former site of the Koochiching Army Reserve Training Center.

(c) QUITCLAIM DEED.—The conveyance of real property under subsection (a) shall be made through a quit claim deed.

(d) CONSIDERATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Koochiching County shall pay to the Administrator $30,000 as consideration for a conveyance of real property under subsection (a).

(2) DEPOSIT OF PROCEEDS.—The Administrator shall deposit any funds received under paragraph (1) (less expenses of the conveyance) into a special account in the Treasury established under section 572(b)(5)(A) of title 40, United States Code.

(3) AVAILABILITY OF AMOUNTS DEPOSITED.—To the extent provided in appropriations Acts, amounts deposited into a special account under paragraph (2) shall be available to the Secretary of the Army in accordance with section 572(b)(5)(B) of title 40, United States Code.

(e) REVERSION.—The conveyance of real property under subsection (a) shall be made on the condition that the property will revert to the United States, at the option of the United States, without any obligation for repayment of the purchase price for the property, if the property ceases to be held in public ownership or ceases to be used for a public purpose.

(f) OTHER TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—The conveyance of real property under subsection (a) shall be made subject to such other terms and conditions as the Administrator considers appropriate to protect the interests of the United States.

(g) DEADLINE.—The conveyance of real property under subsection (a) shall be made not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) and the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 6524.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 6524, a bill to authorize the administrator of General Services to transfer a parcel of real property in Eastlake, Ohio, to the city of Eastlake. Further, the bill authorizes the transfer of real property in the Koochiching Army Reserve Training Center in Koochiching County, Minnesota, to the County of Koochiching.

The city of Eastlake will compensate the General Services $30,000 for the real property transfer and the County of Koochiching also will compensate the General Services $30,000 for the real property transfer. The General Services Administration will forward to the Secretary of the Army the net proceeds for the transfer.

The parcel of real property in Eastlake is an approximate 10-acre site, which includes the John F. Kennedy Senior Citizen Center. In 1964, the city of Eastlake purchased the property and, consistent with the deed restriction, used the site for recreational uses for over 40 years. The bill will lift the deed restrictions and thus allow the city to use the property for economic development purposes. The senior center has been moved to a better location. Further, the city has purchased over 17 acres for parks and recreational uses, increasing the overall acreage devoted to open space and parkland.

The first parcel in Minnesota is 5½ acres, which includes the U.S. Army Armory Building, which will pay to have the roof replaced, install a new boiler and heating system, and make extensive repairs to the ceiling. The Army reported the property excess in January 2006 and GSA accepted the report of excess in February 2006. GSA screened the property with other Federal agencies, but there were no expressions of interest. Likewise, no expressions of interest from homeless shelter providers were received by GSA.

Mr. Speaker, I commend both Chairman OBERSTAR and my colleague, Congressman LATOURETTE, for working on these essential pieces of legislation and for ensuring compensation will be made to the General Services, and the Federal taxpayers will be fully protected.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 6524. This legislation will allow the General Services Administration to remove the public use deed restriction on a former National Park property in the community of Eastlake, Ohio, and dispose of a surplus property in Koochiching County, Minnesota.

Since its transfer to Eastlake, Ohio, in 1964, the former National Park Service property has met its public use requirements by serving as a senior center. Because the community has built a new center to replace the aging John F. Kennedy Senior Citizen, Eastlake desires to make use of the property for other purposes. The city of Eastlake would pay the General Services Administration $30,000 for removal of the restrictions on the use of the property.

For more than 40 years, the real estate has served the purpose intended in the initial agreement. And this bill will allow the property to be repurposed to continue to serve the community.

The community of Koochiching County, Minnesota, has similar plans for a parcel of property that has for years served as a military training facility. The changing needs of the U.S. Army Reserve and the community now mean that the property can serve the public interests better by housing several local government agencies.

The conveyance of property in Koochiching has restrictions that will ensure that the property continue to serve the community. GSA does not oppose either of those provisions. In fact, in conversations with staff, GSA indicated that if GSA had the authority, it would remove the deed restriction on the property and convey the Minnesota property at no cost because GSA believes the public interest has been and

is being served by the provisions in the bill.

Each of these properties has served the General Services Administration purposes well, but the changing needs of the communities of Eastlake and Koochiching County now require that the properties be repurposed. In both cases, the needs of the community can be better served through adaptive reuse of these properties.

I support the bill and encourage my colleagues to do the same.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 6524, a bill to authorize the Administrator of General Services to transfer parcels of real property in Eastlake, Ohio, and Koochiching County, Minnesota.

The Koochiching parcel is approximately 5½ acres located at 1804 3rd Avenue in International Falls, Koochiching, Minnesota. The Koochiching Army Reserve Training Center site includes the U.S. Army Armory Building. The bill transfers the property to Koochiching County, which will pay to have the roof replaced, install a new boiler and heating system, and make extensive repairs to the ceiling. The Army reported the property excess in January 2006 and the General Services Administration, GSA, accepted the report of excess in February 2006. GSA screened the property with other Federal agencies but there were no expressions of interest.

The conveyance will be by quitclaim deed and the County of Koochiching will pay $30,000 to GSA for the real property transfer. The General Services Administration will forward to the Secretary of the Army the net proceeds from the Koochiching transfer.

The parcel of real property in Eastlake is an approximate 10-acre site which includes the John F. Kennedy Senior Citizen Center. In 1964, the city of Eastlake purchased the property and, consistent with the deed restriction, used the site for recreational uses for more than 40 years. The bill will lift the deed restrictions and thus allow the city to use the property for economic development purposes. The city of Eastlake has provided a better location for the senior citizens center. The city of Eastlake will pay $30,000 to GSA for the real property transfer.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 6524.

Finally, I insert in the RECORD an exchange of letters between Chairman IKE SKELTON, Chairman of the Committee on Armed Services, and me.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE,
Washington, DC, September 22, 2008.

Hon. IKE SKELTON,
Chairman, Committee on Armed Services, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN SKELTON: I write to you regarding H.R. 6524, to authorize the Administrator of General Services to take certain actions with respect to parcels of real property located in Eastlake, Ohio, and Koochiching County, Minnesota, and for other purposes.

I appreciate your willingness to waive further consideration of H.R. 6524, notwithstanding the jurisdictional interest of the Committee on Armed Services. Of course, this waiver does not prejudice any further jurisdictional claims by your Committee over this or similar legislation. Furthermore, I agree to support your request for appointment of conferees from the Committee on Armed Services if a conference is held on this matter.

This exchange of letters will be placed in the Committee Report on H.R. 6524 and inserted in the Congressional Record as part of the consideration of this legislation in the House. Thank you for the cooperative spirit in which you have worked regarding this matter and others between our respective committees. I understand that you prefer to consider such property transfers in National Defense Authorization Acts and I greatly appreciate your courtesy in waiving further consideration of H.R. 6524.

I look forward to working with you as we prepare to pass this important legislation.

Sincerely,

JAMES L. OBERSTAR,
Chairman

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, September 18, 2008.

Hon. JAMES L. OBERSTAR,
Chairman, House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Washington, DC.

DR. MR. CHAIRMAN: On July 31, 2008, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure ordered H.R. 6524, to authorize the Administrator of General Services to take certain actions with respect to parcels of real property located in Eastlake, Ohio, and Koochiching County, Minnesota, and for other purposes, to be reported.

As you know, this measure contains certain provisions that are within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Armed Services. These provisions transfer property for which the Department of Defense has real property interests. For many years, our committee has authorized such transfers through annual National Defense Authorization Acts (NDAA).

Given the expressed need for the legislation to move expeditiously, and out of my respect for you and our friendship, I am prepared to make an extraordinary exception to my committee's long-standing practice of always considering such property transfers in the NDAA.

Therefore, while we have a valid claim to jurisdiction over this legislation, the Committee on Armed Services will waive further consideration of H.R. 6524. I do so with the understanding that by waiving further consideration of the bill, the Committee does not waive any future jurisdictional claims over similar measures. In the event of a conference with the Senate on this bill, the Committee on Armed Services reserves the right to seek the appointment of conferees.

I would appreciate the inclusion of this letter and a copy of the response in your Committee's report on H.R. 6524 and the Congressional Record during consideration of the measure on the House floor.

Very truly yours,

IKE SKELTON,
Chairman.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6524.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

HONORING DR. GUION S. ''GUY'' BLUFORD, JR., AND THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF HIS HISTORIC FLIGHT AS THE FIRST AFRICAN-AMERICAN IN SPACE

Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1466) honoring Dr. Guion S. ''Guy'' Bluford, Jr., and the 25th anniversary of his historic flight as the first African-American in space.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1466

Whereas Dr. Guion S. ''Guy'' Bluford, Jr., born in West Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, was trained as an aerospace engineer and an Air Force pilot, conducted several combat missions, logged over 5,000 hours on numerous aircraft, conducted scientific research on computational fluid dynamics, and became a National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) astronaut in 1979;

Whereas in the early morning hours of August 30, 1983, Dr. Bluford became the first African-American to enter outer space as a crew member of the STS–8 space shuttle mission;

Whereas Dr. Bluford's pioneering STS–8 flight was the first mission to both launch and land at night;

Whereas this mission successfully deployed a satellite, tested operations of the shuttle's robotic arm, and released Getaway Special canisters to support science experiments;

Whereas on October 30, 1985, Dr. Bluford launched with the crew of STS 61–A, the first shuttle crew to include 8 members, to conduct the United States-German cooperative D–1 Spacelab mission that was dedicated to advancing our understanding of the human vestibular and orientation systems and to conducting microgravity research in materials science, life sciences, and communication and navigation;

Whereas Dr. Bluford went on to successfully complete 2 additional shuttle missions with the space shuttle Discovery's launch of the STS–39 on April 28, 1991, and the STS–53 on December 2, 1992;

Whereas among his other technical assignments, Dr. Bluford worked on space shuttle systems, the shuttle robotic arm, payload safety and flight software verification in the Shuttle Avionics Integration Laboratory and the Flight Systems Laboratory, and on Spacelab systems and experiments;

Whereas in remarking on his pioneering role as the first African-American in space, Dr. Bluford recounted, ''I wanted to set the standard, do the best job possible so that other people would be comfortable with African-Americans in space and African-Americans would be proud of being participants in the space program . . . and encourage others to do the same.''; and

Whereas in 1993, Dr. Bluford left NASA and retired as a Colonel in the Air Force to continue his distinguished service to the United States space program through leadership positions in private industry and space-related organizations: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) salutes the 25th anniversary of the pioneering accomplishments of Dr. Guion ''Guy'' S. Bluford, Jr. as the first African-American in space; and

(2) extends its gratitude and deep appreciation for Dr. Bluford's dedication, commitment, and excellence as an astronaut and a

leader in support of the Nation's space program.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Maryland (Ms. EDWARDS) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HALL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Maryland.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H. Res. 1466, the resolution now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

□ 1545

Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in strong support of House Resolution 1466, honoring Dr. Guion S. ''Guy'' Bluford, Jr. on the 25th anniversary of his historic flight as the first African American in space.

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the House Committee on Science and Technology and also the 50th anniversary of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, NASA.

The past five decades of our space program have brought remarkable achievements in human space flight and in human exploration, in space and Earth science and in aeronautics. Mr. Speaker, these achievements would not have been possible without the contributions of many individuals who have served NASA and our space program. Some of those individuals also broke barriers along the way and have provided inspiration to all of those who have followed them.

Earlier this year, we honored the 25th anniversary of Dr. Sally K. Ride's flight as the first woman in space. Today, we celebrate the 25th anniversary of Dr. Guion S. Bluford, Jr. as the first African American in space.

Dr. Bluford's path to his pioneering flight exemplifies the ''right stuff'' so characteristic of NASA's astronauts. He graduated from Penn State University with a degree in aerospace engineering. As a distinguished Air Force ROTC graduate, he went on to complete pilot training and combat crew training, flew combat missions, and returned to serve with the 3630th Flying Training Wing at Sheppard Air Force Base in Texas.

Dr. Bluford went on to earn master's and doctoral degrees in aerospace engineering from the Air Force Institute of Technology, and he held several positions in the Air Force Flight Dynamics Laboratory at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Ohio.

In 1979, Dr. Bluford became a NASA astronaut. On August 30, 1983, he made history when he lifted off with the space shuttle crew of STS–8 as the first African American in space. During the mission, the crew successfully deployed a satellite, conducted operations with the shuttle's robotic arm and collected measurements to improve our understanding of how space affects biophysiological systems.

On October 30, 1985, Dr. Bluford flew with the crew of STS–61–A, a German D–1 spacelab mission that included over 70 scientific experiments in materials processing, in life sciences, in fluid physics, and in navigation.

I would add, Mr. Speaker, that, indeed, that was my mission at spacelab while I was at Goddard Space Flight Center.

His third and fourth flights on shuttle STS–39 in 1991 and on shuttle STS–53 in 1992 involved deploying payloads and in conducting numerous experiments. During his astronaut service, Dr. Bluford logged over 688 hours in space. In 1993, Dr. Bluford left NASA and retired from the Air Force to accept a position in private industry.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Guion Bluford's leadership as an aviator, as an astronaut and as a private sector official is an inspiration for all Americans. I urge my colleagues in Congress to join me in saluting Dr. Guion S. ''Guy'' Bluford, Jr. on the 25th anniversary of his historic flight as the first African American in space and to honor his distinguished service to the Nation and to the space program.

I reserve the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from Arkansas is recognized.

There was no objection.

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

I rise today in support of House Resolution 1466, which honors the life and accomplishments of an amazing man, astronaut Dr. Guy Bluford, Jr.

Guy Bluford was born in West Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on November 22, 1942, and he is perhaps best known as the first African American in space. He was selected for NASA's astronaut program in August 1979, and he became a mission specialist on the eighth space shuttle mission, which launched from the Kennedy Space Center, Florida on August 30, 1983. This was the third flight of the space shuttle Challenger and the first mission with a night launch and with a night landing.

Dr. Bluford is a veteran of four space flights. After STS–8, Dr. Bluford went on to serve as mission specialist on STS–61–A, on STS–39 and on STS–53, and he logged over 688 hours in space.

These early missions paved the way for the scientific research and international cooperation that today are vital aspects of the International Space Station.

Prior to his service with NASA, Guy Bluford received a bachelor of science degree in aerospace engineering from Pennsylvania State University in 1964, a master's of science degree with distinction in aerospace engineering from the Air Force Institute of Technology in 1974, a doctor of philosophy in aerospace engineering with a minor in laser physics from the Air Force Institute of Technology in 1978, and a master's of business administration from the University of Houston, Clear Lake, in 1987.

What is, perhaps, less well-known about Guy Bluford is the service he has given to the Nation since leaving the astronaut corps. After leaving NASA in July 1993, he retired from the Air Force and held several executive-level positions in America's aerospace industry. Dr. Bluford also served the Nation in other capacities, including as a member of the Columbia Accident Investigation Board. He has been a member of the National Research Council Aeronautics and Space Engineering Board. He has served on the board of trustees of the Aerospace Corporation and on the board of advisors for the Coalition for Space Exploration.

I am proud to support this resolution honoring such a prominent American citizen, executive and astronaut. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support House Resolution 1466.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BOOZMAN. If the gentlelady has no other speakers, I will go ahead and yield back the balance of my time.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Maryland (Ms. EDWARDS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1466.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

UNITED STATES FIRE ADMINISTRATION REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2008

Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 2606) to reauthorize the United States Fire Administration, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the Senate bill.

The text of the Senate bill is as follows:

S. 2606

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This subtitle may be cited as the ''United States Fire Administration Reauthorization Act of 2008''.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress makes the following findings:

(1) The number of lives lost each year because of fire has dropped significantly over the last 25 years in the United States. However, the United States still has one of the highest fire death rates in the industrialized world. In 2006, the National Fire Protection Association reported 3,245 civilian fire deaths, 16,400 civilian fire injuries, and $11,307,000,000 in direct losses due to fire.

(2) Every year, more than 100 firefighters die in the line of duty. The United States Fire Administration should continue its leadership to help local fire agencies dramatically reduce these fatalities.

(3) The Federal Government should continue to work with State and local governments and the fire service community to further the promotion of national voluntary consensus standards that increase firefighter safety.

(4) The United States Fire Administration provides crucial support to the 30,300 fire departments of the United States through training, emergency incident data collection, fire awareness and education, and support of research and development activities for fire prevention, control, and suppression technologies.

(5) The collection of data on fire and other emergency incidents is a vital tool both for policy makers and emergency responders to identify and develop responses to emerging hazards. Improving the data collection capabilities of the United States Fire Administration is essential for accurately tracking and responding to the magnitude and nature of the fire problems of the United States.

(6) The research and development performed by the National Institute of Standards and Technology, the United States Fire Administration, other government agencies, and nongovernmental organizations on fire technologies, techniques, and tools advance the capabilities of the fire service of the United States to suppress and prevent fires.

(7) Because of the essential role of the United States Fire Administration and the fire service community in preparing for and responding to national and man-made disasters, the United States Fire Administration should have a prominent place within the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Department of Homeland Security.

SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR UNITED STATES FIRE ADMINISTRATION.

Section 17(g)(1) of the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2216(g)(1)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (C), by striking ''and'' after the semicolon;

(2) in subparagraph (D), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(3) by adding after subparagraph (D) the following:

''(E) $70,000,000 for fiscal year 2009, of which $2,520,000 shall be used to carry out section 8(f);

''(F) $72,100,000 for fiscal year 2010, of which $2,595,600 shall be used to carry out section 8(f);

''(G) $74,263,000 for fiscal year 2011, of which $2,673,468 shall be used to carry out section 8(f); and

''(H) $76,490,890 for fiscal year 2012, of which $2,753,672 shall be used to carry out section 8(f).''.

SEC. 4. NATIONAL FIRE ACADEMY TRAINING PROGRAM MODIFICATIONS AND REPORTS.

(a) AMENDMENTS TO FIRE ACADEMY TRAINING.—Section 7(d)(1) of the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2206(d)(1)) is amended—

(1) by amending subparagraph (H) to read as follows:

''(H) tactics and strategies for dealing with natural disasters, acts of terrorism, and other man-made disasters;'';

(2) in subparagraph (K), by striking ''forest'' and inserting ''wildland'';

(3) in subparagraph (M), by striking ''response'';

(4) by redesignating subparagraphs (I) through (N) as subparagraphs (M) through (R), respectively; and

(5) by inserting after subparagraph (H) the following:

''(I) tactics and strategies for fighting large-scale fires or multiple fires in a general area that cross jurisdictional boundaries;

''(J) tactics and strategies for fighting fires occurring at the wildland-urban interface;

''(K) tactics and strategies for fighting fires involving hazardous materials;

''(L) advanced emergency medical services training;''.

(b) ON-SITE TRAINING.—Section 7 of such Act (15 U.S.C. 2206) is amended—

(1) in subsection (c)(6), by inserting '', including on-site training'' after ''United States''';

(2) in subsection (f), by striking ''4 percent'' and inserting ''7.5 percent''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(m) ON-SITE TRAINING.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), the Administrator may enter into a contract with nationally recognized organizations that have established on-site training programs that comply with national voluntary consensus standards for fire service personnel to facilitate the delivery of the education and training programs outlined in subsection (d)(1) directly to fire service personnel.

''(2) LIMITATION.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator may not enter into a contract with an organization described in paragraph (1) unless such organization provides training that—

''(i) leads to certification by a program that is accredited by a nationally recognized accreditation organization; or

''(ii) the Administrator determines is of equivalent quality to a fire service training program described by clause (i).

''(B) APPROVAL OF UNACCREDITED FIRE SERVICE TRAINING PROGRAMS.—The Administrator may consider the fact that an organization has provided a satisfactory fire service training program pursuant to a cooperative agreement with a Federal agency as evidence that such program is of equivalent quality to a fire service training program described by subparagraph (A)(i).

''(3) RESTRICTION ON USE OF FUNDS.—The amounts expended by the Administrator to carry out this subsection in any fiscal year shall not exceed 7.5 per centum of the amount authorized to be appropriated in such fiscal year pursuant to section 17.''.

(c) TRIENNIAL REPORTS.—Such section 7 (15 U.S.C. 2206) is further amended by adding at the end the following:

''(n) TRIENNIAL REPORT.—In the first annual report filed pursuant to section 16 for which the deadline for filing is after the expiration of the 18-month period that begins on the date of the enactment of the United States Fire Administration Reauthorization Act of 2008, and in every third annual report thereafter, the Administrator shall include information about changes made to the National Fire Academy curriculum, including—

''(1) the basis for such changes, including a review of the incorporation of lessons learned by emergency response personnel after significant emergency events and emergency preparedness exercises performed under the National Exercise Program; and

''(2) the desired training outcome of all such changes.''.

(d) REPORT ON FEASIBILITY OF PROVIDING INCIDENT COMMAND TRAINING FOR FIRES AT PORTS AND IN MARINE ENVIRONMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the United States Fire Administration shall submit to Congress a report on the feasibility of providing training in incident command for appropriate fire service personnel for fires at United States ports and in marine environments, including fires on the water and aboard vessels.

(2) CONTENTS.—The report required by paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(A) A description of the necessary curriculum for training described in paragraph (1).

(B) A description of existing training programs related to incident command in port and maritime environments, including by other Federal agencies, and the feasibility and estimated cost of making such training available to appropriate fire service personnel.

(C) An assessment of the feasibility and advisability of the United States Fire Administration developing such a training course in incident command for appropriate fire service personnel for fires at United States ports and in marine environments, including fires on the water and aboard vessels.

(D) A description of the delivery options for such a course and the estimated cost to the United States Fire Administration for developing such a course and providing such training for appropriate fire service personnel.

SEC. 5. NATIONAL FIRE INCIDENT REPORTING SYSTEM UPGRADES.

(a) INCIDENT REPORTING SYSTEM DATABASE.—Section 9 of the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2208) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(d) NATIONAL FIRE INCIDENT REPORTING SYSTEM UPDATE.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall update the National Fire Incident Reporting System to ensure that the information in the system is available, and can be updated, through the Internet and in real time.

''(2) LIMITATION.—Of the amounts made available pursuant to subparagraphs (E), (F), and (G) of section 17(g)(1), the Administrator shall use not more than an aggregate amount of $5,000,000 during the 3-year period consisting of fiscal years 2009, 2010, and 2011 to carry out the activities required by paragraph (1).''.

(b) TECHNICAL CORRECTION.—Section 9(b)(2) of such Act (15 U.S.C. 2208(b)(2)) is amended by striking ''assist State,'' and inserting ''assist Federal, State,''.

SEC. 6. FIRE TECHNOLOGY ASSISTANCE AND RESEARCH DISSEMINATION.

(a) ASSISTANCE TO FIRE SERVICES FOR FIRE PREVENTION AND CONTROL IN WILDLAND-URBAN INTERFACE.—Section 8(d) of the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2207(d)) is amended to read as follows:

''(d) RURAL AND WILDLAND-URBAN INTERFACE ASSISTANCE.—The Administrator may, in coordination with the Secretary of Agriculture, the Secretary of the Interior, and the Wildland Fire Leadership Council, assist the fire services of the United States, directly or through contracts, grants, or other forms of assistance, in sponsoring and encouraging research into approaches, techniques, systems, equipment, and land-use

policies to improve fire prevention and control in—

''(1) the rural and remote areas of the United States; and

''(2) the wildland-urban interface.''.

(b) TECHNOLOGY RESEARCH DISSEMINATION.—Section 8 of such Act (15 U.S.C. 2207) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(h) PUBLICATION OF RESEARCH RESULTS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—For each fire-related research program funded by the Administration, the Administrator shall make available to the public on the Internet website of the Administration the following:

''(A) A description of such research program, including the scope, methodology, and goals thereof.

''(B) Information that identifies the individuals or institutions conducting the research program.

''(C) The amount of funding provided by the Administration for such program.

''(D) The results or findings of the research program.

''(2) DEADLINES.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), the information required by paragraph (1) shall be published with respect to a research program as follows:

''(i) The information described in subparagraphs (A), (B), and (C) of paragraph (1) with respect to such research program shall be made available under paragraph (1) not later than 30 days after the Administrator has awarded the funding for such research program.

''(ii) The information described in subparagraph (D) of paragraph (1) with respect to a research program shall be made available under paragraph (1) not later than 60 days after the date such research program has been completed.

''(B) EXCEPTION.—No information shall be required to be published under this subsection before the date that is 1 year after the date of the enactment of the United States Fire Administration Reauthorization Act of 2008.''.

SEC. 7. ENCOURAGING ADOPTION OF STANDARDS FOR FIREFIGHTER HEALTH AND SAFETY.

The Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2201 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''SEC. 37. ENCOURAGING ADOPTION OF STANDARDS FOR FIREFIGHTER HEALTH AND SAFETY.

''The Administrator shall promote adoption by fire services of national voluntary consensus standards for firefighter health and safety, including such standards for firefighter operations, training, staffing, and fitness, by—

''(1) educating fire services about such standards;

''(2) encouraging the adoption at all levels of government of such standards; and

''(3) making recommendations on other ways in which the Federal Government can promote the adoption of such standards by fire services.''.

SEC. 8. STATE AND LOCAL FIRE SERVICE REPRESENTATION AT NATIONAL OPERATIONS CENTER.

Section 515 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 321d) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(c) STATE AND LOCAL FIRE SERVICE REPRESENTATION.—

''(1) ESTABLISHMENT OF POSITION.—The Secretary shall, in consultation with the Administrator of the United States Fire Administration, establish a fire service position at the National Operations Center established under subsection (b) to ensure the effective sharing of information between the Federal Government and State and local fire services.

''(2) DESIGNATION OF POSITION.—The Secretary shall designate, on a rotating basis, a State or local fire service official for the position described in paragraph (1).

''(3) MANAGEMENT.—The Secretary shall manage the position established pursuant to paragraph (1) in accordance with such rules, regulations, and practices as govern other similar rotating positions at the National Operations Center.''.

SEC. 9. COORDINATION REGARDING FIRE PREVENTION AND CONTROL AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 21(e) of the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2218(e)) is amended to read as follows:

''(e) COORDINATION.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—To the extent practicable, the Administrator shall use existing programs, data, information, and facilities already available in other Federal Government departments and agencies and, where appropriate, existing research organizations, centers, and universities.

''(2) COORDINATION OF FIRE PREVENTION AND CONTROL PROGRAMS.—The Administrator shall provide liaison at an appropriate organizational level to assure coordination of the activities of the Administrator with Federal, State, and local government agencies and departments and nongovernmental organizations concerned with any matter related to programs of fire prevention and control.

''(3) COORDINATION OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES PROGRAMS.—The Administrator shall provide liaison at an appropriate organizational level to assure coordination of the activities of the Administrator related to emergency medical services provided by fire service-based systems with Federal, State, and local government agencies and departments and nongovernmental organizations so concerned, as well as those entities concerned with emergency medical services generally.''.

(b) FIRE SERVICE-BASED EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES BEST PRACTICES.—Section 8(c) of such Act (15 U.S.C. 2207(c)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (2) through (4) as paragraphs (3) through (5), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following new paragraph:

''(2) The Administrator is authorized to conduct, directly or through contracts or grants, studies of the operations and management aspects of fire service-based emergency medical services and coordination between emergency medical services and fire services. Such studies may include the optimum protocols for on-scene care, the allocation of resources, and the training requirements for fire service-based emergency medical services.''.

SEC. 10. AMENDMENTS TO DEFINITIONS.

Section 4 of the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2203) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (3), by striking ''Administration'' and inserting ''Administration, within the Federal Emergency Management Agency'';

(2) in paragraph (7), by striking the ''and'' after the semicolon;

(3) in paragraph (8), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(4) by adding at the end the following:

''(9) 'wildland-urban interface' has the meaning given such term in section 101 of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6511).''.

SEC. 11. SUPPORTING THE ADOPTION OF FIRE SPRINKLERS.

Congress supports the recommendations of the United States Fire Administration regarding the adoption of fire sprinklers in commercial buildings and educational programs to raise awareness of the important of installing fire sprinklers in residential buildings.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Maryland (Ms. EDWARDS) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HALL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Maryland.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland. I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on S. 2606, the bill now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today in strong support of S. 2606, the U.S. Fire Administration Reauthorization Act of 2008. This bill is a companion bill to H.R. 4847 that passed out of the House last April.

The U.S. Fire Administration is an invaluable resource for our Nation's firefighters and for the communities they protect. Through training, data collection, fire education for the public, and for the support for fire-related research and development, the USFA provides critical tools and leadership. To the fire service from small-scale individual tragedies such as house fires and car accidents to the community- and region-wide disasters of terrorist attacks or floods, firefighters are often the first to arrive on the scene and are the last to leave.

We depend on our firefighters, but firefighters also depend on us. They depend on the public and on their elected officials to make sure that they have the resources, the equipment and the training they need to do their job. If they are not properly equipped, we are all at risk.

Congress saw the need to create the USFA in 1973 when the America Burning report called attention to over 6,000 Americans each year who died in fires and to the 100,000 who were injured. Through the leadership of the USFA and others, the number of people killed in fires each year has dropped by 50 percent down to approximately 3,000, and injuries have dropped by 84 percent. While impressive, 3,000 deaths are still far too many, especially when so many of these deaths and injuries are from our most vulnerable populations—children and the elderly.

S. 2606 is nearly identical to the House bill that passed unanimously on this floor in April. The bill reauthorizes this important agency for 4 years at funding levels that will enable the USFA to fully carry out its mission.

I want to highlight that S. 2606 reflects the priorities for this agency as expressed by members of the fire service community at a Science and Technology Committee meeting held last year.

S. 2606 authorizes the USFA to focus on the pressing challenges of fighting fires in the wildland-urban interface. As communities spread deeper into fire-prone wildlands, local fire departments are faced with the daunting challenge of fighting fires that differ significantly from those they are trained to tackle. The bill also authorizes the USFA to offer training for fires involving hazardous materials as well as advanced topics on emergency medical services.

Firefighters today are called upon to respond to an ever broader array of emergencies. This authorization bill gives the USFA the authority to make sure its training program keeps pace with the increasing challenges to the fire service.

S. 2606 is the product of bipartisan and bicameral collaboration, and it is supported by major fire service organizations, including the International Association of Fire Chiefs, the International Association of Firefighters, the National Volunteer Fire Council, the National Fire Protection Association, and the Congressional Fire Services Institute.

The resources and leadership of USFA are an essential part of the ability of the fire service to protect our cities, towns and communities. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise, of course, in support of S. 2606, a bill reauthorizing the United States Fire Administration. It's a companion bill to H.R. 4847, which passed the House in April with unanimous support after moving through the Committee on Science and Technology by regular order.

This act authorizes the activities of the United States Fire Administration for fiscal year 2009 through 2012. USFA provides critical support to our Nation's firefighters through training, through research and development and through logistical support. For instance, the USFA provides firefighter training to over 80,000 firefighters per year; it compiles nationwide data on fire control and prevention activities, and it oversees the fire grants programs that have dramatically improved the capabilities and the preparedness of our Nation's fire services.

This is an extremely important agency in our committee's jurisdiction. I'd like to thank Mr. MITCHELL and Dr. GINGREY, vice chair and ranking member of the Technology and Innovation Subcommittee, for their hard work over the past year on this matter.

The United States Fire Administration does a wonderful job of providing support to first responders across the country. The reauthorization of this agency is an important priority for me, and I urge the passage of S. 2606.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HALL of Texas. I have no other speakers. I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I risk in strong support of S. 2606, the United States Fire Administration Reauthorization Act of 2008.

This legislation reauthorizes the United States Fire Administration (USFA) for fiscal years 2009 through 2012 for the agency's activities in training, fire education and awareness, data collection, research, and standards development and promotion. S. 2606 provides $291 million in federal funds over this 5-year period, which is consistent with previously authorized levels and allows only for a modest growth in funding, capped at 3 percent in any of the fiscal years covered by this bill.

The mission of USFA is to limit economic and life loss ''due to fire and related emergencies, through leadership, advocacy, coordination and support.'' This organization provides vital assistance in the areas of training, fire education and awareness, and awards grants to a number of local fire departments across the country. Since its inception in 1974, USFA has trained over 1 million firefighters through local delivery courses as well as through the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, Maryland. USFA has provided support critical to reducing deaths and injuries in the U.S. from fire by 25 percent between 1996 and 2006.

S. 2606 is the Senate companion bill to H.R. 4847, which the House passed on April 3rd of this year by a vote of 412–0. The Senate bill includes the same authorization amounts and makes minor modifications to the House-passed version that only further improve the legislation. I am proud to say that this legislation has been crafted in both a bipartisan and bicameral way—with community stakeholders—to ensure that it meets the needs of our firefighting community. I commend my colleagues on the Science Committee in particular Chairman GORDON, Ranking Member HALL and Mr. MITCHELL of Arizona, who is the lead sponsor of the House-passed bill—for their diligence in bringing this important legislation to the House floor today.

Mr. Speaker, S. 2606 authorizes USFA to continue its current operations and expand training and research in a fiscally responsible manner. The bill will provide firefighter training to over 80,000 firefighters per year and facilitate the delivery of education and training programs to firefighters through local training efforts. S. 2606 also aids research into techniques, systems, and equipment to improve fire prevention and control in sparsely developed communities that have been particularly hard hit by fire in the past few years. This legislation also specifically addresses the issue of fighting fires in an urban-wildland interface—like the wildfires we saw last year in Southern California—by implementing methods to better respond and prepare for fires that move from wildlands to suburban and urban areas.

As a physician, I am particularly pleased that S. 2606 includes language I offered in the Science Committee to improve emergency medical care by facilitating USFA's coordination with other groups as well as its ability to disseminate information on best-practices for EMS operations and management.

Firefighters are called upon to extract victims from car crashes, building fires or collapses, and all other emergencies. It is critical that patients receive consistent care under medical direction. While I do not expect USFA to pursue studies into the medical care EMS patients should receive, I believe that this language in S. 2606 will give the Administrator the authority and flexibility to conduct studies into training, system design, and on-scene patient management. This will allow the Administrator to work with appropriate federal agencies and existing medical services in these local communities.

Mr. Speaker, it has been a great honor to work with the men and women of our Nation's fire services—including the Congressional Fire Services Institute, the International Association of Fire Fighters, the International Association of Fire Chiefs, and the National Volunteer Fire Council—on this important legislation. The United States Fire Administration is a vital link to these first responders and this agency has made substantial contributions to improving fire services throughout the country. S. 2606 will ensure that USFA remains vibrant and productive in the years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for their support and thoughtful contributions to this bill. I urge passage of S. 2606 that will enable the USFA to continue its record of achievement as well as prepare firefighters for the challenges they will face in the future.

Mr. MITCHELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 2606, the United States Fire Administration Reauthorization.

Last year, I was proud to introduce H.R. 4847, the House version of the U.S. Fire Administration Reauthorization along with my colleague from Georgia, Dr. GINGREY. I voted for and the House unanimously passed H.R. 4847 by a vote of 412 to zero on April 3, 2007.

Firefighters are often the first—and the last-to leave an emergency scene. Whether it's putting out a house fire or a wildfire—or responding to a terrorist attack or a car accident—we depend on firefighters every day.

But firefighters also depend on us. They depend on the public and their elected officials to make sure that they have the resources, the equipment and the training they need to do their job. Without those tools, we put them and all of us at unnecessary risk.

The U.S. Fire Administration is an invaluable resource for our Nation's firefighters and the communities they protect. Through training, data collection, fire education for the public, and support for fire related research and development, USFA provides critical tools and leadership to the fire service. The resources and leadership of USFA are an essential part of the ability of the fire service to protect our cities, towns, and communities.

Firefighters today are called upon to respond to an ever broader array of emergencies. This authorization bill gives USFA the authority to make sure its training program keeps pace with the increasing challenges to the fire service.

S. 2606 reauthorizes this important agency for four years at funding levels that will enable USFA to fully carry out its mission.

Last fall, the Science and Technology Committee's Subcommittee on Technology and Innovation, of which I am a member, heard testimony about the priorities of the Nation's fire service community for USFA. This bill directly reflects these priorities.

Fighting wildfires in urban areas requires special training—and I'm proud that this legislation enhances Fire Administration training for wildland-urban interface fires. In Arizona, one of the toughest challenges our firefighters face is wildfires in the wildland-urban interface.

This bill also authorizes USFA to focus on the pressing challenges of fires involving hazardous materials as well as advanced topics in emergency medical services.

This legislation is the product of bipartisan collaboration and is supported by major fire service organizations, including the International Association of Fire Chiefs, the International Association of Fire Fighters, the National Volunteer Fire Council, the National Fire Protection Association, and the Congressional Fire Services Institute.

The Senate passed S. 2606 unanimously on September 18, 2008. I urge my colleagues to support this vital legislation, bringing it one step closer to becoming law.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Maryland (Ms. EDWARDS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 2606.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

□ 1600

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF A 4–H NATIONAL YOUTH SCIENCE DAY

Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1390) expressing support for the designation of a 4–H National Youth Science Day.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1390

Whereas barely 18 percent of 12th grade students perform at or above the proficient level in science;

Whereas the need for science education, especially outside the classroom, is crucial to our country's ability to remain globally competitive;

Whereas today only 32.4 percent of undergraduates in the United States are leaving college with a bachelor's degree in science or engineering, compared to 63.3 percent in Japan, 62.1 percent in Germany, and 56.2 percent in China;

Whereas American businesses will face a competitive crisis with the advancing science- and technology-driven global economy unless they have a workforce that has been trained in scientific fields;

Whereas the future global economy will be driven by market sectors that are based in science, engineering, and technology;

Whereas current scientists and engineers are retiring in record numbers, creating a potentially large void of skilled workers;

Whereas 4–H and other out-of-school programs that focus on science, engineering and technology are an important part of educating and developing leaders who are well-trained and technically competent;

Whereas 4–H is preparing America's future workforce by developing their passion for science, engineering, and technology at an early age;

Whereas 4–H's educational programs have an unparalleled reach of more than 6,000,000 youth in all 50 States;

Whereas 4–H, in partnership with more than 106 land-grant universities, shape programs in the sciences that are important to today's workforce and critical for managing the world's resources for years to come;

Whereas youth, parents, teachers, schools, and youth organizations have the ability to participate in fun, accessible, science-related activities that encourage youth exploration and experimentation at an early age; and

Whereas October 8, 2008 would be an appropriate day to designate as 4–H National Youth Science Day: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) expresses support for the designation of a 4–H National Youth Science Day;

(2) requests that the President issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States to observe 4–H National Youth Science Day;

(3) encourages the people of the United States to observe the day with appropriate ceremonies and activities; and

(4) encourages young people of all ages and backgrounds to pursue science studies and enter into science careers.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Maryland (Ms. EDWARDS) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HALL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Maryland.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H. Res. 1390, the resolution now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of House Resolution 1390 and 4–H programs across America. 4–H works with over 6 million youths in all 50 States to help develop citizenship, leadership and life skills. 4–H has been doing this and doing it well for over 100 years.

What some people may not know is that one of 4–H's primary focuses today is in the area of science and technology. Through its summer camps, fairs, cultural events and other programs, 4–H has focused on the goal of providing American youths with a solid background in science and technology. Moreover, 4–H programs get children excited and interested in these fields, which we know is a critical element in a child's education success in the sciences.

As this resolution correctly points out, American students consistently rank behind our international peers in the fields of science and technology. We clearly need to do more if we want to ensure that the next generation of Americans have the high-tech skills to compete in the global marketplace. That is why it is so important that organizations like 4–H continue to do the excellent work they are doing.

I would like to thank the sponsor of this resolution, Mr. CARDOZA, for recognizing the importance of the work of 4–H in the advancement of science, and I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, the resolution before us today would designate October 8 as 4–H National Youth Science Day. I, as well as 21 other Members of this body, was a proud member of 4–H and know firsthand the good work that this organization performs. ''Head, heart, hands and health,'' that is what the four Hs stand for.

With over 6 million youth participating, it is a much larger organization today than it was when I was a boy, but it has the focus of helping young people reach their full potential. That focus remains the same.

As we discuss frequently on this floor, and as the newspapers reflect almost daily, our innovative spirit is the stronghold of the Nation's success. But we must do a better job of energizing our children to be interested in science, engineering and technology if we are to remain the world's leader in innovation.

The purpose of the 4–H National Youth Science Day is to do just that. The National Science Experiment is the designated activity for the first annual 4–H National Youth Science Day and will focus on water conservation. Through this special day and through its science, engineering and technology programs, 4–H has a goal of preparing 1 million new young people to excel in science, engineering and technology by 2013. I applaud them for these endeavors, and encourage my colleagues to join me in supporting this resolution.

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in full support of officially recognizing October 8, 2008, as 4–H National Youth Science Day.

To show its commitment to providing a quality science education, 4–H National Youth Science Day will take place during National 4–H Week and features a "National Science Experiment"—a designated science activity that will engage youth across the country in environmental issues relating to water conservation and groundwater contamination.

Over 100 years ago, 4–H began with the creation of agriculture projects geared at ensuring the future of our Nation's rural youth. Today, with a membership of 6 million young people, 4–H is America's largest youth organization and is an essential tool to engage and educate our future generations of scientists and inventors at a young age.

My own daughter Brittany had a very positive experience with 4–H in California learning

how to sew and quilt and raising her heifer named Lucy.

4–H's efforts to make science education enjoyable and interesting are noteworthy as barely 18 percent of 12th grade students in the United States are currently performing at or above the proficient level in science.

Similarly, only 32.4 percent of undergraduates in America are leaving college with a bachelor's degree in science or engineering, and a majority of scientists believe that the United States is falling behind in science and innovation.

In response to these sobering statistics, the National Academy of Sciences issued the timely report Rising Above the Gathering Storm, calling for an ambitious national program to address the need for increased math and science education.

According to the report, two important factors that America depends on to compete successfully in the global marketplace are: (1) a well-trained and technically competent workforce; and (2) the production of scientific and technological innovations.

Recognizing and promoting these goals is critical if America is going to remain a competitive leader in the global economy, and assistance from programs like 4–H will be vital in this effort.

I urge my colleagues to join me in my support for H. Res. 1390 to officially recognize October 8, 2008, as 4–H National Youth Science Day and encourage young people of all ages and backgrounds to pursue their interest in science and innovation.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SALAZAR). The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Maryland (Ms. EDWARDS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1390.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

HEAVY DUTY HYBRID VEHICLE RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, AND DEMONSTRATION ACT OF 2008

Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6323) to establish a research, development, demonstration, and commercial application program to promote research of appropriate technologies for heavy duty plug-in hybrid vehicles, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6323

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Heavy Duty Hybrid Vehicle Research, Development, and Demonstration Act of 2008''.

SEC. 2. ADVANCED HEAVY DUTY HYBRID VEHICLE TECHNOLOGY RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, DEMONSTRATION, AND COMMERCIAL APPLICATION PROGRAM.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall establish a competitive research, development, demonstration, and commercial application program (referred to in this Act as the ''program'') to provide grants to applicants to carry out projects to advance research and development and to demonstrate technologies for advanced heavy duty hybrid vehicles.

(b) APPLICATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall issue requirements for applying for grants under the program.

(2) SELECTION CRITERIA.—The Secretary shall establish selection criteria for awarding grants under the program. In evaluating applications, the Secretary shall—

(A) consider the ability of applicants to successfully complete both phases described in subsection (c); and

(B) give priority to applicants who are best able to—

(i) fill existing research gaps and achieve the greatest advances beyond the state of current technology; and

(ii) achieve the greatest reduction in fuel consumption and emissions.

(3) PARTNERS.—An applicant for a grant under this section may carry out a project in partnership with other entities.

(4) SCHEDULE.—

(A) APPLICATION REQUEST.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall publish in the Federal Register, and elsewhere as appropriate, a request for applications to undertake projects under the program. Applications shall be due not later than 90 days after the date of such publication.

(B) APPLICATION SELECTION.—Not later than 90 days after the date on which applications for grants under the program are due, the Secretary shall select, through a competitive process, all applicants to be awarded a grant under the program.

(5) NUMBER OF GRANTS.—The Secretary shall determine the number of grants to be awarded under the program based on the technical merits of the applications received. The number of grants awarded under the program shall not be less than 3 or more than 7, and at least half of the grants awarded shall be for plug-in hybrid technology.

(6) AWARD AMOUNTS.—The Secretary shall award not more than $3,000,000 to each recipient per year for each of the 3 years of the project.

(c) PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS; TWO PHASES.—Each grant recipient shall be required to complete two phases:

(1) PHASE ONE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—In phase one, the recipient shall research and demonstrate advanced hybrid technology by producing or retrofitting one or more advanced heavy duty hybrid vehicles.

(B) REPORT.—Not later than 60 days after the completion of phase one, the recipient shall submit to the Secretary a report containing data and analysis of—

(i) the performance of each vehicle in carrying out the testing procedures developed by the Secretary under subparagraph (E);

(ii) the performance during such testing of each vehicle's components, including the battery, energy management system, charging system, and power controls;

(iii) the projected cost of each vehicle, including acquisition, operating, and maintenance costs; and

(iv) the emissions levels of each vehicle, including greenhouse gas levels.

(C) TERMINATION.—The Secretary may terminate the grant program with respect to the project of a recipient at the conclusion of phase one if the Secretary determines that the recipient cannot successfully complete the requirements of phase two.

(D) TIMING.—Phase one begins upon receipt of a grant under the program and has a duration of one year.

(E) TESTING PROCEDURES.—The Secretary shall develop standard testing procedures to be used by recipients in testing each vehicle. Such procedures shall include testing a vehicle's performance under typical operating conditions.

(2) PHASE TWO.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—In phase two, the recipient shall demonstrate advanced manufacturing processes and technologies by producing or retrofitting 50 advanced heavy duty hybrid vehicles.

(B) REPORT.—Not later than 60 days after the completion of phase two, the recipient shall submit to the Secretary a report containing—

(i) an analysis of the technological challenges encountered by the recipient in the development of the vehicles;

(ii) an analysis of the technological challenges involved in mass producing the vehicles; and

(iii) the manufacturing cost of each vehicle, the estimated sale price of each vehicle, and the cost of a comparable non-hybrid vehicle.

(C) TIMING.—Phase two begins at the conclusion of phase one and has a duration of two years.

(d) RESEARCH ON VEHICLE USAGE AND ALTERNATIVE DRIVE TRAINS.—The Secretary shall conduct research into alternative power train designs for use in advanced heavy duty hybrid vehicles. Such research shall compare the estimated cost, including operating and maintenance costs, emissions reductions, and fuel savings of each design with similar non-hybrid power train designs under the conditions in which these vehicles are typically used, including, for each vehicle type—

(1) number of miles driven;

(2) time spent with the engine at idle;

(3) horsepower requirements;

(4) length of time the maximum or near maximum power output of the vehicle is needed; and

(5) any other factors that the Secretary considers appropriate.

(e) REPORT TO THE CONGRESS.—Not later than 60 days after the Secretary receives the reports from grant recipients under subsection (c)(2)(B), the Secretary shall submit to the Congress a report containing—

(1) an identification of the grant recipients and a description of the projects to be funded;

(2) an identification of all applicants who submitted applications for the program;

(3) all data contained in reports submitted by grant recipients under subsection (c);

(4) a description of the vehicles produced or retrofitted by recipients in phase one and phase two of the project, including an analysis of the fuel efficiency of such vehicles; and

(5) the results of the research carried out under subsections (d) and (h).

(f) COORDINATION AND NONDUPLICATION.—To the maximum extent practicable, the Secretary shall coordinate, and not duplicate, activities under this Act with other programs and laboratories of the Department of Energy and other Federal research programs.

(g) COST SHARING.—Section 988 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 16352) shall apply to the program established pursuant to this section.

(h) ELECTRICAL GRID RESEARCH PILOT PROGRAM.—The Secretary shall establish a pilot program through the National Laboratories and Technology Centers of the Department of Energy to research and test the effects on the domestic electric power grid of the widespread use of plug-in hybrid vehicles, including plug-in hybrid vehicles that are advanced heavy duty hybrid vehicles.

(i) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section:

(1) ADVANCED HEAVY DUTY HYBRID VEHICLE.—The term ''advanced heavy duty hybrid vehicle'' means a vehicle with a gross weight between 14,000 pounds and 33,000 pounds that is fueled, in part, by a rechargeable energy storage system.

(2) GREENHOUSE GAS.—The term ''greenhouse gas'' means—

(A) carbon dioxide;

(B) methane;

(C) nitrous oxide;

(D) hydrofluorocarbons;

(E) perfluorocarbons; or

(F) sulfur hexafluoride.

(3) PLUG-IN HYBRID.—The term ''plug-in hybrid'' means a vehicle fueled, in part, by electrical power that can be recharged by connecting the vehicle to an electric power source.

(4) RETROFIT.—The term ''retrofit'' means the process of creating an advanced heavy duty hybrid vehicle by converting an existing, fuel-powered vehicle.

(5) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of Energy.

(j) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

(1) There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary $16,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2009 through 2011 to carry out this section.

(2) Of the funds authorized under paragraph (1), not more than $1,000,000 per fiscal year may be used for—

(A) carrying out the studies required under subsection (d);

(B) carrying out the pilot program required under subsection (h); and

(C) the administration of the program.

SEC. 3. EXPANDING RESEARCH IN HYBRID TECHNOLOGY FOR LARGE VEHICLES.

Subsection (g)(1) of the United States Energy Storage Competitiveness Act of 2007 (enacted as section 641(g)(1) of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (42 U.S.C. 17231(g)(1))) is amended by inserting ''vehicles with a gross weight over 16,000 pounds,'' before ''stationary applications''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Maryland (Ms. EDWARDS) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HALL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Maryland.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 6323, the bill now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

It is my pleasure to put before the House today H.R. 6323 by Mr. JIM SENSENBRENNER, ranking member of the Investigations and Oversight Subcommittee of the Science and Technology Committee. By enhancing the Department of Energy's research program in heavy-duty hybrid trucks, this bill draws much-needed focus to a very critical component of the transportation sector, commercial trucks.

We are learning the hard way just how much the health of our economy can hinge on the commercial transportation sector. Skyrocketing fuel costs translate directly into higher prices for consumers since the large majority of products we consume or use, from food to building materials, are at some point transported by medium to heavy-duty truck. We must take measures to ensure that this remains a vibrant economic sector.

The heavy-duty truck sector also plays a role in our energy security and environmental health. Approximately one-fourth of the Nation's fuel use and the majority of transportation-based emissions can be attributed to heavy-duty trucks. One large tractor-trailer rig uses as much fuel annually as 48 passenger vehicles. We can see how even small improvements in their efficiency can have a substantial impact.

As with passenger vehicles, hybrid technologies hold the greatest promise for improving the fuel economy and emissions of commercial trucks, but considerable research and development is required to put these technologies on the road. While the technological requirements for hybrid trucks are very different, advances in this sector can benefit the domestic automotive sector as a whole by invaluable lessons learned in designing and manufacturing these systems.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER and his staff have worked closely with the majority to ensure that grants under this program explore a wide range of hybrid technologies and applications. Mr. SENSENBRENNER's bill represents a commonsense approach to chipping away at our energy challenge.

I believe this is an important piece of legislation in the large and complex puzzle that is our transportation sector, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

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

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 6323, the Heavy-Duty Hybrid Vehicle Research, Development, and Demonstration Act of 2008, sponsored by my good friend, Congressman SENSENBRENNER.

While most of the attention of hybrid vehicles has been focused on passenger cars, large, heavy-duty hybrid trucks have received limited funds for Federal research and development programs. However, because trucks generally use much more fuel per year than passenger cars, the overall potential savings are very significant.

The Environmental Protection Agency estimates that a typical delivery truck using a hydraulic hybrid system could save up to 1,000 gallons of fuel per year. In light of the proposed savings in fuel use and resulting emissions reduction, the Heavy-Duty Hybrid Vehicle Research, Development, and Demonstration Act of 2008 aims to encourage the advancement of the needed technology to bring about these savings.

The bill directs the Secretary of Energy to establish a grant program for the development of advanced heavy-duty hybrid vehicles. The grants are rewarded in two phases. In phase one, grant recipients are required to build or retrofit one or more advanced heavy-duty hybrid vehicles and to collect required data. In phase two, grant recipients are required to produce and/or retrofit 50 heavy-duty hybrid vehicles, collect required data and report on the results.

In addition, the bill directs the secretary to conduct a study of alternative power train designs for use in advanced heavy-duty hybrid vehicles. Further, it directs the secretary to establish a pilot program through DOE's National Laboratories to research and test the effects on the domestic electric power grid of the widespread use of plug-in hybrid vehicles, including heavy-duty plug-in hybrid trucks.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 6323 passed out of the Committee on Science and Technology with bipartisan support and with input from both sides of the aisle. I thank Congressman SENSENBRENNER for introducing the bill and Chairman GORDON for helping us to advance it. I think it makes good sense, and it certainly deserves passage.

Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX).

Ms. FOXX. I thank my colleague from Texas for yielding.

We are talking about the need to improve our ability to use the energy that we have in this country and certainly to get additional energy, and I want to call to the attention of people who are paying attention to this debate something that has come out in the press which we Republicans have been saying for a long time, and it has to do with the no-energy bill that passed the House last week.

I am going to hit some high spots, and, Mr. Speaker, then I would like to put the rest of the material into the RECORD.

Mr. Speaker, the Boston Globe op-ed by Jeff Jacoby, 9/21/08, the title, ''Speaker Pelosi's Bill, a Feint of Supporting Offshore Exploration That Would Actually Make Drilling More Difficult.''

''The bill permanently bans all drilling within 50 miles of the U.S. companies, which just happens to where most of the recoverable oil and gas reserves are.''

The Wall Street Journal editorial, ''Pelosi's Drilling Ruse.''

''The sudden pro-drilling makeover of the Pelosi Democrats has always had an air, a gale, really, of election-year convenience, and the House proved it Tuesday by passing an energy bill that would put any bunko man to shame. This confidence trick won't expand domestic oil and gas supplies even a bit. The real game was to give vulnerable Democrats political cover by letting them vote for more offshore drilling while making more drilling all but impossible, thus appeasing the party's green wing. The House bill shows that the Pelosi Democrats simply aren't serious about expanding domestic energy supplies.'' Wall Street Journal, 9/19/08.

The Oregonian from 9/17/08. This is a column by David Reinhard. ''Nancy Pelosi's Drilling Charade.''

''Pelosi's alternative energy choice? Snake oil. How lame is the energy bill that Speaker Nancy Pelosi had House Democrats pass through the House on Tuesday? Louisiana Senator Mary Landrieu said before the vote that Pelosi's handiwork would be 'dead on arrival' in the Senate.''

The title of that article is ''Pelosi's Bill is an Obvious Charade'' and appeared 9/17/08.

Some other editorials. The Augusta Chronicle. ''Nothing. That's what this Congress came up with after months of high fuel costs and concern over our dependence on foreign oil and after a summer recess in which Senators and Representatives could have listened to the American people but did not. Congress came up with nothing, a fake energy exploration that would only weaken America.''

The title of that was ''They've Blown a Ruse; Congress Fails Yet Again.'' Augusta Chronicle editorial, September 21, 2008.

□ 1615

Another one, the Northwest Florida Daily News editorial, ''Don't be fooled by House Democrats' disingenuous bill to lift the Federal Government's ban on offshore drilling . . . It's a bill intended to give voters the impression that Democrats favor offshore drilling—while maintaining their opposition to it.'' That's in an article called ''Drilling for Political Advantage,'' September 20, 2008.

It is refreshing to see that some of our newspaper folks are paying attention to what's going on in the House of Representatives and calling attention to it to the American public. Republicans did that all the month of August, calling attention to the fact that the Democrats refused to do anything to help hard-working Americans by lowering the price of gasoline. The American people deserve better than this.

I am going to give one more quote from the Wall Street Journal. ''This confidence trick won't expand domestic oil-and-gas supplies even a bit . . . As Congress runs down the clock for this term, the likelihood of reaching some grand pre-election energy bargain is vanishing fast. The House bill shows that the Pelosi Democrats aren't serious about expanding domestic energy supplies.'' That, again, was in the Wall Street Journal, September 19, 2008.

Republicans have a commonsense plan, it's called the American Energy Act. We believe in all of the above, conservation, alternatives, drilling for additional supply, using the money that would come from those leases to provide the alternative.

''Coming next week from Nancy Pelosi and the House Democrats: legislation that allows oil and gas drilling on the moon! The bill would have the same result as energy legislation passed Tuesday—no increase in domestic oil production—and it certainly wouldn't be any less cynical * * * The Democrats' intent here is so transparent it's embarrassing. Americans know the country needs to use all its resources to power the future and speed economic recovery. That includes offshore oil drilling—where the oil is.'' (''Let's Drill for Oil—Where There Isn't Any,'' Las Vegas Review Journal Editorial, September 19, 2008)

''Pelosi, who opposes new drilling for American oil, allowed the vote only because this summer Democrats were on the wrong side of offshore exploration, which seven in 10 Americans favor. Unfortunately, the House-passed bill is nothing more than a fig leaf for Democrats as they prepare to face frustrated voters in November.'' (''Same Old Drill: 'No-Energy' Bill Risks Voter Wrath,'' The Oklahoman Editorial, September 19, 2008)

''This way, Democrats can claim to be opening the way to offshore drilling * * * under the restrictions included in the bill, no real drilling is likely to happen.'' (''Drilling Bill Lacks Substance,'' Buffalo News Editorial, September 22, 2008)

''If House Democrats were looking to give Americans relief at the gas pump in the energy legislation passed on Sept. 16, they failed. In a jarring twist, the legislation offers a solution and then negates it. If Americans were hoping for at least half a loaf from this legislation, they were disappointed.'' (''Energy Legislation Less Than Half a Loaf,'' Reading Eagle Editorial, September 20, 2008)

Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

The bill we are considering now is a step toward energy for the future, toward investing in the kinds of technologies that will transform where we are today on energy to be where we need to be to complete in the global marketplace.

I am very pleased to be here in support of Mr. SENSENBRENNER's bill that is a commonsense approach to making an investment in the kind of electric hybrid technology that will transform our commercial trucking sector so that we make the kinds of investments in energy that we have to make today to compete in tomorrow's marketplace.

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

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Maryland (Ms. EDWARDS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6323, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

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

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SUCCESSFUL DEMONSTRATION OF THE FIRST INTEGRATED CIRCUIT

Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1471) honoring the 50th anniversary of the successful demonstration of the first integrated circuit and its impact on the electronics industry.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1471

Whereas in May 1958 Jack St. Clair Kilby joined Texas Instruments because it was the only company that would permit him to work full-time on miniaturization of electronics;

Whereas just four months later on September 12, 1958, Jack Kilby demonstrated the first integrated circuit by combining a transistor, several resistors, and a capacitor on a half inch piece of germanium in an attempt to reduce transistor costs;

Whereas Jack Kilby spent his career at Texas Instruments, a productive engineering career that resulted in over 60 patents and seminal inventions, including the electronic calculator;

Whereas Jack Kilby received the National Medal of Science in 1969 and the National Medal of Technology in 1990, and shared the Nobel Prize in Physics in 2000, for his invention of and contributions to the development of the integrated circuit;

Whereas during Kilby's lifetime integrated circuits provided a million fold decrease in the costs of electronics;

Whereas Kilby's achievement revolutionized electronics and permitted it to grow to over $1,500,000,000,000 in annual sales world wide;

Whereas the integrated circuit revolutionized computing and made possible getting a man to the moon and modern space exploration;

Whereas the integrated circuit led to a revolution in communications, transportation, and medical industries; and

Whereas the future will inevitably bring equally far-reaching integrated circuit-based advances in many fields: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes and honors the research and development efforts of Jack Kilby and his contemporaries, who by inventing and perfecting the integrated circuit brought us modern electronics and changed the world; and

(2) recognizes the importance of continued advancements in electronics to the well-being of America.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlelady from Maryland (Ms. EDWARDS) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HALL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Maryland.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on House Resolution 1471, the resolution now under consideration

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

There was no objection.

Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

September 12 of this year came and went with little mention of the 50th anniversary of one of the most important events of the 20th century. We owe a debt to Congressman HALL for introducing the resolution to remind us of the great importance of Jack Kilby's experiment and for giving us the opportunity to celebrate the positive contributions of the electronics industry to our well-being.

Jack Kilby knew he was on to something important. He turned down offers from other leading electronics companies to go to Texas Instruments in May 1958, because Texas Instruments was the one company that would let him work full time on miniaturization of electronics. Just 4 months later, he demonstrated what others had been unable to do, that it was possible to create an integrated circuit by combining a transistor, a capacitor and resistors.

All this happened within a year of the Sputnik, the Russian satellite that was a wake-up call regarding the state of American science and engineering. There were computers then, but they were a mass of vacuum tubes and wires that filled a room but provided very little computing power. Radios, television and communications equipment also existed, but, once again, were fairly complicated devices with limited utility.

The miniaturization that Jack Kilby espoused revolutionized electronics. Thanks to the efforts of others, including Bob Noyce and his colleagues at Fairchild, integrated circuits rapidly moved from germanium to widely available silicon.

Early integrated circuit applications allowed mankind to reach the moon by the end of the 1960s. It completely changed the face of national defense. It allowed Jack Kilby to intent the calculator. It made the Internet possible. It allowed electronics to be the future of automobiles, airplanes, entertainment, medical equipment and manufacturing controls.

Before Jack Kilby died, the circuits he invented had become microscopic and had decreased in price by a factor of a million. During our lifetimes, they will continue to drop in price, increase in sophistication and be even more integral building blocks for life as we know it.

I am extremely pleased the leadership of this Committee on Science and Technology has seen fit to push this tribute to such an important set of achievements. I urge my colleagues to join with me in voting for this legislation that honors a group of individuals who truly changed the world for the better.

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

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 1471, which honors the 50th anniversary of the invention of the integrated circuit by Jack St. Clair Kilby. On September 12, 1958, in a Dallas lab of Texas Instruments, Jack St. Clair Kilby gathered a small group of coworkers to unveil a stunning achievement. Before them sat a thin piece of metal attached to monitoring equipment.

When powered on, it became clear that the single piece of metal was doing the work of several simple electronic components, including transistors, capacitors and resistors. Jack had created the first microchip.

I go back a long ways with Texas Instruments. I knew very well Erik Johnson, who started Texas Instruments. I have talked with him personally on several occasions about TI and how he bought it. He said he bought it on a Saturday morning, and the next morning, Sunday morning, he was driving out to look at what he had bought and turned on his radio, because he had promised his wife he would be back in time to go to church with her. He turned on his radio, and the announcement was that the Japanese were bombing Pearl Harbor.

I said to Erik Johnson, Mr. Johnson, as an engineer, you are wonderful, but as a matter of timing, you are perfect, because that launched the world into war and TI has been a major player in the victory that they achieved some 4 or 5 years later. This breakthrough is a similar breakthrough that they have had time and time again at TI.

For much of the 20th century, the electronics industry had relied on vacuum tubes as the basis for its design. By 1958, these bulky and fragile devices were beginning to be widely replaced by transistors made of semiconducting metals, which were tougher, which were smaller, which produced less heat. These features allowed electrical engineers to design much more complicated systems.

However, as the number of components increased, engineers were having a harder time reliably connecting everything. Cutting edge devices might require connecting thousands of components to thousands of tiny wires by hand.

Jack Kilby solved that problem. Over the summer of 1958, Jack created a way to build all of the wires, transistors and other electrical components into a single piece of metal. In essence, electronics manufacturers could take a solid piece of metal and etch a complete, electronic device into it, no assembly required.

This breakthrough, the integrated circuit, revolutionized the world. Jack Kilby's work, as well as fellow integrated circuit pioneers, Geoffrey Drummer and Robert Noyce, heralded the beginning of an encompassing transformation of modern society. Their work paved the way for the modern electronics industry. Electronic devices that once required a small building and teams of engineers working around the clock now fit neatly into pocket.

Integrated circuits continue to be a cornerstone of the American economy and an important priority of our research and development institutions. Fifty years after the first demonstration of an integrated circuit, it's fitting that Congress recognizes achievement and the importance of this sector now and in the future.

I urge my colleagues to support H. Res. 1471.

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

Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time and reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentlelady from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX).

Ms. FOXX. I thank my colleague from Texas for yielding me some time.

Mr. Speaker, I think it's very appropriate that we are heralding this innovation today. I want to tie this into what we have been trying to do here on the House, what Republicans have been trying to do all this year, and that is to allow us to create more American-made energy by drilling in Alaska and drilling on the Outer Continental Shelf and using that money that we, the Federal Government would get, for the leases, to find new and exciting alternatives for our energy situation, the challenges that we face. I want to highlight again what some newspapers across the country have said about the cynical bill that was passed last week by Speaker PELOSI and the Democrats and show that this is understood all across the country.

The New Hampshire Union Leader editorial said, ''Drilling for cover: Pelosi & Co.'s phony bill . . . Democrats in the U.S. House want you to think that they support expanded drilling for oil and natural gas. They don't. Their vote on Tuesday proved it . . . This bill is a total fraud. It gives access to only 12 percent of the estimated oil reserves we are currently not allowed to access. . . . The bill . . . does not allow States to share revenues from oil leases granted there. So States such as California, which faces a huge budget shortfall, have less incentive to give that approval. Democrats who have opposed expanded domestic drilling forever suddenly found themselves on the losing end of a major economic issue after gas prices hit $4 a gallon. Now they are pushing a phony drilling bill to fool the American people into believing that Democrats support new oil exploration.''

In the Honolulu, Hawaii, Star-Bulletin editorial, ''House energy bill falls short of bipartisan solution. Representative NEIL ABERCROMBIE's admirable effort to craft a comprehensive energy plan worthy of bipartisan support has been cast aside. Instead, the Democratic House leadership has pushed through a surrogate measure on a

party-line vote that is doomed either in the Senate or by presidential veto, while providing Democrats political cover from voters angry about high gasoline prices. . . . The bill backed by PELOSI, a long-time opponent of offshore drilling, would keep the ban in effect within 50 miles of the shore. It would allow drilling from 50 to 100 miles from the shore if adjacent States gave their approval and would extend it beyond 100 miles with or without such approval. That means that 88 percent of the estimated 18 billion barrels of oil in waters now under drilling bans would remain off limits.''

The Washington Examiner editorial. ''Pelosi's sham editorial bill is an oily dodge.'' It says, ''The reality is this sham legislation effectively keeps the 26 year-old congressional drilling ban in place for 85 percent of all offshore petroleum reserves. Pelosi's measure allows virtually no drilling within 100 miles of U.S. coastlines, yet that's where most of the untapped resources are.

□ 1630

''Incredibly, that's not the worst of it. Pelosi's bill leaves in place the endless delays created via lawsuits filed by rabid environmentalists. U.S. Representative JOHN SHADEGG calls this problem the bill's 'litigation loophole.'''

The Charleston, West Virginia Daily Mail editorial, ''A Drilling Bill That Does Nothing. When House Democrats came back to Washington, they quickly passed a bill that Democratic Senator MARY LANDRIEU of oil-producing Louisiana pronounced dead on arrival in the Senate.''

It goes on to say: ''Pelosi's plan is a slap in the face of Americans. Americans need to be as independent of foreign oil as possible. The public sees that. Yet Democrats refuse to pursue policies that will increase American oil production. This position is senseless, and it is especially so in an election year.''

The Los Angeles Times editorial: ''Wasted Energy Bill. House Democrats' push for expanded offshore oil and gas drilling was more about electoral positioning than drilling, aimed at convincing voters that the party shares their pain at the pump.''

And then an op-ed in Forbes, ''Washington's Offshore Snake Oil. On Tuesday, the House Democrats went on the record supporting an offshore drilling bill in a piece of legislation that now heads promptly over to the Senate to die.''

Mr. Speaker, I would like to put the remainder of my comments in the RECORD.

Investor's Business Daily Editorial: ''Drill-Shy Congress . . . House Democrats have passed an 'oil drilling bill that bans drilling where most of the oil is . . . On that first day of the new fiscal year, the congressional prohibitions expire on offshore drilling for oil and natural gas, as well as for the oil shale available in Western states. The Democratic-controlled, do-nothing Congress for once is frantic to do something before that deadline hits. In a big election year, with summer gas prices exceeding $4 a gallon, voters won't swallow an extension of the ban. So Speaker Nancy Pelosi on Tuesday had the House of Representatives pass legislation she unveiled less than 24 hours earlier, with Republicans blocked from offering amendments . . . But Texas Rep. Jeb Hensarling, the Republicans' Study Committee chairman, correctly called the bill 'a sham' with no provision addressing the dire need for construction of new oil refineries, 'no clean coal, no energy exploration in arctic Alaska, no nuclear energy and—if you read it—no exploration in the Outer Continental Shelf for energy in their bill.' '' (9/18/08)

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Maryland (Ms. EDWARDS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1471, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 4 o'clock and 32 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m.

□ 1830

AFTER RECESS

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

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment, concurrent resolutions of the House of the following titles:

H. Con Res. 163. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress in support of further research and activities to increase public awareness, professional education, diagnosis, and treatment of Dandy-Walker syndrome and hydrocephalus.

H. Con. Res. 296. Concurrent resolution expressing support for the designation of August 2008 as ''National Heat Stroke Awareness Month'' to raise awareness and encourage prevention of heat stroke.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed with an amendment in which the concurrence of the House is requested, a joint resolution of the House of the following title:

H.J. Res. 62. Joint resolution to honor the achievements and contributions of Native Americans to the United States, and for other purposes.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 5244, CREDIT CARDHOLDERS' BILL OF RIGHTS ACT OF 2008

Ms. CASTOR, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 110–867) on the resolution (H. Res. 1476) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 5244) to amend the Truth in Lending Act to establish fair and transparent practices relating to the extension of credit under an open end consumer credit plan, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

Votes will be taken in the following order:

H.R. 6685, by the yeas and nays;

H.R. 1907, by the yeas and nays;

H.R. 6853, by the yeas and nays.

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

IRONWORKER TRAINING PROGRAM FOR NATIVE AMERICANS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6685, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6685.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 302, nays 72, not voting 59, as follows:

[Roll No. 616]

YEAS—302

Abercrombie	Boyd (FL)	Cooper
Ackerman	Boyda (KS)	Costa
Aderholt	Braley (IA)	Costello
Allen	Brown (SC)	Courtney
Altmire	Brown, Corrine	Cramer
Andrews	Buchanan	Crenshaw
Arcuri	Butterfield	Crowley
Baca	Calvert	Cuellar
Bachus	Camp (MI)	Cummings
Baird	Capito	Davis (AL)
Baldwin	Capps	Davis (CA)
Barrow	Capuano	Davis (IL)
Bartlett (MD)	Cardoza	Davis (KY)
Bean	Carnahan	Davis, Lincoln
Becerra	Carney	DeFazio
Berkley	Carson	DeGette
Berman	Castle	Delahunt
Berry	Castor	DeLauro
Biggert	Cazayoux	Dent
Bilbray	Chabot	Diaz-Balart, L.
Bishop (GA)	Chandler	Diaz-Balart, M.
Bishop (NY)	Childers	Dingell
Blumenauer	Clarke	Doggett
Boehner	Clay	Donnelly
Bono Mack	Cleaver	Doyle
Boren	Clyburn	Drake
Boswell	Cohen	Dreier
Boucher	Cole (OK)	Edwards (MD)
Boustany	Conyers	Edwards (TX)

Ehlers
Ellison
Ellsworth
Emanuel
Emerson
Engel
Eshoo
Farr
Fattah
Ferguson
Filner
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foster
Frank (MA)
Frelinghuysen
Gallegly
Gerlach
Gillibrand
Gordon
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Hall (NY)
Hall (TX)
Hare
Harman
Hastings (FL)
Hayes
Heller
Herseth Sandlin
Higgins
Hill
Hinojosa
Hirono
Hobson
Hodes
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hooley
Hoyer
Hunter
Inglis (SC)
Inslee
Israel
Issa
Jackson (IL)
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Jones (NC)
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Keller
Kildee
Kilpatrick
Kind
Kirk
Klein (FL)
Kline (MN)
Kucinich
Kuhl (NY)
LaHood
Lampson
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
LaTourette
Lee
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (GA)
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lucas
Lungren, Daniel E.
Lynch
Mahoney (FL)
Maloney (NY)
Markey
Marshall
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (NY)
McCaul (TX)
McCollum (MN)
McCotter
McDermott
McGovern
McHugh
McIntyre
McNerney
McNulty
Meek (FL)
Melancon
Michaud
Miller (MI)
Miller (NC)
Miller, Gary
Miller, George
Mitchell
Mollohan
Moore (KS)
Murphy (CT)
Murphy, Patrick
Murphy, Tim
Murtha
Musgrave
Nadler
Napolitano
Oberstar
Obey
Olver
Ortiz
Pallone
Pastor
Perlmutter
Peterson (MN)
Peterson (PA)
Pitts
Platts
Pomeroy
Porter
Price (NC)
Putnam
Rahall
Ramstad
Rangel
Regula
Rehberg
Reichert
Renzi
Reynolds
Richardson
Rodriguez
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (MI)
Ros-Lehtinen
Ross
Rothman
Roybal-Allard
Ruppersberger
Ryan (OH)
Salazar
Sali
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Saxton
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schmidt
Schwartz
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Serrano
Shays
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuler
Simpson
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Solis
Souder
Space
Speier
Spratt
Stark
Stupak
Sullivan
Sutton
Tanner
Tauscher
Taylor
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tiahrt
Towns
Tsongas
Turner
Upton
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walden (OR)
Walsh (NY)
Walz (MN)
Wamp
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson
Watt
Waxman
Welch (VT)
Wexler
Wilson (NM)
Wilson (OH)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman (VA)
Wolf
Woolsey
Wu
Yarmuth
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

NAYS—72

Akin
Bachmann
Barrett (SC)
Barton (TX)
Bilirakis
Blackburn
Blunt
Bonner
Boozman
Broun (GA)
Brown-Waite, Ginny
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Buyer
Campbell (CA)
Cannon
Cantor
Carter
Coble
Conaway
Davis, David
Deal (GA)
Duncan
Everett
Flake
Fossella
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Garrett (NJ)
Gingrey
Gohmert
Goode
Goodlatte
Hastings (WA)
Hensarling
Herger
Hoekstra
Johnson, Sam
Jordan
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Lamborn
Latta
Lewis (KY)
Linder
Mack
Manzullo
Marchant
McCarthy (CA)
Mica
Miller (FL)
Moran (KS)
Myrick
Nunes
Paul
Pence
Petri
Price (GA)
Radanovich
Rogers (KY)
Roskam
Royce
Ryan (WI)
Scalise
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shadegg
Stearns
Thornberry
Walberg
Whitfield (KY)

NOT VOTING—59

Alexander
Bishop (UT)
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Cubin
Culberson
Davis, Tom
Dicks
Doolittle
English (PA)
Etheridge
Fallin
Feeney
Giffords
Gilchrest
Gonzalez
Granger
Graves
Gutierrez
Hinchey
Hulshof
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Jefferson
Johnson (IL)
Kagen
Kennedy
Knollenberg
Langevin
Latham
McCrery
McHenry
McKeon
McMorris Rodgers
Meeks (NY)
Moore (WI)
Moran (VA)
Neal (MA)
Neugebauer
Pascrell
Payne
Pearce
Pickering
Poe
Pryce (OH)
Reyes
Rohrabacher
Rush
Sestak
Shuster
Sires
Tancredo
Tiberi
Tierney
Udall (CO)
Udall (NM)
Weiner
Weldon (FL)
Weller
Westmoreland

□ 1856

Messrs. BONNER, ROGERS of Kentucky and CANTOR changed their vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

Messrs. SCOTT of Georgia, REHBERG and INGLIS of South Carolina changed their vote from ''nay'' to ''yea.''

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

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

COASTAL AND ESTUARINE LAND CONSERVATION PROGRAM ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1907, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1907, as amended.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 313, nays 59, not voting 61, as follows:

[Roll No. 617]

YEAS—313

Ackerman
Aderholt
Allen
Altmire
Andrews
Arcuri
Baca
Bachus
Baird
Baldwin
Barrow
Bartlett (MD)
Bean
Berkley
Berman
Berry
Biggert
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Blumenauer
Boehner
Bonner
Bono Mack
Boozman
Boren
Boswell
Boucher
Boustany
Boyd (FL)
Boyda (KS)
Braley (IA)
Brown (SC)
Brown, Corrine
Brown-Waite, Ginny
Buchanan
Butterfield
Camp (MI)
Campbell (CA)
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carney
Carson
Castle
Castor
Cazayoux
Chabot
Chandler
Childers
Clarke
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coble
Cohen
Cole (OK)
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Costello
Courtney
Cramer
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (AL)
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
Davis (KY)
Davis, Lincoln
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
Dent
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Dingell
Doggett
Donnelly
Doyle
Drake
Dreier
Edwards (MD)
Edwards (TX)
Ellison
Ellsworth
Emanuel
Emerson
Engel
Eshoo
Everett
Farr
Fattah
Ferguson
Filner
Forbes
Fortenberry
Fossella
Foster
Frank (MA)
Frelinghuysen
Gallegly
Gerlach
Gillibrand
Gordon
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Hall (NY)
Hall (TX)
Hare
Harman
Hastings (FL)
Hayes
Heller
Herseth Sandlin
Higgins
Hill
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hirono
Hobson
Hodes
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hooley
Hoyer
Inglis (SC)
Inslee
Israel
Jackson (IL)
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Jones (NC)
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Keller
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilpatrick
Kind
King (NY)
Klein (FL)
Kucinich
Kuhl (NY)
LaHood
Lampson
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
LaTourette
Latta
Lee
Levin
Lewis (GA)
Lewis (KY)
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lucas
Lungren, Daniel E.
Lynch
Mack
Mahoney (FL)
Maloney (NY)
Markey
Marshall
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McCaul (TX)
McCollum (MN)
McCotter
McDermott
McGovern
McHugh
McIntyre
McNerney
McNulty
Meek (FL)
Melancon
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller (NC)
Miller, George
Mitchell
Mollohan
Moore (KS)
Murphy (CT)
Murphy, Patrick
Murphy, Tim
Murtha
Musgrave
Myrick
Nadler
Napolitano
Oberstar
Obey
Olver
Ortiz
Pallone
Pastor
Perlmutter
Peterson (MN)
Peterson (PA)
Petri
Pitts
Platts
Pomeroy
Porter
Price (NC)
Putnam
Rahall
Rangel
Regula
Rehberg
Reichert
Renzi
Reynolds
Richardson
Rodriguez
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothman
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruppersberger
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Salazar
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Saxton
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schmidt
Schwartz
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Shays
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shuler
Simpson
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Solis
Souder
Space
Speier
Spratt
Stark
Stupak
Sutton
Tanner
Tauscher
Taylor
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Towns
Tsongas
Turner
Upton
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walberg
Walden (OR)
Walsh (NY)
Walz (MN)
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson
Watt
Waxman
Welch (VT)
Wexler
Whitfield (KY)
Wilson (OH)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman (VA)
Wolf
Woolsey
Wu
Yarmuth
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

NAYS—59

Akin
Bachmann
Barrett (SC)
Barton (TX)
Blackburn
Blunt
Broun (GA)
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Buyer
Calvert
Cannon
Cantor
Carter
Conaway
Davis, David
Deal (GA)
Duncan
Ehlers
Flake
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Garrett (NJ)
Gingrey
Goode
Goodlatte
Hastings (WA)
Hensarling
Herger
Hoekstra
Hunter
Issa
Johnson, Sam
Jordan
King (IA)
Kingston
Kline (MN)
Lamborn
Lewis (CA)
Linder
Manzullo
Marchant
Miller, Gary
Moran (KS)
Nunes

Paul
Pence
Price (GA)
Radanovich
Sali
Shadegg
Shimkus
Smith (NE)
Stearns
Sullivan
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Wamp
Wilson (NM)

NOT VOTING—61

Abercrombie
Alexander
Becerra
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Cubin
Culberson
Davis, Tom
Dicks
Doolittle
English (PA)
Etheridge
Fallin
Feeney
Giffords
Gilchrest
Gohmert
Gonzalez
Granger
Graves
Gutierrez
Hulshof
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Jefferson
Johnson (IL)
Kagen
Kirk
Knollenberg
Larson (CT)
Latham
McCrery
McHenry
McKeon
McMorris Rodgers
Meeks (NY)
Moore (WI)
Moran (VA)
Neal (MA)
Neugebauer
Pascrell
Payne
Pearce
Pickering
Poe
Pryce (OH)
Ramstad
Reyes
Rohrabacher
Rush
Sestak
Shuster
Sires
Tancredo
Tiberi
Tierney
Udall (CO)
Udall (NM)
Weiner
Weldon (FL)
Weller
Westmoreland

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 1903

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

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

NATIONWIDE MORTGAGE FRAUD TASK FORCE ACT OF 2008

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6853, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. SUTTON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6853, as amended.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 350, nays 23, not voting 60, as follows:

[Roll No. 618]

YEAS—350

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Aderholt
Akin
Allen
Altmire
Andrews
Arcuri
Baca
Bachmann
Bachus
Baird
Baldwin
Barrett (SC)
Barrow
Bartlett (MD)
Barton (TX)
Bean
Berkley
Berman
Berry
Biggert
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Blumenauer
Blunt
Boehner
Bonner
Bono Mack
Boozman
Boren
Boswell
Boucher
Boustany
Boyd (FL)
Boyda (KS)
Braley (IA)
Brown (SC)
Brown, Corrine
Brown-Waite, Ginny
Buchanan
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Butterfield
Buyer
Calvert
Camp (MI)
Campbell (CA)
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carney
Carson
Carter
Castle
Castor
Cazayoux
Chabot
Chandler
Childers
Clarke
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Cole (OK)
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Costello
Courtney
Cramer
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (AL)
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
Davis (KY)
Davis, David
Davis, Lincoln
Deal (GA)
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
Dent
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Dingell
Doggett
Donnelly
Doyle
Drake
Dreier
Edwards (MD)
Edwards (TX)
Ehlers
Ellison
Ellsworth
Emanuel
Emerson
Engel
Eshoo
Farr
Fattah
Ferguson
Filner
Forbes
Fortenberry
Fossella
Foster
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gallegly
Gerlach
Gillibrand
Gohmert
Goode
Goodlatte
Gordon
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Hall (NY)
Hall (TX)
Hare
Harman
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Heller
Hensarling
Herger
Herseth Sandlin
Higgins
Hill
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hirono
Hobson
Hodes
Hoekstra
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hooley
Hoyer
Hunter
Inslee
Israel
Issa
Jackson (IL)
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Jones (NC)
Jordan
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Keller
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilpatrick
Kind
King (NY)
Kirk
Klein (FL)
Kline (MN)
Kucinich
Kuhl (NY)
LaHood
Lampson
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
LaTourette
Latta
Lee
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (GA)
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lucas
Lungren, Daniel E.
Lynch
Mahoney (FL)
Maloney (NY)
Marchant
Markey
Marshall
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McCaul (TX)
McCollum (MN)
McCotter
McDermott
McGovern
McHugh
McIntyre
McNerney
McNulty
Meek (FL)
Melancon
Mica
Michaud
Miller (MI)
Miller (NC)
Miller, Gary
Miller, George
Mitchell
Mollohan
Moore (KS)
Moran (KS)
Murphy (CT)
Murphy, Patrick
Murphy, Tim
Murtha
Musgrave
Myrick
Nadler
Napolitano
Nunes
Oberstar
Obey
Olver
Ortiz
Pallone
Pastor
Pence
Perlmutter
Peterson (MN)
Peterson (PA)
Petri
Pitts
Platts
Pomeroy
Porter
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Putnam
Radanovich
Rahall
Ramstad
Rangel
Regula
Rehberg
Reichert
Renzi
Reynolds
Richardson
Rodriguez
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothman
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruppersberger
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Salazar
Sali
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Saxton
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schmidt
Schwartz
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Shadegg
Shays
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuler
Simpson
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Solis
Souder
Space
Speier
Spratt
Stark
Stearns
Stupak
Sullivan
Sutton
Tanner
Tauscher
Taylor
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Towns
Tsongas
Turner
Upton
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walberg
Walden (OR)
Walsh (NY)
Walz (MN)
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson
Watt
Waxman
Welch (VT)
Wexler
Wilson (NM)
Wilson (OH)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman (VA)
Wolf
Woolsey
Wu
Yarmuth
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

NAYS—23

Broun (GA)
Cannon
Coble
Conaway
Duncan
Everett
Flake
Foxx
Garrett (NJ)
Gingrey
Inglis (SC)
Johnson, Sam
King (IA)
Kingston
Lamborn
Lewis (KY)
Linder
Mack
Manzullo
Miller (FL)
Paul
Wamp
Whitfield (KY)

NOT VOTING—60

Alexander
Becerra
Blackburn
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Crenshaw
Cubin
Culberson
Davis, Tom
Dicks
Doolittle
English (PA)
Etheridge
Fallin
Feeney
Frank (MA)
Giffords
Gilchrest
Gonzalez
Granger
Graves
Gutierrez
Hulshof
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Jefferson
Johnson (IL)
Kagen
Knollenberg
Larson (CT)
Latham
McCrery
McHenry
McKeon
McMorris Rodgers
Meeks (NY)
Moore (WI)
Moran (VA)
Neal (MA)
Neugebauer
Pascrell
Payne
Pearce
Pickering
Poe
Pryce (OH)
Reyes
Rohrabacher
Rush
Sestak
Shuster
Sires
Tancredo
Tiberi
Tierney
Udall (CO)
Udall (NM)
Weiner
Weldon (FL)
Weller
Westmoreland

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There is 1 minute remaining in this vote.

□ 1912

Messrs. BURTON of Indiana and PENCE changed their votes from ''nay'' to ''yea.''

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

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The title was amended so as to read: ''A bill to establish in the Federal Bureau of Investigation the Nationwide Mortgage Fraud Coordinator to address mortgage fraud in the United States, and for other purposes.''.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent from this Chamber today. Had I been present, I would have voted ''yea'' on rollcall votes 616, 617, and 618.

KING HENRY TAKES OVER

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

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, the people in Washington State are very troubled by the fact that King George has been deposed by King Henry.

We picked up Newsweek magazine today, and we have a King, King Henry. We're supposed to give him $700 billion of our money. He doesn't want any review. He wants to be able to do whatever he wants with it. He doesn't want any congressional oversight. And worst of all, our new King is like the old King: he doesn't want any sacrifice.

He says, Oh, we can't threaten the salaries of these investment bankers that drove us into the ditch. We can't get anybody to pay for this.

This is the third time we've done it with this bunch: first the war that didn't get paid for, and then the tax cuts that didn't get paid for, and now

King Henry takes over to distribute $700 billion. He's going to be there for 4 months. And in 4 months, he will make deals; and then he will go out and he will be able to catch a pass he threw to himself.

IN RECOGNITION OF BULGARIA'S CENTURY OF INDEPENDENCE

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, today is the 100th anniversary of independence for the people of the Republic of Bulgaria.

On September 22, 1908, Bulgaria emerged from the control of the Ottoman Empire as an independent nation. Following World War II, Bulgaria was subject to totalitarian rule for much of the 20th century until the defeat of communism in the beginning of the 1990s.

Today, Bulgaria is a dynamic member of NATO and the European Union. I am grateful for the growing partnership between the United States and Bulgaria, in particular their courageous military contributions in the global war on terrorism. Last month, I was grateful to visit our extraordinary friends during a visit to joint Bulgaria-U.S. training bases in Bulgaria.

As the co-chair of the Bulgarian Caucus, I have seen firsthand for the people of Bulgaria this remarkable achievement of freedom and democracy. The friendship between Bulgaria and America has never been stronger. Much credit is due to the professionalism of the departing ambassador, Ambassador Elena Poptodorova.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th.

SPECIAL ORDERS

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

WAR IS NOT THE WAY TO STOP TERRORISM

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

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, ever since 9/11, the current administration has relied on military force alone to fight terrorism. This policy has been a disaster. There have been over 34,000 Americans killed or hurt in Iraq, but we aren't any safer. And now our troops in Afghanistan are facing a growing insurgency.

The lesson we must learn from all this is that we cannot bomb and torture our way to friendship and cooperation around the world. We must eliminate the root causes of terrorism, which are poverty and despair. And to do that, we must focus on helping Nations like Iraq and Afghanistan to make social, economic, and political progress.

Former Congressman Charlie Wilson is an actual expert on this subject. Congressman Wilson represented the Second District of Texas from 1973 to 1997. He was the subject of the popular recent movie, ''Charlie Wilson's War.'' The movie shows how Wilson helped the Afghans to beat back the Soviet invasion in their country in the 1980s.

Charlie Wilson understands that military force alone is not the answer to the world's problems. He believes that diplomacy and development assistance are actually the best answers.

Charlie described his position in an op-ed he wrote for The Washington Post last month. The op-ed is entitled, ''Charlie Wilson's Peace,'' and I hope that every Member of the House will read it.

Wilson writes that after the defeat of the Soviets, his request for funds to rebuild Afghanistan was turned down. The result was a disaster for America.

Wilson writes, ''Instead of intensifying our diplomatic and humanitarian efforts, we simply walked away, leaving a destroyed country that lacked roads, schools, and any plan or hope for rebuilding.

''Into this void marched the Taliban and al Qaeda. Had we remained engaged in Afghanistan, investing in education, health, and economic development, the world would be a very different place today.''

I want to repeat, Mr. Speaker, Wilson's point because it is an important one. He says that al Qaeda became more powerful because the Afghan people did not receive the right kind of assistance from the United States. Yes, we gave them weapons, but we left them in rubble, and that's where terrorism grows.

Wilson goes on to say that ''we cannot afford to aspire to anything less than defeating poverty, disease, and ignorance wherever they exist. It is a relatively small but incredibly effective investment that helps ensure our future national security and economic prosperity.''

Charlie Wilson's experience in Afghanistan, Mr. Speaker, was over 20 years ago, but it is a real lesson for us today. It tells us that we won't defeat al Qaeda just by increasing the number of our troops in Afghanistan. We must focus our efforts in Afghanistan and Iraq on reconstruction.

That means redeploying our troops out of Iraq on a firm timetable, and then working with regional and international partners to rebuild that devastated land. Electricity and water must be restored to every home. Jobs must be created. The shattered educational and health care systems must be rebuilt. The Iraqi Government must stop dragging its feet and spend the money it has budgeted for essential services.

And this House ought to take every chance to promote reconciliation in Iraq. Representative SHAYS and I have introduced legislation, H.R. 5925, to support the United States Institute for Peace, which has been carrying out important reconciliation projects in Iraq since 2004. The institute has worked to prevent violence and promote the rule of law, and it deserves our help.

Mr. Speaker, the current administration has only 4 months to go. I hope that the next administration will learn from this administration's mistakes. Starting next January 20, America must begin to export compassion and hope instead of war and occupation.

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

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

REAGAN HIGH SCHOOL RAIDER STUDENT CREDIT UNION

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, today I want to congratulate a group of enterprising students and teachers at Ronald Reagan High School in Pfafftown, North Carolina. This month, Reagan High School launched North Carolina's first ever high school student-run credit union.

This is truly an historic and groundbreaking achievement. I want to congratulate all the faculty and students at Reagan who have been involved in getting the Raider Student Credit Union off the ground. Working hand in hand with Allegacy Federal Credit Union, they have created a student-run enterprise that should make these students proud.

When I recently visited the school to participate in the grand opening of the Raider Student Credit Union, I was so impressed by the students' ambition and work ethic. Many of them are pictured here with their faculty advisers. These students are a driving force in the creation of this unique and educational institution.

The new credit union is a part of the Reagan High School's financial literacy program and is a partnership with a local credit union, Allegacy Federal Credit Union. Reagan High School students are operating the branch three days a week during the school's lunch period, offering withdrawal and deposit services to its members.

At a time when so many Americans are struggling with family finances and with financial literacy at a low ebb, it is very encouraging to witness this

school's commitment to educating students about good money management.

It is exciting to observe the commitment to financial literacy and life skills among the student body at Reagan High School. I am confident that the students who participate in the day-to-day operation of the Raider Student Credit Union will emerge from their high school years better equipped to take on the financial challenges they will face as adults.

Equally as important, students will come away with valuable work skills that will serve them as they enter the workplace in the coming years and that will help catapult those who are involved into successful careers.

A recent survey on financial literacy found that young people are increasingly undereducated on matters of financial literacy. Financial literacy and financial education are much-needed tonics in an age of maxed-out credit cards and financial stress.

Many people find themselves in financial difficulties because they were not educated about their options and various financial opportunities. I am confident that this new credit union will equip the students at Ronald Reagan High School with the financial skills to make wise decisions for their financial futures.

I hope that the initiative and innovation that Reagan High School has demonstrated with the Raider Student Credit Union will inspire more schools to follow in their footsteps, not only to start credit unions of their own but to find unique ways to prepare students to take their place in our productive society.

With this groundbreaking program, Ronald Reagan High School has helped to set the pace for financial education in North Carolina's high schools. It is important to note that not only is the Raider Student Credit Union the first high school credit union in North Carolina, it is also an investment in the lives and success of this school's students.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

THE LATEST REALITY GAME—WALL STREET BAILOUT

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, here is the latest reality game. Let's play Wall Street Bailout.

Rule one: Rush the decision. Time the game to fall in the week before Congress is set to adjourn and just 6 weeks before an historic election so your opponents will be preoccupied, pressured, distracted, and in a hurry.

Rule two: Disarm the public through fear. Warn that the entire global financial system will collapse and the world will fall into another Great Depression. Control the media enough to ensure that the public will not notice this.

Bailout will indebt them for generations, taking from them trillions of dollars they earned and deserve to keep.

Rule three: Control the playing field and set the rules. Hide from the public and most of the Congress just who is arranging this deal. Communicate with the public through leaks to media insiders. Limit any open congressional hearings. Communicate with Congress via private teleconferencing calls. Heighten political anxiety by contacting each political party separately. Treat Members of Congress condescendingly, telling them that the matter is so complex that they must rely on those few insiders who really do know what's going on.

Rule four: Divert attention and keep people confused. Manage the news cycle so Congress and the public have no time to examine who destroyed the prudent banking system that served America so well for 60 years after the financial meltdown of the 1920s.

Rule five: Always keep in mind the goal is to privatize gains to a few and socialize loss to the many. For 30 years in one financial scandal after another, Wall Street game masters have kept billions of dollars of their gain and shifted their losses to American taxpayers. Once this bailout is in place, the greed game will begin again.

But I have a counter-game. It's called Wall Street Reckoning. Congress shouldn't go home to campaign. It should put America's accounts in order.

□ 1930

To Wall Street insiders, it says ''no'' on behalf of the American people. You have perpetrated the greatest financial crimes ever on this American republic. You think you can get by with it because you are extraordinarily wealthy and the largest contributors to both Presidential and congressional campaigns in both major parties, but you are about to be brought under firm control.

First, America doesn't need to bail you out, it needs to secure the real assets and property, not your paper, that means the homes and properties of hardworking Americans who are about to lose their homes because of your mortgage greed. There should be a new job for regional Federal Reserve Banks. We want no home foreclosed if a serious work-out agreement can be put into place. And if you don't do it, we want a notarized statement by a Federal Reserve official that they tried and failed.

Second, taxpayers should directly gain any equity benefits that may flow from this historic bailout. We want the American people to get first priority in taking ownership of the institutions that want to pass their toxic paper onto the taxpayers.

Third, before any bailouts for Wall Street, America needs major job creation to rebuild our major infrastructure. America needs assets, not paper. We need working assets.

Fourth, the time for real financial regulatory change is now, not next year. A modernized Glass Eagle Act must be put in place. We need to reestablish locally-owned community savings banks across this country and create within the Justice Department a fully funded unit to prosecute every single high-flying thief whose fraud and criminal acts created this debacle and then forced their disgorgement of assets going back 15 years.

Fifth, any refinancing must return a major share of profits to a new Social Security and Medicare lockbox, where the monies can go to pay for a dignified and assured retirement for every American. This Member isn't voting for a penny of it. Those who created and profited from this game of games must be brought to justice. The assets they stole must be returned to the American taxpayers, right down to the tires on their Mercedes.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in cosponsoring my bill to create an independent commission to investigate these well-heeled wrongdoers. Real reform now, or nothing.

SEVEN DEADLY SINS OF DEREGULATION—AND THREE NECESSARY REFORMS

(By Robert Kuttner)

The current carnage on Wall Street, with dire spillover effects on Main Street, is the result of a failed ideology—the idea that financial markets could regulate themselves. Serial deregulation fed on itself. Deliberate repeal of regulations became entangled with failure to carry out laws still on the books. Corruption mingled with simple incompetence. And though the ideology was largely Republican, it was abetted by Wall Street Democrats.

Why regulate? As we have seen ever since the sub-prime market blew up in the summer of 2007, government cannot stand by when a financial crash threatens to turn into a general depression—even a government like the

Bush administration that fervently believes in free markets. But if government must act to contain wider damage when large banks fail, then it is obliged to act to prevent damage from occurring in the first place. Otherwise, the result is what economists term ''moral hazard''—an invitation to take excessive risks.

Government, under Franklin Roosevelt, got serious about regulating financial markets after the first cycle of financial bubble and economic ruin in the 1920s. Then, as now, the abuses were complex in their detail but very simple in their essence. They included the sale of complex securities packaged in deceptive and misleading ways; far too much borrowing to finance speculative investments; and gross conflicts of interest on the part of insiders who stood to profit from flim-flams. When the speculative bubble burst in 1929, sellers overwhelmed buyers, many investors were wiped out, and the system of credit contracted, choking the rest of the economy.

In the 1930s, the Roosevelt administration acted to prevent a repetition of the ruinous 1920s. Commercial banks were separated from investment banks, so that bankers could not prosper by underwriting bogus securities and foisting them on retail customers. Leverage was limited in order to rein in speculation with borrowed money. Investment banks, stock exchanges, and companies that publicly traded stocks were required to disclose more information to investors. Pyramid schemes and conflicts of interest were limited. The system worked very nicely until the 1970s—when financial innovators devised end-runs around the regulated system, and regulators stopped keeping up with them.

SEVEN DEADLY SINS

Sin One: Allowing Mortgage Lending to Become a Casino. Until 1969, Fannie Mae was part of the government. Mortgage lenders were tightly regulated. Homeownership rates soared throughout the postwar era, from about 44 percent on the eve of World War II to 64 percent by the mid-1960s. Nobody in the mortgage business got filthy rich, and hardly anyone lost money. Fannie's job was to buy mortgages from banks and thrift institutions, to replenish their money to make mortgages, and along the way to set standards. Fannie financed its operations by selling bonds. In the late 1970s, private Wall Street firms started emulating Fannie. They packaged mortgages, and converted them into bonds. Over time, their standards deteriorated, because they could make more money creating riskier products. In order to avoid losing market share, Fannie emulated some of the same abuses. Government did not step in to regulate the affair—which was a time bomb waiting for the creation of the sub-prime mortgage business.

Sin Two: Allowing Unregulated Bond Rating Agencies to Decide What was Safe. Subprime is only the best known of a widespread fad known as ''securitization.'' The idea is to turn loans into bonds. Bonds are given ratings by private companies that have official government recognition, such as Moody's and Standard and Poors, but no government regulation. These rating agencies have become thoroughly corrupted by conflicts of interest. If you want to package and sell bonds backed by risky loans, you go to a bond-rating agency and pay it a hefty fee. In return, the agency helps you manipulate the bond so that it qualifies for a triple-A rating, even if the underlying loans include many that are high-risk. Without the collusion of the bond-rating agencies, sub-prime lending never would have gotten off the ground, because it would not have found a mass market. Had regulators looked inside this black box, they would have shut it down. They might have needed new legislation, but they never asked for it. And public-minded regulators might have done a lot under existing law, since banks (which are regulated) were heavily implicated in the financing of subprime.

Sin Three: Failing to Police Sub-prime. The core idea of bank regulation is that government inspectors periodically examine the quality of bank assets. If too large a portion of a bank's loan portfolio is behind in its interest payments, the bank is made to raise more capital as a cushion against losses. Problems are nipped in the bud. But complex securities require more sophisticated regulation than simple loans. Regulators basically waived the rule on adequate capital for the new wave of mortgage lenders who created sub-prime. Many mortgage companies were not banks. They made loans only to sell them off to the Wall Street sinners of Deadly Sin No. 1 (see above). So there was no loan portfolio to examine, and no real capital. The Democratic Congress anticipated this problem in 1994, when it passed the Homeownership Opportunity and Equity Protection Act. This prescient law required the Federal Reserve to regulate the loan-origination standards of mortgage companies that were not otherwise government-regulated. But Alan Greenspan, a free-market zealot, never implemented the law. And when Republicans took over Congress in 1995, they never called him on the carpet.

Sin Four: Failure to Stop Excess Leverage. The financial economy is crashing today because so much speculation was done with borrowed money. A typical leverage ratio of a hedge fund or private equity company is 30 to one. That means $30 of debt for $1 of actual capital. If you make one serious miscalculation, you are out of business. And in the case of sub-prime mortgage companies, the leverage ratio was infinite, because they had no capital. The game was entirely based on creating debt. As long as times were good, financial firms could keep borrowing to finance their deals. But once investors looked down, they panicked. Some parts of the system are unregulated, such as hedge funds and private-equity companies. But they all ultimately get a lot of their funding from banks. And regulators do retain the power to look closely at banks' books (see Sin No. 3 above). Had they used that power to police the kind of highly risky stuff banks were underwriting they could have shut it down.

Sin Five: Failure to Police Conflicts of Interest. Remember the accounting scandals of the 1990s? In those scandals, accounting firms were paid once to audit corporate books and then again to help clients cook the books and still pass muster with the audit. That was a sheer conflict of interest. Though accountants were (loosely) regulated, Congress did not crack down until cooked books caused the stock market to crash. A second conflict of interest was the corruption of stock analysts, who were telling customers to buy dubious stocks because their bosses were profiting from underwriting the same stocks. In the aftermath of the dot-com bust, Congress narrowly cracked down on these two abuses with the Sarbanes-Oxley Act but simply ignored others—such as the role of bond-rating agencies and the habit of basing executive bonuses on stock prices that could easily be manipulated by the same executives.

Sin Six: Failing to Regulate Hedge Funds and Private Equity. When Roosevelt's New Deal acted to rein in the abuses in financial markets, it regulated the major players—commercial banks, investment banks, stock brokers, holding companies, and stock exchanges. But two of the biggest purveyors of risk today—hedge funds and private-equity firms—simply did not exist. Today, private-equity firms and hedge funds do most of the things banks and investment banks do. They basically create credit by making markets in exotic securities. They buy and sell firms. They speculate in financial markets with borrowed money, taking much bigger risks than regulated banks. According to House Banking Committee Chair Barney Frank, more than half the credit created in recent years has been created by essentially unregulated institutions. The people in charge of the government—conservative Republicans—took the view that these new-wave financial players offered transactions between consenting adults who needed no special consumer protection. But they were oblivious to the risks to the larger system.

Sin Seven: Repeal of the Glass-Steagall Act. This action, in 1999, was one of two major cases when a cornerstone of New Deal regulation was explicitly repealed. (The other was the repeal of the Public Utility Holding Company Act, and if your utility rates are sky-high, you can thank Congress for that, too.) Glass-Steagall provided that if you wanted to speculate as an investment bank, good luck to you. But commercial banks were part of the banking system. They created credit. They were regulated, supervised, usually enjoyed FDIC insurance, and had access to advances from the Fed in emergencies. So commercial banks and investment banks were two different creatures that should stay out of each other's knitting.

But beginning in the 1980s, regulators who didn't believe in regulation either allowed explicit waivers of some aspects of Glass-Steagall or looked the other way as commercial banks and investment banks became more alike. By 1999, when Citigroup had jumped the gun and assembled a supermarket that included a commercial bank, investment bank, stock brokerage, and insurance company, Glass Steagall was so hollowed out that it was effectively dead. The coup de grace was its official repeal, in the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act. That's Gramm as in former Sen. Phil Gramm, a deregulation zealot and top adviser to John McCain.

THREE BASIC REFORMS

What all of these sins had in common was that they led financial markets to misprice assets. In plain English, that means buyers were purchasing securities based on bad information, often with borrowed money. When firms started losing money on subprime in mid-2007 and other owners decided it was time to get their money out, the whole miracle of leverage went into reverse. And it spilled over into other securities that had been mispriced thanks to all the conflicts of interest tolerated by regulators.

That's why, no matter how much taxpayer money the Federal Reserve and the Treasury keep pumping in, they can't turn dross back into gold. The next administration and the Congress need to return the financial economy to its historic task of supplying capital to the real economy—of connecting investors to entrepreneurs—and shut down the purely casino aspects of the system that have only enriched middlemen and passed along huge risks to everyone else.

Reform One: If it Quacks Like a Bank, Regulate it Like a Bank. Barack Obama said it well in his historic speech on the financial emergency last March 27 in New York. ''We need to regulate financial institutions for what they do, not what they are.'' Increasingly, different kinds of financial firms do the same kinds of things, and they are all capable of infusing toxic products into the nation's financial bloodstream. That's why Treasury Secretary Hank Paulson has had to extend the government's financial safety net to all kinds of large financial firms like

A.I.G. that have no technical right to the aid and no regulation to keep them from taking outlandish risks. Going forward, all financial firms that buy and sell products in money markets need the same regulation and examination. That will be the essence of the 2009 version of the Glass-Steagall Act.

Reform Two: Limit Leverage. At the very heart of the financial meltdown was extreme speculation with esoteric financial securities, using astronomical rates of leverage. Commercial banks are limited to something like 10 to one, or less, depending on their conditions. These leverage limits need to be extended to all financial players, as part of the same 2009 banking reform.

Reform Three: Police Conflicts of Interest. The conflicts of interest at the core of bond-raising agencies are only one of the conflicts that have been permitted to pervade financial markets. Bond-rating agencies should probably become public institutions. Other conflicts of interest should be made explicitly illegal. Yes, financial markets keep ''innovating.'' But some innovations are good, and some are abusive subterfuges. And if regulators who actually believe in regulation are empowered to examine all financial institutions, they can issue cease-and-desist orders when they encounter dangerous conflicts.

We're talking about a Roosevelt-scale counterrevolution here. But nothing less will prevent the financial collapse from cascading into Great Depression II. And the public should never again forget that this needless collapse was brought to us by free-market extremists.

[From Robert Reich's Blog, Sept. 21, 2008]

WHAT WALL STREET SHOULD BE REQUIRED TO DO, TO GET A BLANK CHECK FROM TAXPAYERS

(By Robert Reich)

The frame has been set, the dye cast. Treasury Secretary Hank Paulson, presumably representing the Bush administration but indirectly representing Wall Street, and Fed Chief Ben Bernanke, want a blank check from Congress for $700 billion or possibly a trillion dollars or more to take bad debt off Wall Street's balance sheets. Never before in the history of American capitalism has so much been asked of so many for (at least in the first instance) so few.

Put yourself in the shoes of a member of Congress, including our two presidential candidates. The Treasury Secretary and Fed Chair have told you this is necessary to save the economy. If you don't agree, you risk a meltdown of the entire global financial system. Your own constituents' savings could go down with it. An election is six weeks away. Besides, in the last two days of trading, since rumors spread that the Treasury and the Fed were planning something of this sort, stock prices revived.

Now—quick—what do you do? You have no choice but to say yes.

But you might also set some conditions on Wall Street.

The public doesn't like a blank check. They think this whole bailout idea is nuts. They see fat cats on Wall Street who have raked in zillions for years, now extorting in effect $2,000 to $5,000 from every American family to make up for their own nonfeasance, malfeasance, greed, and just plain stupidity. Wall Street's request for a blank check comes at the same time most of the public is worried about their jobs and declining wages, and having enough money to pay for gas and food and health insurance, meet their car payments and mortgage payments, and save for their retirement and childrens' college education. And so the public is asking: Why should Wall Street get bailed out by me when I'm getting screwed?

So if you are a member of Congress, you just might be in a position to demand from Wall Street certain conditions in return for the blank check.

My five nominees:

1. The government (i.e. taxpayers) gets an equity stake in every Wall Street financial company proportional to the amount of bad debt that company shoves onto the public. So when and if Wall Street shares rise, taxpayers are rewarded for accepting so much risk.

2. Wall Street executives and directors of Wall Street firms relinquish their current stock options and this year's other forms of compensation, and agree to future compensation linked to a rolling five-year average of firm profitability. Why should taxpayers feather their already amply-feathered nests?

3. All Wall Street executives immediately cease making campaign contributions to any candidate for public office in this election cycle or next, all Wall Street PACs be closed, and Wall Street lobbyists curtail their activities unless specifically asked for information by policymakers. Why should taxpayers finance Wall Street's outsized political power—especially when that power is being exercised to get favorable terms from taxpayers?

4. Wall Street firms agree to comply with new regulations over disclosure, capital requirements, conflicts of interest, and market manipulation. The regulations will emerge in ninety days from a bi-partisan working group, to be convened immediately. After all, inadequate regulation and lack of oversight got us into this mess.

5. Wall Street agrees to give bankruptcy judges the authority to modify the terms of primary mortgages, so homeowners have a fighting chance to keep their homes. Why should distressed homeowners lose their homes when Wall Streeters receive taxpayer money that helps them keep their fancy ones?

Wall Streeters may not like these conditions. Well, you should tell them that the public doesn't like the idea of bailing out Wall Street. So if Wall Street doesn't accept these conditions, it doesn't get the blank check.

[From Bloomberg.com, Sept 19, 2008]

SUE THEM, JAIL THEM, MAKE THEM PAY FOR MELTDOWN: ANN WOOLNER

(Commentary by Ann Woolner)

As it stands, the rest of us will be paying much money over a long time for the greed and bad judgment of those who melted down the economy.

Hundreds of billions of taxpayer dollars are propping up firms that a relative few money lenders and Wall Street wizards ruined.

If that weren't enough, the crisis is shrinking the money that Americans diligently socked away for retirement, down payments on first homes, college for the kids or this winter's heating bill. We might as well have opened our windows and tossed out cash.

Beyond crimping living standards around the globe, the crumbling of the U.S. financial system has prompted action radical for a nation devoted to free enterprise. However necessary, it's nothing short of astounding that the U.S. government essentially nationalized the largest insurance company in the country.

The real kick in the teeth is that the executives who inflicted all this financial pain, who forced unprecedented government takeovers, walk away with hundreds of millions of dollars. It's up to us—innocent little us—to dig into our pockets, into our futures and into our children's futures to fix their spectacular errors.

Stanley O'Neal took a $161 million package last year when he left Merrill Lynch & Co. (remember Merrill Lynch?), even without a severance package in the mix. Angelo Mozilo, founder and top executive at Countrywide Financial Corp., reaped almost $122 million during 2007 in stock options alone.

For a mere three months at the helm of American International Group Inc., Chief Executive Officer Robert Willumstad gets a $7 million package.

SELLING STOCK OPTIONS

And while the value of Richard Fuld's shares in Lehman Brothers Holdings Inc. plunged roughly $1 billion, he still pulled in almost $490 million by selling options and share grants in the 14 years that the company's been public, according to Fortune magazine.

We now know those shares were grossly overpriced, resting as they did on subprime mortgages. Shouldn't he give back most of it? All of it?

At least the government is blocking the $24 million given to the fired top guns at Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, both taken over earlier this month.

As a rule, it isn't easy to take back money or benefits awarded as part of an employment contract, unless you can figure out some way the executive violated the contract's terms.

But it's worth a try. Consider these options.

Toss the rascals in jail. Criminal prosecution allows the government to seize ill-gotten gains. Snip the straps off those golden parachutes and grab them. Take over bank accounts, investment accounts, mansions, private planes and yachts.

BEAR STEARNS

The feds did bring charges against a couple of Bear Stearns Cos. hedge fund managers in June, and Federal Bureau of Investigation Director Robert Mueller told Congress this week his agency is pursuing possible suspects ''as far up the corporate chain as necessary.''

The hitch is that proving executives lied in criminal ways is easier said than done, Enron and WorldCom convictions notwithstanding.

''Criminal prosecutions need to be specific, detail-oriented fact patterns where clear-cut criminality can be established,'' says Robert Mintz, a white-collar criminal defense lawyer and former prosecutor.

''These are broad, sweeping market failures that have swept up so many individuals and so many institutions that prosecutors will have a hard time singling out any entity, much less any institution, and hold them responsible,'' says Mintz, a partner in McCarter and English in Newark, New Jersey.

OK, so file civil suits.

SUE THE DIRECTORS

WorldCom shareholders sued and wrangled $18 million from the pockets of directors, who agreed to pay more than 20 percent of their combined net worth. Another $36 million came from the directors' insurance carriers.

These days, collecting from an insurer might not be the best idea. If AIG is doing the insuring, it would be the taxpayers paying out.

William McGuire, former CEO of UnitedHealth Group Inc., agreed this month to personally cough up $30 million to resolve a lawsuit over stock-option backdating. That's on top of the $600 million in benefits—mostly in stock options—he said he will turn in to resolve another shareholder suit.

The problem is that it normally takes something akin to criminal conduct, such as options backdating or accounting fraud, for civil suits to take money out of the hands of

the accused. And, as previously noted, it isn't clear we will have that here.

STRICTER REGULATION

Well, what about government regulators? The U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission didn't do anything to prevent this meltdown. But at least, with New York Attorney General Andrew Cuomo leading the charge, federal and state regulators have forced investment banks to buy back billions of dollars worth of auction-rate securities said to have been sold under dubious claims of reliability.

The bankruptcy law may give Lehman Brothers creditors a chance to grab some of the bonuses the firm paid out last year.

If they can show bonuses were based on bogus claims of solvency, they can go after them, according to compensation expert Paul Hodgson of the Corporate Library, which analyzes corporate governance issues.

Some plaintiffs' lawyers apply the same principle when pushing for tougher corporate governance rules as part of settling a case.

The idea is that CEOs and CFOs who drew bonuses based on earnings that had to later be restated, for whatever reason, must automatically return the excess amount, according to Darren Robbins, a partner in Coughlin Stoia Geller Rudman & Robbins.

Frankly, it's only fair.

DRILL HERE, DRILL NOW

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

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, a number of the speakers tonight have been talking about the bailout on Wall Street. And we've been told by the head of the Treasury and the FDIC that, unless we do this, there could be real dire consequences for the entire economy of the United States.

The amount that we've been talking about, which will be brought to the floor, is somewhere in the neighborhood of $700 billion, which is directly going to go to our national debt, in all probability. Hopefully, some of those assets that are going to be bought will be able to be sold down the road and the money repaid to the Treasury.

But the thing that bothers me the most is we haven't done anything that will really create new jobs. The speaker that just spoke talked about the creation of new jobs. And we passed an energy bill last week that really isn't going to do anything. And we have the ability to drill off the Continental Shelf and Alaska and elsewhere. And we can get billions and billions of dollars in money coming into the United States Treasury from these assets that we have already, and that is, oil, gas, shale, and other commodities that will help us with our energy crisis.

We have an energy crisis right now, and we have not passed an energy bill that will do anything. Boone Pickens has been on television talking about the transfer of wealth, $700 billion a year. It's an odd consequence that we're going to be asking for $700 billion for the ''Wall Street bailout'' and at the same time we're denying the drilling for oil and other energy products here in the United States which could save $700 billion of our money that's going overseas to Saudi Arabia, to Nigeria, down south to Venezuela. And so the United States is actually turning over our money that we could keep here at home and create hundreds and thousands of jobs and really help this economy if we could just go after the energy sources that we already have here in the United States.

I just don't understand it. We're sending $700 billion to Saudi Arabia, and they're going to be buying these assets here in the United States. It's going to be our money that's purchasing the oil that gives them the money to buy the products here in the United States. It makes no sense, especially when we have the energy products right here in this country, offshore and up in ANWR, and elsewhere, trillions of square feet of gas, millions of barrels of oil, and we can't drill for them because of the environmental concerns that people are talking about. And we could do it in an environmentally safe way.

It makes no sense to me whatsoever to send $700 billion out of this country that we can keep here at home creating jobs. And at the same time that we're sending that $700 billion out of this country to buy oil from other parts of the world, we're asked to give $700 billion to bail out bad investments that have been made, bad loans that have been made. It just doesn't make sense to me.

If we're really concerned about the economy of the United States, we need to drill here, we need to drill now. Use alternative sources of energy as well—wind and solar and everything else—but we need to drill here in the United States. The American people are suffering. They're still playing $4 plus for a gallon of gas, $80 to fill up a 20-gallon tank on a car or a truck. The American people can't afford it. And we could be saving that money, reducing the price of oil and gasoline dramatically, if we drilled here and drilled now, keeping $700 billion of our money here instead of sending it overseas, and especially at a time when we're going to be bailing out financial institutions to the tune of $700 billion.

It's really odd. We're sending $700 billion of our money overseas—we don't need to—at a time when we could sure use it here at home to deal with our financial crisis.

We need to drill here, we need to drill now. We need to lower the price of gasoline and oil and other energy products and we're not doing it. And I simply don't understand it, Mr. Speaker.

And I want to say it one more time; the energy bill we passed last week isn't going to doing anything. It's not going to provide one barrel of new oil from the United States. And we're going to continue to send to Saudi Arabia, Nigeria, Venezuela, and elsewhere, $700 billion of America's money, which could be used to create hundreds of thousands of jobs. It makes no sense. We should drill here, we should drill now. We should move toward energy independence and immediately start lowering the price of gasoline and other fuel products.

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

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

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

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

CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS

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

Ms. CLARKE. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Congressional Black Caucus, our chairman, Ms. CAROLYN KILPATRICK, and the 42 other members, it's my privilege to come and discuss the topic of the hour—I believe the topic of the century—and that is the collapse of our financial service sector and the proposed bailout that we've all heard of this past weekend.

You know, it wasn't that long ago that I heard a gentleman who was serving as Secretary of State to the United States saying to us, when we launched into Iraq and we knew that there was going to be a whole lot of trouble and it was going to be an expensive venture, that if we went in there and we broke it, we own it. Well, ladies and gentlemen, another example of breaking it, now owning it.

You know, the Bush administration and the folks on the other side of the aisle turned a blind eye and a deaf ear in the name of so-called ''free markets''—which, in fact, is not free and all Americans are learning today it's costing us $700 billion; very, very expensive lesson. Because when the call for regulation in this sector went on deaf ears and more deregulation was the mantra, and keeping the free market free led to this feeding frenzy that now has all of us pulling out our hair wondering how we got here. Well, I can tell you that in communities like mine, we got here because people were given bad loan products, they were given subprime loans. There was no investigation, due diligence done to make sure that individuals could, indeed, understand the terms and conditions in which they were being subjected. And we turned a blind eye to that. We felt that the crisis in the subprime market was only for those people, and it wouldn't impact on the overall society. So we said, well, poor

them, and they should have known better. Where are the folks screaming ''they should have known better'' now? Where are they now that the so-called folks in the know who should have known better allowed their corporate interests and corporate greed to supercede their obligation to our Nation, to our overall economy, to our well-being, where are they today? Well, they're meeting behind closed doors.

There are meetings taking place all over the place this evening, folks trying to scramble here and there to come up with the best deal for ''the bailout.'' Well, I can tell you that in just about all of the offices of the members of the Congressional Black Caucus the phones are ringing off the hook. They're ringing off the hook for people who have had to file bankruptcy because they had no health care insurance and someone got ill in the family and they had to use everything they owned to pay off health care costs that have skyrocketed and they've had to refinance and refinance and refinance their homes over and over again to get the money needed to help in a health care crisis. And we're getting phone calls from people who got their economic stimulus rebate only to face skyrocketing oil costs and gasoline costs and costs of living just going up while their wages have stayed stagnant. And we're getting calls from individuals who, due to lack of real management in these financial firms, are mid, low-level employees that are now unemployed and who also bought into the ''American dream'' and their mortgages are coming due and they don't know where their next check will come from.

Well, we are in an economic crisis, and I think we need to not have amnesia at this time. We need to remember where all of our financial woes have come from. They've come from an administration and a party that the free market is truly free, that the need for regulation is something that is not a part of being Americans when we regulate every other part of our lives and we regulate just about everything else we do except for the feeding frenzy and the greed that is taking place in this Nation over the past 12 years.

It's unfortunate that we've arrived at this moment in time, and it's a very expensive wake-up call for all of us. I understand that folks are moving very aggressively to address the financial crisis, as quoted by our speaker, NANCY PELOSI, ''to aggressively address the financial crisis.'' ''We will investigate the Bush administration's mismanagement of financial regulation, how it led to this crisis, and what solutions Congress can act upon.''

''I don't think the American people want us to wait until next year. We would hope to have something as soon as we can.'' And I agree. We must have some accountability here. This is not a time to use fear tactics, to get people to just go along, to get along. This is a time for accountability.

□ 1945

We are at a time where the crossroads have come and where we're right at that fork, and either we will continue with the same or we will make a change for the betterment of our civil society.

Let me just say that, as we look at this bailout, it is our hope that we will look at Main Street and, as opposed to the trickle-down economics that got us to where we are today, that we will start at Main Street and will look at the needs of those who have been given these flimflam subprime loans and will work to make sure that we can keep Americans in their homes. We need to come out of this process with a corridor or with a pathway for American families to be able to renegotiate their terms in the same way that our financial institutions are asking for the renegotiation of their terms.

What is good for those who have benefited from this feeding frenzy, from this bonanza, from this greed, from this run-on money is good enough for those who have had to pay the cost. It is our hope that that will be a part of what ultimately is negotiated so that we can pass in this House a bill that is reflective of the desire of the American people.

The financial rescue that we are asking to consider this week will require some legislative solutions. It will conduct investigations into how Wall Street actually got into this crisis, and it will clean up what has become a huge mess, and it will insulate Main Street from Wall Street. We want to know how we will prevent this from ever happening again.

Congress is ready to work, but we are ready to work as coequal partners in this process. We are not willing to have the administration dictate to us the terms under which we will do what needs to be done to set our financial house in order. It's not up to us to simply hand over a $700 billion blank check to those in the financial sectors who are now in crises and hope for a better outcome.

The CBC, working along with our colleagues throughout this body in the New Direction Congress, will work to protect taxpayers' interests. We will make sure that the necessary safeguards that we believe will provide a responsible solution will include independent oversight and protection for homeowners with reasonable limits on executive compensation for CEOs and for other top executives.

I think one of the things that really boggles the mind of the average, everyday American is the fact that the corporate CEOs have gotten away with wrecking their corporations while receiving bonuses—golden parachutes—when they're asked to leave. Now, for the average, everyday American, when they don't perform well at their jobs, all that they can expect is an escort out the door of their employers'. Yet somehow we've gotten it so twisted that we are actually giving rewards for bad performance. This has got to stop.

I do not understand how in a day and time when we're asking for accountability from everyone that we would enable these individuals who have been reckless in their endeavors to walk away scot-free. So we are clear that whatever we legislate this week will have implications for those who are in executive office and for those who are seeking to receive compensation as they depart from jobs poorly done.

I see that I have been joined this evening by the very distinguished gentleman from Chicago, Illinois, by a gentleman who has been a part of the Congressional Black Caucus for quite some time now and who has been a leader in education, in labor and in understanding the challenges of our urban communities across this Nation. I know he, like so many other members of the Congressional Black Caucus, has been getting phone calls throughout the weekend, starting Friday into today, nonstop, from his constituents who have been raising their concerns and their issues about the crisis that we're in, and they've been giving their advice about what they would like to see from us as a body representing their interests.

So, at this time, I yield as much time as he would like to consume to the gentleman from Chicago, Illinois, Congressman DANNY DAVIS.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Well, thank you very much.

I just want to commend and to thank you, Representative CLARKE, for the leadership that you've taken on this issue as well as on a number of others. When you were elected, those of us who knew of your history and who knew of your family's history in New York were all delighted to know that we were going to have a queen warrior join us in the House of Representatives, and that's exactly what you have demonstrated yourself to be.

With every phone call that I have gotten—and I represent a district where the people like to be engaged and where they like to be involved—one of my biggest bills is probably my phone bill. That's because our phones are constantly being used all the time, all the time, all the time.

In practically every call that we have gotten, the people have said, ''Don't fall for the okey-doke.'' So, you know, you have to ask them ''What is the 'okey-doke'? What are you talking about? What are you asking us not to fall for?'' They'll say, ''Don't fall for any bailout plan that only bails out financial institutions, that only bails out financial investors, that only bails out sophisticated traders, that only bails out people who really know and who understand markets and who have got all of these sophisticated tools and all of this information. Make sure that John Smith gets bailed out. Make sure that Sally Jones gets bailed out. Make sure that Mary Jackson gets bailed out.''

In essence, what they were saying is make sure that, as to any bailout plan,

it has built into it consumer interest for the little guy—for the person who has invested and who has created a life savings that is being wiped out without a minute's notice, for the individuals who've got retirement plans that they've meticulously tried to put together and from which they're hoping to have some little nest egg at the end of their work. Make sure that these individuals' interests are, in fact, protected; make sure that they are included, and make sure that there is enough oversight to protect them.

As a matter of fact, one guy called, and he just said, ''If you want to make sure that you do something, make sure that you regulate, regulate, regulate, regulate, regulate and that you have oversight, oversight, oversight, oversight and that you have enough independence and enough people involved in oversight who don't have the institutional interests nor the self-interests that will take them away from the public interest.''

So it's the public interest that we're talking about protecting. I don't believe in having more oversight than you need to. I don't believe in regulating more than what is necessary, but I can tell you that I believe sincerely that deregulation has been part of the culprit. We know that people have come to us and have said, ''You're strangling our ability to grow and to make money.'' Well, how much money do you really want to make? When is enough, enough, enough?

Another person told me the other day that the history of the world, my sweet, is deciding who eats and who gets to eat. It seems to me that there is an opportunity with this crisis, that there is an opportunity to make sure that bailout plans and schemes will create jobs, that they will promote the redevelopment of many of our inner city and depressed rural communities throughout the country and that they will make sure that the money goes where it is actually needed.

So I am prepared to vote for that kind of a bailout plan. I am not prepared to vote for anything that does not represent the serious consideration of the public interest. I'm hoping that as we debate, discuss, develop, and align things this week that that's what we're going to come up with.

So I again want to commend you. I want to thank you. I want to appreciate your leadership, to appreciate the work that is being done. I can tell you that, when the dust settles and after all is said and done, the American people will judge us by what we do for America, not just by what we do for any category or for any group of interest entities but by what we do for America.

I thank you again, and it has really been a pleasure to stop by. I've got to go and do what just regular people do, you know. I've got to go and wash.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. CLARKE. I thank the gentleman from Chicago, Illinois for his eloquence and for the sharing of his insights based on the constituency that he represents and based on the years of knowledge and on the years of experience that he has had here in Washington in dealing with these matters.

This is truly an unprecedented time, but we have got to look back a bit to really get a sense of how we got here. Follow me on this chart over here. It's building a wall of debt.

When you look back at the year 2001, our debt was at $5.8 trillion. Fast forward to 2009, and it is projected that our debt will have basically doubled in that time. Then let's also recollect the philosophy of the Bush administration and of the Republicans of this body. There was a great proclamation about the ownership society. That is, we want to make sure that this Nation is underpinned by the need and by the capacity and by the ability to own.

Well, at the end of the day, what we see is that we own a whole lot of debt. On top of this debt, we're going to be owning $700 billion in poor assets, in assets that no one else was able to leverage to create profit. There were all of those loans that were given to those who wanted to be a part of the ownership society. In their hearts, they knew it was the best thing to do, but they were seized upon by unscrupulous individuals who provided a product that was basically a pipe dream.

□ 2000

We were all part of the ownership society, all right. And in the words of Colin Powell, you broke it, you own it. And I just find it quite interesting that everyone is getting on TV, particularly those who were responsible because of their lack of stewardship, because of their breaking of the public trust, to say, you know, no one is to blame here. Well, when you pursue policies that create such damage to American finance, American households and communities, the American psyche, well, I think you need to own that too.

So today we are talking more about some of the proposals that are coming before us. I just want to put in a word about the fact that in this whole ownership society there was also a lack of discipline, and discipline can be shaped up in a number of different ways.

The way I like to discuss it, it has to do with regulation. I find it ironic that there are people in the financial world, real bigwigs, who have not been able to come to grips with the fact that their joyride is over, that happy days are not here again, but that they have driven our economy into the ground, and they are all lining up right now to want to be part of the solution, without regulation, without accountability.

Those days are over. I can tell you that the members of the Congressional Black Caucus, the members of the Democratic Caucus, the Members of the new Congress are not going to sit by idly have false proclamations made without substantiation.

We have back in March of 2008 when we spoke about the issue of regulation and the need for regulation, our own President saying, ''I'm deeply concerned about law and regulation that will make it harder for the markets to recover, and, when they recover, make it harder for this economy to be robust.''

Well, Mr. President, the markets failed with no regulation. Regulation was not a part of the equation here.

Then you have our nominee in the Republican Party, Senator MCCAIN, who says, ''I am always for less regulation. I would like to see a lot of the unnecessary government regulations eliminated.'' March of this year. Now, everyone knew. Everyone knew this was coming down the pipe, and they are now the ones calling for regulation.

Well, now that the horse is out of the barn and the crisis has hit, it is easy to make that determination, because hindsight is 20–20. But when reasonable people pleaded, held hearings to talk about the need to regulate what was going on, when we saw predatory lending becoming a cancer, a gangrene in communities of color, when we saw the subprime foreclosure market just eat communities alive, there was no mercy. There was a wink and a nod, and the feeding frenzy continued.

Then it spread to the prime market, and the feeding frenzy continued. It continued so much so that in many of these financial institutions folks were almost delusional about the condition that their companies were in. Overnight it seemed, all of a sudden everything came cascading down.

You know, for the average American, we don't get bailouts. We get reprimanded. We get marginalized. We get being told that we are irresponsible. Yet I hear none of that terminology for all of these folks who have not only upset the U.S. market, their reckless behavior has upset the world market. The world market.

We have an over abiding obligation in the United States of America. We are looked to around the world for our excellence, for our ability to handle our affairs, and that has been eroded to nothing under the Bush administration. Not in one area can we say that we have held to the American ideals, and this economic crisis marks that.

Let me also share with you something you already know, and this has to do with our economy, it has to do with the loss of jobs. Back when Bill Clinton was President of the United States, as you can see, our economy was robust and we were on a path to prosperity with respect to job growth and development.

Under the Bush administration, in just 8 years we have brought so many families, so many communities into poverty. The number of new jobs needed per month to keep pace with the growth in the working age population, 150,000. And look at the performance of the Bush administration.

This says it all, folks. We are in an economic downturn. Individuals are unemployed, health care costs are skyrocketing, energy costs are through

the roof, financial markets are crashing. All of this, all of this did not happen overnight. It certainly hasn't happened since the new Congress. This was a building process.

And for individuals to stand up and say that it was the Democratic Congress that caused this to happen, it is insulting the intelligence of the American people. It started during a period of time where the philosophy was in place that anything goes in the free market. It started when there was a philosophy in place that said that the ownership society is one that does not need to be regulated. It started and continued on a path of destruction under the leadership of the Bush administration.

Compounding that is the continued war in Iraq. Compounding that is the cost of health care, that grows exponentially each month. Compounding that is the loss and the hemorrhaging of jobs. So Wall Street has now caught up and our economy is so fragile that meetings are taking place throughout Capitol Hill in every nook and cranny to save, to save, our financial well-being.

When we say our financial well-being, it is truly our financial well-being, because we have known in urban communities for quite some time when the unemployment rate was rising that something was wrong. It was an indicator. When people began losing their homes, filing for bankruptcy. When folks who had formerly been middle-class had quickly in the blink of an eye become part of the working poor or homeless, no one shed a tear. And now every news media outlet is crying the woes of the financial giants.

Well, I guess this is the day of reckoning, and this is the time where the great equalizer is making things happen in real time, because this Congress has an obligation, and I certainly will not be voting for any bailout that does not include a bailout of the people that I represent.

When the Bush administration took office in 2001, it inherited a projected surplus for 2008 of $651 billion, $651 billion when they took office from the Democratic President Bill Clinton. The unemployment rate as we know it today continues to increase, from 4.7 percent to 6.1 percent, and shows no sign of slowing down. We are truly, truly being governed by an administration that has moved in the wrong direction, and our economy is a reflection of those policies.

So what is the House of Representatives being asked to do? Well, this week we will begin going over a number of proposals. The package that has been talked about so much in the press puts limits on executive compensation and sets the economic structure in a way in which we will advocate help for homeowners from foreclosure so the crisis will not cripple our communities.

We are calling for oversight. Oversight. The Government Accountability Office needs to monitor the progress of any proposed programs. We are granting the Treasury Department way too much power as estimated and as called upon by many of you out there in our communities, and there needs to be much more transparency.

The anything-goes Bush administration policies have been irresponsible. The non-regulation of financial institutions has led to this crisis, let there be no mistake about it. There is a lot of spin going on out there. There are a lot of folks who want to sugarcoat what has been in my estimation a dereliction of duty.

We need to move in a new direction, with responsible regulation and safeguards for middle-class folks, for folks who live in urban centers who have been paying for all of these bailouts. We will also launch an investigation of the regulatory failures and mismanagement that has treated our financial system as a cash cow for some. And, most importantly, we will build a future of financial security for those who are hurting in our Nation right now, in particular those who are in the working and middle-class.

It is clear that the administration has requested that Congress authorize in very short order very sweeping and unprecedented powers for the Treasury Secretary to confront a financial crisis of what people are saying are epic proportions. Well, that is going to come at a price as well. This administration has not demonstrated that it can be charged with the responsibility of managing the affairs of this Nation in a way in which harm is not done to its people. So, good luck with that one.

In working with the administration, we will strengthen the proposal by ensuring that the government is accountable to taxpayers in any future action under this broad grant of authority.

Now, we don't want to make this seem as though we are not going to work in a bipartisan manner. We are. But we are not going to have shoved down our throats policies that promote more of the same bad behavior. That behavior is gone, it is in the past, and we are saying that if you want to collaborate, we are willing to work with you, but there has to be a recognition of the failures so that we don't repeat them in the future.

□ 2015

When the Bush administration took office in 2001, there was a projected surplus of $651 billion. Today we stand on the advent of having to bail out the financial institutions of this Nation to the tune of $700 billion.

While people say that, well, this is not going to impact the budget because we are seeing this really as an investment as opposed to an expenditure, well, we have to expend it first, and we have to create an environment that encourages the purchase of what has been bad business. How we shape that is really up to those in the financial sector to come to the table.

But I can tell you, the American people will not be left holding the bag here. They will not be left holding the bag for those who decided that they were going to treat this country like their own personal ATM and that they were going to bankrupt us at a time when we should be experiencing great prosperity.

The debate has begun, the conversations are being had throughout the Capitol across party lines. As we concern ourselves about our financial instability, we reflect on those who live in our communities, who are senior citizens, who could have been hoodwinked into partially privatizing their Social Security and the proposals that are coming out of the Republican party to partially privatize and invest for health care.

If we had pursued those policies, can you imagine the hysteria in so many parts of our community where people have invested their lives, their well-being in a scheme that benefited the most wealthiest sectors of our Nation?

Can you imagine that under the Bush administration the tax cuts that were given to this same class of folks, the wealthy, and you look at the rising of the deficit, and you look at all of these indicators of greed, of free-market greed, you have to ask yourselves, do we and can we trust, again, an administration and a party that would be so derelict of duty, that would be so frivolous as to cause the type of hardship that we are all digging deep to endure right now?

Well, in this new Congress, under the Democratic leadership of Speaker PELOSI, that type of behavior has come to an end. As we debate, as we go over all of the proposals, as we vet every line, every comma, every period of what is being proposed for legislation, I assure you that the members of the Congressional Black Caucus, under the leadership of Congresswoman CAROLYN KILPATRICK, will keep their finger on the pulse of what is happening and what has happened and what must never be allowed to happen again within our communities, within communities across this Nation that have had to bear the brunt of this feeding frenzy, have had to shoulder the burden of economic crisis way before Wall Street met its day of reckoning.

We will be there to make sure that there is some parity for those who are struggling each month to keep up with that mortgage payment, for those who are concerned about how to juggle the mortgage payment with the home heating oil payment and the health care costs, for those who are still caught in the credit crunch and their child's tuition bill is coming up, to those who are just trying to get by and do their part as Americans. You are not forgotten in this new-direction Congress.

We stand with you, as a part of you, as we struggle through this debacle in our financial sector. I assure you, at the end of the day, we will come out of this process much stronger, much wiser, and certainly understanding

that the days of free-for-all feeding frenzy, unregulated financial markets in the United States are over. By extension, we will be setting an example for how business will be conducted around the world.

I thank you for being a wonderful Speaker pro tempore and for being there as we have our conversations during our CBC hour to open eyes and ears about the challenge that we will face this week. We will face it with all courage and dignity.

THE FINANCIAL CRISIS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WILSON of Ohio). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATTA) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate this opportunity to control this hour. A lot has happened, not only this week, but in the last several weeks here in this great country of ours.

We have been talking a lot today about what's been happening on the financial markets, but we always have to worry about what's happening on the energy markets. As you know, we have all seen those commercials on television from T. Boone Pickens talking about that $700 billion transfer of wealth out of this country in 1 year's time. When we are talking right now about what is happening in the financial markets, we are talking about maybe a bailout of $700 billion.

Not only are those two numbers both very, very high, but they are also the same. We can't watch those American dollars flowing out of the country that should be staying right here. As we stand here today, we have about a $9.6 trillion national debt, of which $2.6 trillion of that is owned by foreign governments.

One of the things that I have been saying for a good long period of time is what happens when they start dictating to the United States. I think one of the most interesting stories that did not get a lot of play, but was on the front page of the Washington Times during the Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac bailout, is that when the bailout was being worked out, the foreign banks out there, and creditors, had about $1 trillion of Fannie and Freddie. They are secured, but we have a lot of American banks out there that didn't have that preferential treatment, and they are on pennies on the dollar.

But, again, as one of the things that was stated in that article, which I again found very, very interesting, it could be one of the first times since maybe the Revolutionary War when a foreign power is actually telling the United States what it is going to be doing. I think these are very, very tough times, but they are also times for action that we have to be doing in this country.

At this time, I would like to recognize the gentlelady from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) who has been a great advocate. I would like to yield to her at this time.

Ms. FOXX. Well, I thank you, Congressman, my colleague from Ohio (Mr. LATTA), for yielding time and for stepping in to lead this hour this evening, because we have many of our colleagues who are tied up in meetings right now dealing with the issues that we have been talking about.

I heard a little bit of the comments that were made by our colleague from New York (Ms. CLARKE) in the previous leadership hour. I have great respect and affection for her, but she made a couple of comments that I have a concern about that I thought it might be useful to make a couple of comments about. We will try to tie the issue of energy in with the issue of the financial situation that we are facing here in the same way.

She said a comment that we don't have enough regulations on the banks and that we need more regulations. I think that most Americans now understand that one of the major problems that we have in our country with jobs going overseas is the impact of too many government regulations.

We are, in many ways, regulating ourselves out of business in this country. We may have wrong regulations for banks and investment firms, may not have the right regulations for them, but I don't think it's that we don't have enough regulations for them. Again, in many ways, we have too many regulations.

I was interested in Congressman LATTA's comments about the fact that we had, we know, in talking about the energy issues, and our good friend T. Boone Pickens has done a lot to raise the awareness of the American people by talking about the fact that we transfer out of this country every year $700 billion, the largest transfer of wealth ever in the history of any society. It is a bit ironic that the figure that has been shared with us, that is needed for this proposed bailout, various companies on Wall Street, is $700 billion.

You know, it would be really simple if this Democratic Congress had paid attention to what Republicans have been saying for the last 20 months and, say, let us start developing more American-made energy. Let us stop transferring all of that money out of this country to foreign countries, many of which don't like us, many of which are doing everything they can to destroy us. Keep that money here and let us create jobs and wealth in this country. It would be a marvelous thing for us to be able to do.

The price of oil spiked up again today, the largest increase, I believe, in 1 day that's ever occurred. Well, we can have energy independence in this country. I am convinced of it, most people are convinced of it. Never before have we seen ourselves so dependent on other nations, and there is no reason for it.

What we have to do, though, is use the wonderful resources that the good Lord has given us in this country and use those to our advantage. Many of us have talked over and over again, in the last 2 months, particularly, about the opportunity to drill in ANWR, in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

In fact, I don't think too many people have mentioned that when that refuge was set aside, there was specifically written into the bill that set it aside language that said part of that property would be used for drilling in the future.

□ 2030

That is simply being ignored by the Democratic majority in this House.

The other place that we need to be drilling is on the Outer Continental Shelf. Every other nation in the world that has oil and gas resources along their coastlines is tapping those resources for their benefit. We are the only Nation in the world where it is locked up.

Now next week the moratorium, the congressional moratorium will expire, and with that we have the opportunity to make that property available for leasing. It would result in huge amounts of money for this country, coming into this country. It is projected to be $2.3 trillion.

Now I happen to believe that some of that should be shared with the States, but all of that money can come into this country and we would be able to change our balance of payments once we are able to use those resources and change the whole way we operate in this country.

In terms of the bill that is being worked on to be presented to us today or tomorrow, I have some grave concerns about the fact that people are saying there are no alternatives. There are lots of alternatives to simply writing a blank check to the Treasury Department. We could again be cutting the Federal budget. We could be doing lots of other things. We could arrange to bring in the private sector to help with this transition. I know many people think the situation is really dire, but part of our problem is that our colleagues who have preceded us in this Congress in the last several years, many of them have thought that the Federal Government should be doing everything, and we have gotten ourselves into a bind by trying to fund everything in the world out of Washington. If we would pay attention to the Constitution that we are sworn to uphold in this body, then we would narrow dramatically what our scope of practice is here.

Last week I spoke on the floor about a bill that we were dealing with that was funding education programs. As I have said on the floor many, many times, it doesn't say anywhere in the Constitution that funding education is a function of the Federal Government. So I believe that we could solve most of our financial crises, and I have to believe we probably are in a crisis right

now because that is what we have been told over and over again, but too many of the things that are brought up here are called crises and they are not, but I have to believe that if we would again pay attention to what the Constitution says and become fiscally responsible, we would not have to go into dire measures to deal with the problems when they come up.

And so I want to say, and much of what we are dealing with now has to do with prices having gone up and people not being able to pay their mortgages because the price of gasoline has doubled in the last 2 years. And my colleague said before we can't blame this on the Democratic Congress. I don't have a chart out here right now but I could get one in a hurry that shows that when the Democrats took control of Congress 20 months ago, the price of gasoline started going up, the unemployment rate started going up, the number of foreclosures started going up. It really is difficult to deny that those things are coincidental.

Now, I am a social scientist and I am very wary of declaring cause and effect, but the markers are simply too strong to deny the relationship of them. I think it is something that we need to continue to talk about because the bill that was passed last week by the Democrat majority did not respond to the situation that we are facing as far as energy is concerned. In fact, it did just the opposite. It made it even more difficult for us to deal with the high prices of energy in this country.

You don't have to take my word for it, the editorial pages of the major newspapers and non-major newspapers of this country agree with us. I will just quote from some of them because they have said what we have said here on the floor. We can be dismissed as being partisan, but most of these newspapers are not partisan newspapers. And, if anything, they are very liberal newspapers saying these things.

I am going to quote from the Waco Tribune editorial, September 22, 2008. It is entitled, ''Energy Package Stalls Out: Hastily Passed House Bill Appears Dead in the Water.

''Which is why it was doubling disappointing to survey the energy bill passed by the U.S. House last week. Swiftly engineered by House Speaker NANCY PELOSI and Democratic allies, it's a limp-wristed approach to pressing energy problems. In seeking to appease everyone, it satisfies no one, offshore drilling enthusiasts and environmentalists included.''

There is an editorial in the Buffalo News, September 22, 2008. ''This way, Democrats can claim to be opening the way to offshore drilling . . . under the restrictions included in the bill, no real drilling is likely to happen.''

An article from the Augusta Chronicle, an editorial, September 22, 2008. ''This just in: Nothing. That's what this Congress came up with after months of high fuel costs and concern over our dependence on foreign oil, and after a summer recess in which Senators and Representatives could have listened to the American people but did not. Congress came up with nothing—a fake energy exploration bill that would only weaken America. House Speaker NANCY PELOSI, who is devoting her career to blocking new energy for America, allowed a bill that would permit drilling for oil 100 miles offshore, which is prohibitive. Under the bill, coastal States could go 50 miles closer in—but have no incentive to, as the Democrats' bill doesn't share revenues with the States.'' The title is ''They've Blown a Ruse; Congress Fails Yet Again.''

This goes on and on with article after article saying why the bill that was passed was a sham and a joke.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to enter into the RECORD the remainder of these quotes from the newspapers from this week.

''If House Democrats were looking to give Americans relief at the gas pump in the energy legislation passed on Sept. 16, they failed. In a jarring twist, the legislation offers a solution and then negates it. If Americans were hoping for at least half a loaf from this legislation, they were disappointed,'' (''Energy Legislation Less Than Half a Loaf,'' Readinq Eaqle Editorial, September 20, 2008)

''Don't be fooled by House Democrats'' disingenuous bill to lift the federal government's ban on offshore oil drilling. Rather than address a shortage of supply in the face of growing demand, the bill seeks to appease angry voters without harming the Democrats' mission to force America off fossil fuels * * * This isn't a bill intended to tap vast untapped reserves. It's a bill intended to give voters the impression that Democrats favor offshore drilling—while maintaining their opposition to it.'' (''Drilling for Political Advantage,'' Northwest Florida Daily News Editorial, September 20, 2008)

''Coming next week from Nancy Pelosi and the House Democrats: legislation that allows oil and gas drilling on the moon! The bill would have the same result as energy legislation passed Tuesday—no increase in domestic oil production—and it certainly wouldn't be any less cynical * * * The Democrats' intent here is so transparent it's embarrassing. Americans know the country needs to use all its resources to power the future and speed economic recovery. That includes offshore oil drilling—where the oil is.'' (''Let's Drill for Oil—Where There Isn't Any,'' Las Vegas Review Journal Editorial, September 19, 2008)

''Pelosi, who opposes new drilling for American oil, allowed the vote only because this summer Democrats were on the wrong side of offshore exploration, which seven in 10 Americans favor. Unfortunately, the House-passed bill is nothing more than a fig leaf for Democrats as they prepare to face frustrated voters in November.'' (''Same Old Drill: 'No-Energy' Bill Risks Voter Wrath,'' The Oklahoma Editorial, September 19, 2008)

''The sudden pro-drilling makeover of the Pelosi Democrats has always had an air—a gale, really—of election-year convenience, and the House proved it Tuesday by passing an energy bill that would put any bunko man to shame. This confidence trick won't expand domestic oil-and-gas supplies even a bit * * * As Congress runs down the clock for this term, the likelihood of reaching some grand pre-election energy bargain is vanishing fast. The House bill shows that the Pelosi Democrats simply aren't serious about expanding domestic energy supplies.'' (''Pelosi's Drilling Ruse,'' Wall Street Journal Editorial, September 19, 2008)

''Congress may as well close the windows, lock the doors and take a vacation. If the energy bill the House passed Tuesday night is any indication, the lower chamber is already out to lunch * * * The House this week finally responded, tweaking the drilling bans just enough to pass a bill that Republican leader John Boehner correctly calls 'a hoax.'" (''Energy Bill is a Dry Well,'' Bend Bulletin Editorial (OR), September 19, 2008)

''On Tuesday, House Democrats made an embarrassingly weak attempt to protect themselves * * * Therefore, House leaders produced a ''compromise bill'' and quickly moved it to a vote. It passed along largely party lines, and Democratic incumbents in tight races can claim they voted for drilling. Voters should not fall for that old trick.'' (''Democrats Drill for Political Cover,'' Roanoke Times Editorial, September 18, 2008)

I want to say to my colleagues who are going to be here during this hour talking about this issue, we have many, many alternatives to giving a blank check to the Treasury. We have many, many alternatives to the bill that was passed last week by the Democrat House.

Republicans know that. Republicans have presented those in the American Energy Act which we have proposed. I want to say that I for one, and I believe my colleagues are pro-American energy, and we are waiting for our Democrat colleagues to leave their anti-American energy stance and join us in being pro-American energy.

Mr. LATTA. I thank the gentlelady from North Carolina for her eloquence and steadfastness and willingness to roll up her sleeves to work for a solution on these problems that we have.

Mr. Speaker, at this time I would like to recognize my good friend, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. GINGREY).

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from Ohio for yielding. The gentlewoman from North Carolina is such a strong voice on energy policy that we think this country ought to be pursuing.

I didn't hear the first few minutes of the hour, Mr. Speaker, but clearly we on this side of the aisle were most disappointed last week. We, as you know, spent a lot of time during the August recess, I think 134 of us, some several days, some one or two days, but came back from our break, if you will, to try to address the people who were here during August visiting the Nation's Capitol, the people's House. It was a most enjoyable time.

We talked to the American people. They came down and sat in these chairs that we occupy. They got to see where we voted. They weren't just up in the gallery. Because we were Members and we were not in session, we were permitted to bring, to escort people into the Chamber. And on many days the Chamber was almost full. It was almost like a day of voting on an important issue for us. I think they enjoyed it. Many of these people were Republicans, many were Democrats, some

probably Independents. We weren't overly political. We just tried to make the point that to solve this problem, we really do need a comprehensive approach.

Some may, and I have heard some on the Democrat side of the aisle say that we are Johnny one note. All we can talk about is drill, drill, drill. Drill, baby, drill. Drill here, drill now, and low prices. While that has been the cornerstone of the American Energy Act, the All-of-the-Above Act, it certainly isn't the only thing in that act. There are so many provisions, not the least of which is conservation, and to foster and pay for research and development for fuels, alternative energy sources such as the sun and the wind, to continue research and development on taking this abundant supply of coal that we have in this country, and everybody knows what coal looks like. When you mine it, it is in a solid form. I think, Mr. Speaker, that I read recently that in the United States of America there are 1.4 trillion tons of known coal resources and maybe twice that much. But if it is limited to 1.4 trillion tons, I think we burn, generating electricity mainly in this country, about 20 billion tons a year. So we may well have 150 years worth of coal to produce electricity.

So this research and development to take that coal, that rock that we all know, to convert it into gas, gasification, just methane gas, natural gas, or to liquefy it and basically turn it into petroleum and diesel fuel. So we have the capability of doing that.

We have something like 1.5 trillion barrels or at least 900 billion, but I think the closer estimate is 1.5 trillion barrels of petroleum that is embedded in a rock, not coal, but in a way you can think of it as coal, in the Rocky Mountain States. There are three or four States, Colorado being one of them, and this rock can be mined just like coal or anything else, copper ore, anything that we mine, and we can extract that petroleum from this rock. You can almost think of a sponge that was fully soaked, saturated with water, and you just kind of squeeze out the water.

It is a little more complicated than that and it is going to take some more research and development, but the Democratic majority in their Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 put a provision in the bill that said you couldn't use that. That no agency of the Federal Government, including the Department of Defense and the Department of the Air Force which uses all of that jet fuel, they couldn't enter into a contract because the mining or production, burning of that alternative fuel would result in one little scintilla increase in carbon dioxide emission.

We hear, and I will yield back to my colleague in just a second, but I want to make this point. When this 110th Congress convened in January of 2007, the first witness we had in the Science Committee, and this was kind of unprecedented, was none other than the Speaker of the House. We were thrilled. That was an honor. The Speaker of the House was going to be the one witness at the Science Committee talking about global warming.

And several weeks later our second witness was former Vice President Al Gore who had just gotten an Oscar for the documentary film ''An Inconvenient Truth,'' I think was the name of it, again in regard to global warming.

□ 2045

Well, the price of gasoline at the pump at that time was maybe $2.50 a gallon or a little less than that, $2.33 a gallon. And it was clear that Madam Speaker's passion, and she said it later, and she said it recently, her passion was to save the Earth in regard to global warming and carbon capture and all of that. And of course Vice President Gore, the same thing. And I could understand their passion.

I didn't necessarily agree with all of the scientists, the U.N. committee that had those five different reports on global warming and what we should do about it, capping trade and whether or not these were just sort of natural cycles and phases of the sun. And you have little ice ages and warm ages and that sort of thing.

But even giving them the benefit of the doubt, and we are talking about some very bright scientists, that that is a priority maybe when gasoline is $2, $2.25 a gallon. But when it's $4 a gallon, and crude oil, light sweet crude is $140 a barrel, that cannot be the number one priority of this country, when we're on the verge of going bankrupt.

We literally, I really say, Mr. Speaker, I don't know if my colleagues would agree with me, but I truly believe that what we're facing now in the financial markets, it all started with this dependency on foreign sources and being at the—they almost have a gun at our head in regard to this.

So the number one priority, at least from this side of the aisle, is to have a comprehensive energy plan, lower these prices and become totally independent. It doesn't mean that we will not continue to buy fossil fuel from foreign sources, but at least we wouldn't have to. And so that's why we're here tonight, to talk about that.

I want to thank my colleagues for letting me speak maybe a little longer than they had anticipated I would. But the gentlewoman from Minnesota is here tonight, Mrs. BACHMANN, and she's been here so much over the last 2 months talking about this issue, as has Congressman LATTA from Ohio. So at this point I yield back to my colleagues, and I thank you for letting me participate.

Mr. LATTA. I thank the gentleman for his eloquence also tonight and for all of his hard work on trying to get this energy issue resolved, because it really is the number 1 issue that's really facing so many Americans out there.

And I know that when I go home a lot, and I go home every weekend and I put a lot of miles on the car, I know as well as you all do. When you're at the gas station you have a lot of people come up to you and ask you the same question, what are we going to do about this energy question.

And as we talk about it for a little bit, we talk about what we're doing down here and what we're trying to get accomplished, it's kind of interesting every so often because then some people ask you, well, how do you stand it, with all this? And I say, you know, it's not that bad. If you know what the problem is and we know what the solution is, we just have to get there. So I'm two-thirds of the way there, and I think that's the best way to go.

And as the gentleman was talking about, as where we are today and it's a real crisis, and I'd like to invite my good friend, the gentlelady from Minnesota, to the podium also to talk about not only energy but also some of the financial things going on in the country at this time.

But as has been pointed out, I know by the gentlelady from North Carolina, the big story today was that crude prices went up over $30 a barrel in a 1-day jump. And suddenly, finally a record jump of $16.37, and what that's spurred on by is by this financial problem that we have in this country. It's just not on the energy side, where we had all of these folks out there trying to find where's a safe haven to be right now. So they're looking at commodities for that currency hedge. And so you watch gold, silver, copper all posting strong gains today. But at the same time we saw oil that had been slowly but steadily going down, and trying to help the American people out there not have to spend so much at the pump.

And I know the gentlelady has been very, very concerned on this same issue. And at this time I'd just like to turn over to you for a little bit to chat a little bit about where we are on the financial side, and we can talk about the energy issue at the same time.

Mrs. BACHMANN. Thank you to Congressman BOB LATTA. Thank you so much for your leadership on this issue and also for the fact that you've been willing to take on interest group after interest group on this issue, because one thing that I have learned, being a freshman Member of Congress, is that there are interest groups who are speaking loud and clear, and they aren't speaking on behalf of the American people who need to get gas prices back down to $2 a gallon or less, what they were just months ago. It wasn't that long ago that gas prices were $2.32 cents a gallon. And I'm sure that our colleague from Georgia, Mr. GINGREY, remembers. When we took office in January of 2007, gas prices were $2.32 a gallon. What are we being told now? That'll never happen again. We can never get gas prices back down to that level.

Well, we can't if the special interests that are now running this town stay in charge. They're exactly right. We never

can get it down. But we can get it down to $2.32 a gallon if we do what the American people called us to do when we came here, because as Congressman LATTA knows, this is a congressionally created problem. This is not a problem of lack of energy resources in this country. This is not a problem of lack of technology for accessing these resources.

The problem is the United States Congress that has made it virtually illegal to access the answer to our problem that's contained right here underground, whether it's 27 percent of all the world's coal supplies, as I heard Congressman GINGREY state in his remarks, or whether it's the fact that we are the ''Saudi Arabia of Oil'' with three States, Colorado, Utah and Wyoming, that have more oil than all of Saudi Arabia contained in shale oil. Or whether the answer is in natural gas, which we have over 420 trillion cubic square feet in the Gulf Coast region, or whether it's wind or solar or conservation. We've got it all. And again, the United States Congress is the problem.

What's that led to?

That's led to the largest wealth transfer in American history. Over $700 billion has gone out of our pockets directly overseas to people who don't like us to purchase energy. $700 billion.

Isn't it interesting that what we are hearing right now in this financial crisis is that the American people are being asked to pony up $700 billion to bail out private companies out of a financial mess that they've gotten themselves into. So just think about that for a moment.

Had we been drilling here in our own country, rather than going overseas to purchase foreign sources of energy, we would have had $700 billion worth of American dollars staying here within our own borders.

Now, Congressman LATTA, I'm sure that you would agree with me that we would far prefer to see $700 billion worth of investment stay in the United States, because that would mean $700 billion worth of jobs that could have been created in the United States.

Mr. LATTA. You're absolutely right, because when you're talking about that $700 billion, that translates into about 70 percent of all the oil that we use every day is imported in this country. And you're absolutely right, because when that price of oil keeps escalating up, then the question becomes what happened to the regular American person out there?

Well, the problem is this. That means a person or a family won't be able to buy a new car because they've got to worry about what oil prices are.

I have the largest washing machine plant in the world in my district. So that means of those 5 million washing machines, the problem then becomes, well, maybe people won't be able to buy washing machines.

Mrs. BACHMANN. If the gentleman would yield?

Mr. LATTA. Absolutely.

Mrs. BACHMANN. What that means is $700 billion translates to one-sixth of the American economy. Eighteen percent of the American economy was transferred from your pocket at the pump overseas to people who don't like us very much. Now those countries are enriched with $700 billion worth of American money that could have stayed here.

You mentioned that you had the largest washing machine plant in the United States. I have the largest window manufacturer in my district. Well, we all know what's happened with the mortgage industry and with the housing industry. Imagine the impact that that's made on this company in my district for manufacturing windows. This is tremendously important. This is real. This is real pain that the American people are feeling, and it is fueling this crisis that we're seeing, both on Main Street and on Wall Street.

I don't know about you, but I've gotten an earful when I'm home talking to my constituents, and they want to know that, they are incredulous that the Democrat-controlled Congress, because, again, Republicans have not controlled Congress for almost 2 years. The Democrats have controlled Congress.

And under Democrat control, in 2 years we have seen gas prices escalate 76 percent. That's right. Gas prices have escalated 76 percent, and we have seen the largest wealth transfer in American history go out of your pocket over to countries that don't like us very much.

How can we reverse that?

Congressman LATTA, what would be the solution that we can reverse that so that we could keep American money right here in the economy and start buying those American-made washing machines that are in your district and American-made windows that are in my district?

Mr. LATTA. You're absolutely right, because we need self-sufficiency on energy in this country; we keep the money in our own pockets. And you know, when it comes down to it, my district, I had the Corning International Manufacturers. You know, we have the ninth largest number of manufacturing jobs in the Fifth Congressional District in Ohio. That's a lot of jobs that are all dependent on one thing: energy.

You know, when I go into my plants, I try to go in plants every week when I'm home. If we're here Monday through Thursday, I'm usually someplace on Friday. And the one thing that they'll do every time, they'll say, you know, what's driving us in cost here is the problem with energy. And a lot of times it's the oil. Well, it's the oil base that they have to have in their product that they make. It could be the energy that they have to consume to make that product. It could be higher electric costs. It could be, you know, you go right down the line of what it is.

And the problem that we have been having in this country is we haven't been taking care of ourselves. We have to have what we've been advocating on our side of the aisle is an all-of-the-above energy policy. And that policy, of course, is what we're talking about is having more nuclear, to have more clean coal technology, to go out and have oil, have natural gas, as you pointed out, and to have that solar, that wind, that hydrogen, that ethanol, the biodiesel.

But as our good friend from Georgia just mentioned a little bit ago when talking about coal, we have 24 percent of the world's known coal supplies in this country, and we're absolutely stymied at this time in not being allowed to get to that coal, because we could take that coal. I have an individual in my district that's invented a clean coal technology, and that's what we have to do. We have to utilize what we have here in this country so we don't transfer that wealth overseas.

You're absolutely right when you talk about that 420 trillion cubic feet of gas, 86 billion barrels offshore right now. You know, what has just been passed last week under the Democrat plan, we're not going to get to that oil. You want to know the reasons why? Well, first of all, a lot of that oil is within that 50 miles offshore, not 50 miles to 100. And the second thing is there's nothing in that bill talking about lawsuits and preventing those lawsuits from slowing these leases from being developed. Because if we can do that, we can start developing.

But it's about time that Americans take care of Americans because we're in a situation here, and you're absolutely right what you're talking about on the financial side, we're in a crisis stage here. We've watched all these dollars go overseas.

I talked a little bit earlier about what happened with that $2.6 trillion of our national debt now being owned by foreign countries, $1 trillion being owned when it came to Fannie and Freddie Mac by foreign creditors, that they're actually dictating to us now. They're at the table. They're bargaining, or maybe they're not even bargaining. They might be dictating. And we're in a situation that we have got to get something done in this country, and I'm sure that you are very well aware of it.

Mrs. BACHMANN. And if the gentleman would yield on that point, I just wanted to mention regarding jobs once more. Both yourself and I, together with eight of our colleagues, went up to Alaska 2 months ago. And while we were up in Alaska looking at the ANWR region, which, by the way is the most perfect place on the planet to drill for oil, absolutely perfect place. It's perfectly sited. Without any environmental degradation, we could increase American energy supplies by over 50 percent if we would bring on line just oil production in ANWR alone.

But one thing we heard when we were up there from the people who were giving us tours, the Mineral Management Service, the Bureau of Land Management told us that just bringing on line oil production in Colorado and Alaska would add over 750,000 jobs.

□ 2100

Over 750,000, three-quarters of a million American jobs, and the jobs in Alaska, we were told, start out with an astounding starting-level salary of $100,000 a year. Now, imagine that. How many Americans wouldn't be willing to go and work where they could be making $100,000 a year? Rather than being one of the largest importers of energy, America could turn around our economy by being one of the largest exporters of energy and one of the largest job creators of energy.

One thing I wanted to add, if I could just take a moment to a talk a little bit about the current economy and the current meltdown in the financial markets.

I have the privilege of sitting on the Financial Services Committee. And one thing that's important to remember, just as this energy crisis was created by the United States Congress because Congress made it illegal to access American energy and has put into law a Prohibition-era mentality on American-made energy production, so, too, Congress created this financial services mess. You ask how. Let me just briefly explain and just in a nutshell how this occurred.

Back in the 1930s, Congress created private companies to back mortgages. So when you go to buy a house from your bank, the bank doesn't keep that mortgage. The bank sells it to an organization called Freddie or Fannie. They're private companies. But the problem is, government implied, with a wink and a nod, that government would back up those mortgages from Freddie and Fannie. So these are private companies, but they can take any bloomin' risk they want because Uncle Sam said you're going to foot the bill in case those mortgages went sour.

Well, fast forward to the late 1970s. In 1977, the Credit Reinvestment Act was passed, and in the early 1990s, there were amendments made to the Credit Reinvestment Act. What did that do? It suspended, for the first time in American history, 200 years' worth of sound financial loan making.

So before when you and your wife, Congressman LATTA, if you went to get a loan to buy a house or my husband and I got a loan to buy a house, we had to show that we were credit-worthy risks. Under the Community Reinvestment Act, the banks were ordered under penalty of fine and lawsuit, ''You don't make loans anymore to people who are creditworthy. Now you're forced to make loans to people who are not creditworthy.'' It turned the world upside down.

So the world of banking became like ''Alice in Wonderland'' where banking rules were turned topsy-turvy on their heads and banks were fined or threatened with lawsuits if they did not make loans, a certain quota of loans to people who weren't creditworthy. Guess what? That's when a new product called subprime loans started to be made. And unfortunately, now we all know what subprime loans are. They were made to people who weren't creditworthy, who, in other words, had no means to pay those loans back.

So what is happening today? Today the markets have melted down, and now the American taxpayer is being told, you, Mr. Speaker, and the American people, are being told that they have to pay for what private companies agreed to in contracts. So the beleaguered taxpayer is the forgotten man in this equation.

The American taxpayer didn't ask to be a part of these subprime contracts. They didn't receive any of the benefits. They didn't receive any of the profits when profits were being made. But now that losses are on the horizon, now the American taxpayer is being asked—not asked, forced to pony up at minimum $700 billion of new taxes; which, ironically, $700 billion is the exact amount of money that you, in essence, Mr. Speaker, the American people, have been taxed by these artificially high prices of gasoline.

There is no reason why gas prices would be $4 right now, no reason, if we would legalize American energy production. So had we been legalizing American energy production and we had prices low for the American people to pay, whether it's through heating oil or whether it's through natural gas that they pay or through electricity or at the pump, we wouldn't have been enriching all of these foreign countries. We would have had that much more money in our economy, and we may not have seen the meltdown because people would have had the wherewithal to pay their mortgages, to have high-paying jobs, and we may not have seen the subprime mess.

Mr. LATTA. Well, when you're talking about who's going to be footing this bill, the other things that scares me is this. The reports out right now is that China will become the number one manufacturing country in the world next year. The United States, after more than 100 years, is getting knocked off that hill as being number one.

So as we are in a situation where the taxpayers are being asked pretty much again to step up, foot these bills, who is going to pay it? Because the problem is the jobs.

When I'm out at these factories in my district, one of the things that I ask the folks that are running the companies is, ''Out of curiosity, how far do your people drive in?'' It's not uncommon in my district that the people are driving 50 miles one way to work.

Well, then you talk to the people out on the floor, and they're saying, ''You know what? If I have to drive 500 miles a week, with gas prices as they are, is it really worth it to me to actually have this job, or should I try to find a job some place closer to home?''

Then the manager of the companies then say, ''If I lose these trained employees, where am I going to get the people to run this plant? I'm going to have to move it either across the country or out of the country.''

It's almost like the dog is chasing its tail here. And we've got a real situation in this country where the people out there don't have the dollars in their pockets because they're paying more and more out.

We had that report not too long ago that said we used about 4½ percent less fuel and energy this past summer. That was almost like a good news/bad news. Good news is we have more fuel supply, but the bad news is we had companies not making product. We had people not going places. We have a lot of places in my area, the State of Ohio, especially along Lake Erie—which is a huge tourist destination area—and a lot of people said, ''You know what? We can't take that summer vacation this year. We can't go there.'' So by them not doing that, they didn't help the local tourist trade in our area.

So it's a very tough situation. You know, when other countries are out there, they're exploring. As you pointed out as we were talking about oil shale that 2.1 trillion barrels, trillion barrels. And you're absolutely right; we are the Saudi Arabia when it comes to oil shale.

At the same time you have got the Chinese and the Indians and the French and a lot of other countries in the world right now are out there producing energy. And you have got China in the next 25 to 30 years, they're probably going to build 40 nuclear power plants. The Indians are going to be building another 25 to 30 in the next 25 years. You have the French. The French right now are at least 75 percent nuclear. They have enough power that they can export that power into Europe.

And here in this country we've got a situation where they're saying, ''What are we going to do in the future? What have we done?'' You know, the last nuclear power plant site in this country was 1977. Last one to go on line was in 1996. That's a crisis.

Mrs. BACHMANN. It's a crisis, and if the gentleman would yield.

It seems that our energy policy right now is being determined by bureaucracy and by socialistic tendencies, not by the free market. It's imperative that people have the ability to choose the energy needs that they have.

Here in the State of Minnesota, the people that I represent, they're all very soon going to be turning their thermostats up. Some homes are heated by natural gas, some by fuel oil. And we're going to be looking potentially at dramatic spikes in costs for people on their fuel oil and home energy heating.

People in Minnesota don't have a choice. They have to turn on their fuel.

As the gentleman had stated, people right now are making choices about whether or not they could even afford to go to work if they're travelling 50 miles to be able to get to work.

I represent people in the great city of Saint Cloud, Minnesota. I toured a nursing home recently. One thing I was told by the administrators was a lot of the people that they have doing some of the basic work in the nursing homes are making not a high level of income and they don't see also that it's worth it for them to go to work. This is not a good situation that they're being put in. And again, this is artificial because we don't need to be in this situation.

Again, it's because, unfortunately, the Democrat-controlled Congress has maintained a prohibition-era mentality with American energy production. They're just saying, ''No way, no how.'' I don't understand that, Representative LATTA. I absolutely don't understand the mindset that says when you're sitting on your own solution, why in the world wouldn't you legalize and open the door to American energy production so we can create jobs and people can pay a lower cost, and so we aren't sending $700 billion overseas.

Here is something I'm very concerned about, Representative LATTA. It is Sharia Law, because many of the Islamic nations are now wanting to do business under Sharia Law, Islamic law. This is happening now in the United Kingdom, and this is very concerning. All of the equity, all of the liquidity, the dollars that are available to do business now are in the hands of the people of the Middle East. It makes sense. We just sent them $700 billion of American money——

Mr. LATTA. In one year.

Mrs. BACHMANN. In one year at the gas pump.

So just think about this now: $700 billion has left American pockets, has gone overseas to the Middle East, to OPEC nations that don't like us very much, they're sitting on $700 billion worth of capital. Guess what Americans are starved for right now? Capital. Money. We have to go somewhere. Our banks right now are starved for money. We're in a credit crunch right now. But Middle Eastern nations are saying, ''Hey, you want to do business with us? You need to come under Sharia, Islamic law.''

So now think of that. American companies would have to come under—not under American law, but under Sharia Law if they conduct business transactions, let alone the Chinese nation that is in the process of buying up United States' securities.

These are very sobering times for us in the United States Congress. We may make the most important decision and cast the most important vote of the 110th Congress this week. And that vote will be on how we handle this financial crisis. And would that the Democrat Congress last week had passed a real energy freedom bill so we could unlock American energy resources and create wealth here in the United States rather than taxing the American people yet one more time so we can continue to send more money over to OPEC and tax more money from people to put in Washington, D.C.

You don't want to send more money to the United States Congress that has proved themselves completely incapable of handling the American people's money. The Democrat-led Congress has proved itself completely incompetent in handling the American people's money.

Mr. LATTA. You bring up a very interesting point when you're talking about what is happening, especially with the oil situation.

When we went up to ANWR, there were 11 of us from the House side that went up. And we saw that pipeline. We saw mile marker zero, that 800-mile pipeline. That pipeline, as you remember, was carrying 2.1 million barrels of oil a day down it. It's at 700,000 barrels today. The problem we're going to have is we're watching about a 15 percent reduction every year in that pipeline. And because the Prudhoe Bay area and the other areas, they're slowly starting to tap out.

When that pipeline gets down to 300,000 barrels a day, as you remember, probably the most telling problem that we're going to have up there is that pipeline can't flow any more. And it's just that they can't say we're just going to shut the pipeline off and we'll turn it back on in a few years. Once that oil stops, that pipeline is ruined.

So if we can't get that million extra barrels a day that could be coming from ANWR—and let's just talk about that ANWR area as you mentioned a little bit earlier.

It's the size of South Carolina, 19 million acres. Congress, in 1980, had set aside that section 1002 ground which was about 1.5 million acres. The area that we're looking——

Mrs. BACHMANN. If the gentleman will yield, it was 2,000 acres out of the 19 million.

Mr. LATTA. That's absolutely correct. And you're looking at that 1.5 million acres. The area that we're looking at is comprised of about 2,000 acres, which most of us from the farm country know that there's 640 acres in a section. So we're talking about 3½ sections of land, a little over 3½ square miles, probably. That's a pin drop up in Alaska.

And Alaskans, 80 percent, want those jobs. They want to make sure that they get that oil down here. They want to make sure there is natural gas. Right now, as you remember, what's happening with that natural gas? They can't bring itself. There's no pipeline. So they're reinjecting it back in the ground.

□ 2115

When you're talking about your constituents out there wondering what they're going to do this winter about—I've got my constituents right now that are only buying half a tank of propane because the problem is it is the same price as it was for a full tank last year.

So, the problem is, what happens when they run out of that half a tank of propane halfway through winter? It is a crisis, and we have got to address it, and if we are going to stop the flow of watching our dollars leave this country, if we want to make sure that we can have a future for our kids and that the people aren't living from hand-to-mouth and they start thinking about their future, that they can put things away for their own retirement, thinking about their kids' college education. And then to buy those things, the only thing we didn't talk about. Buying that new house, putting new windows in from that company that makes them up in your district.

So we've got a problem, and that problem's got to be solved now. We can't wait. We can't say we will pass this on to another Congress and pass this on to another generation, because we're going to be held responsible by every future generation as to what we do in this House Chamber in the next week.

Mrs. BACHMANN. If the gentleman would yield, unfortunately, that's exactly what happened last week by the Democrat-controlled Congress. They kicked the can down the road to the next Congress, because the bill that they passed won't produce one new drop of oil or one new watt of electricity.

What was that whole exercise for? Did they not realize that for 21 months that gas prices have gone up 76 percent? This is shocking. This is the only thing my constituents have been talking about is the dramatic escalation in the price of energy. Everyone else seems to get it, but unfortunately, the Democrat-controlled Congress sat on its hands for 21 months, and just as the clock is striking midnight now on the 110th Congress, they pass a cruel hoax of a bill last week that won't go anywhere. It's dead on arrival in the Senate. The President will veto it. And here we are, looking at this huge crisis. And what do the American people have to look forward to? A reduction in energy prices? Not on your life.

Today, there was a dramatic increase in the price of oil. Why? Because international investors in oil commodities see, hey, the Democrat-controlled Congress, they're not going to do anything about bringing down the price of oil, and guess what, the clock is timing out now on the 110th Congress; I guess we can go ahead and increase the price of oil. That's speculators.

What speculators do is set a pricing function, and they do it based upon information. And the information that this Democrat-controlled Congress has sent out to the world markets is don't worry, we're not going to do anything to increase American energy production; we're going to keep it exactly as it is. And what that does is guarantee

that the poor, beleaguered American taxpayer, the forgotten man in all of this, is doomed to pay even higher prices of energy.

This is not good news, not good news at all.

Mr. LATTA. Something else at play in the hands in the last few weeks is called a hurricane, by not having diversification in this country and not having our fields dispersed around this country where we can get oil and natural gas. Everything had to be shut down in the gulf. Not only is everything shut down in the gulf, but we also then lost refineries. We haven't had new refineries built in almost three decades in this country.

So we don't take care of ourselves. The problem has been in this country, we say, you other countries take care of us, we'll pay for this oil. It's not too expensive.

But boy, I tell you, the chickens have come home to roost by now because by watching what's happening in the gulf and still knowing that we can't get the production up in the gulf, they're saying we might be out for another seven to eight days and maybe a little bit longer before we get back up. But at the same time, when I left Bowling Green this morning, I filled up the car. It was $3.79 a gallon. That was before there was a spike of $16.37. So when I get home, gas will probably be over $4 a gallon again, and people are going to say, wait a minute, what are we going to do.

One of the things I did this morning was I was at our senior center in Wood County at their Meals on Wheels, the kitchen where they make the meals. They send out about 750 per day from that place. The problem is this: These folks are out there, a lot of the volunteers are saying, wait, I can't afford to volunteer my time anymore because I can't afford the gasoline.

We've got volunteer firemen around this country, they're out there. We have all these people that do so much greatness for this country by being volunteers that are being shut off from doing it, not because they don't want to do it, because they can't afford the price of a gallon of gasoline.

One of the bills I've introduced recently is to say, let's take that 14 cents for the volunteers that drive that Meals on Wheels vehicle, or their own personal use, and get that up to the business expense.

That's the problem we have. It's not taking care of ourselves. It's only having a very small area that we're going to get our oil from in this country. It's having overreliance, like 70 percent, on other countries that bring us the oil and the resources that we need when we should be taking care of them ourselves.

Mrs. BACHMANN. You're dead on when you talk about the hurricane, dealing with Hurricane Ike recently, and the devastation that ensued in the gulf coast region, and then also we look on the international front what's happening.

Russia invaded Georgia not too long ago, and of course, we know that a big part of that invasion had to do with controlling oil. I mean, it was only a few months ago that we saw newspaper accounts. It almost seemed humorous because there was a Russian-made submarine that traveled under the arctic region and planted a Russian flag at the bottom of the Arctic Sea and said, We take this Arctic Sea for Russia.

Well, as if the Americans hadn't been there years prior and had made claims, but it makes sense because just several weeks later the U.S. Geological Survey released a report that stated there's an estimated 90 billion, 90 billion barrels of oil that are under the Arctic Sea. There are tremendous international pressures right now and particularly with Russia making very aggressive incursions in the Arctic and also in Georgia. This makes the United States even more vulnerable.

But again, great news is on the horizon. We have the answer right here in our border. The problem has been the Democrat-controlled Congress has said ''no'' to American energy production.

Mr. LATTA. Well, I want to thank the gentlelady for her time this evening and for her expertise and all of the work that she's done.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE MIKE MCNULTY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ALTMIRE). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, the gentleman from New York (Mr. ACKERMAN) is recognized for 60 minutes.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the Special Order in honor of the retirement of Representative MIKE MCNULTY.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, this is a bittersweet moment for me and for all of the members of the New York State delegation specifically and the Members of the House of Representatives in its entirety because our good friend, and my best friend in the Congress, MIKE MCNULTY, after 20 years of laboring in the vineyards here in Washington, getting on a flight every single week, coming down to Washington, going back home, representing the people of his district so diligently, will be leaving us at the end of this, his tenth Congress.

He is going to be sorely missed. They said, people don't have friends in Washington. This is truly an outstanding misstatement in the case of MIKE MCNULTY. He has friends galore on both sides of the aisle that he has met and kept and maintained close relationships with throughout his entire political career, which is not just the 20 years that he has spent here with us.

At the age of 22, MIKE entered politics, one of the youngest mayors in the history of anyplace in America. He went from the supervisor of Green Island to the mayor thereof, represented those people for so many years before being elected to the New York State Assembly, and proudly served as their assemblyman before coming here.

We have many members of the delegation who wish to speak, some of whom are here tonight, Mr. Speaker. I will fill in and continue some of my remarks, but I want to get some of them up to the microphone at this late hour. I guess we will start with Mr. HINCHEY, if you are prepared to start us off.

Mr. HINCHEY. Well, I thank you very much, and I very much appreciate your taking the time and providing us with the opportunity to say a few things about our close friend and ally MIKE MCNULTY, someone with whom we have worked for a long time, and I say that myself because MIKE and I have been working together first in the State legislature in Albany since 1982, and I think about 6 years later, 1988 he was elected to the Congress of the United States. And I'm happy to say that I was very envious about the fact that he left Albany and came to Washington, and I tried to follow him. It took me a few years to do it, but in 1993, I came down here and I've been serving with him ever since, both of us here in this Congress.

He's an extraordinary man, someone with a very remarkable history. He started out in public office because of his strong desire to serve other people as the town supervisor in Green Island. At the age of 22, he was elected to be the town supervisor, and when he was elected at that age, he was the youngest town supervisor elected in any town in the State of New York.

So from the very beginning, when he first became involved in public life and working on behalf of the general public, he started off in a very remarkable way.

After being town supervisor, he was elected mayor, and then as I said, he was elected to the State Assembly in Albany and served there in a very, very envious sort of way, a remarkable kind of way, one that made us all pay attention to him. He was a very, very strong leader in Albany, New York, in the State Assembly.

But then when he came down here to Washington, he started off in something else that was even more dramatic. Shortly after he was elected and came here, he became a member of the Ways and Means Committee, one of the most important and significant committees here in this Congress. And as a member of that committee, he has done an extraordinary job.

He is now chairman of the Subcommittee on Social Security, and he has done a very wonderful piece of work, strengthening Social Security, protecting Social Security, protecting it from people like the President of the United States who in 2005 wanted to

privatize Social Security. And if you think about the economic consequences that we're experiencing today as a result of the huge declines in financial institutions, you can imagine what the Social Security system would look like if it hadn't been for people like MIKE MCNULTY standing up and defending Social Security and making sure that it wasn't privatized and that it remains strong and went on to the people of our country.

One of the ways in which MIKE has served here is to be the acting Speaker of this Congress, this House of Representatives, and he did so I think probably more than anyone else that I know of, all the time that he spent there and doing that leadership position in such an exemplary way.

So he is someone who has set an example for all of us, from the first time he was elected to be town supervisor, then as mayor, then as a member of the State legislature, and then coming here to serve in this House of Representatives and to do it in a very remarkable way.

He's also a person who has demonstrated what it's like to be a strong family man. He is married to Nancy Ann Lazzaro, and he and she have been married now for 37 years. MIKE and Nancy have four daughters: Michele, Angela who's often called Jody, Nancy and Maria. They have five grandchildren: Lola Madelon and Daniel Patrick Sovie, and Teigin Michele, Elijah Michael, and Morgyn Jean Legault. A wonderful family, and I can only say how happy I am to have served with him, both in Albany and here in this Congress of the United States.

□ 2130

He has been here for 20 years. And I must say that I'm sorry he is leaving, but I understand that he feels the responsibility to spend a little more time at home. And that is something, again, that I admire in him, again, for the leadership that he is providing.

So I must say, Mr. Speaker, that this gentleman from the State of New York has set a wonderful example for anyone who wishes to serve the people of their communities, their State, and their country by the example that he has set in all of those areas.

MICHAEL, I thank you. I thank you for everything that you've done. I thank you for your friendship, for your leadership, and for the example that you have set for all of us to hopefully follow and be as good in our service as you have been in yours. Thank you, MICHAEL, for everything that you've done.

I yield back the time.

Mr. ACKERMAN. We're indebted to Congressman MAURICE HINCHEY, known to most of us as ''Mo,'' for his remarks about our good friend, MIKE.

And now, representing our downstate constituencies, the gentleman from New York representing the Seventh Congressional District, the chief deputy whip of the House, JOE CROWLEY, a member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, Committee on Ways and Means.

Mr. CROWLEY. I want to thank my good friend, Congressman ACKERMAN, for holding this Special Order this evening.

It's late; it's 9:30. And I want to thank all my colleagues from New York who are here on the floor right now. I would venture to say that if it was a little earlier, MICHAEL, we would have every New Yorker here this evening. And, who knows, before the evening is out, we may just have that, or close to it. But it's only a reflection of the time of the evening we're doing this Special Order, MICHAEL, and not a reflection upon you because I think the heartfelt appreciation of all your colleagues will be made known to you at some point. But we, from the New York delegation, want to take this opportunity to let you know what you know already, how special you are to all of us.

I have known MIKE MCNULTY—although you may not know this—for 24 years. In fact, MIKE was present in the Chamber when I was sworn in as a freshman member of the New York State Assembly. He was there as backup to swear me in in case Dick Connor didn't show or Stan Lundine, who was then the Lieutenant Governor, who was going to come in. Both did make it, but MIKE was there as well.

I didn't really know MIKE at the time, but MIKE is an institutional guy, and being one of the local legislators, was there to make sure that the legislature performed in a ceremonial way as well, as it did in terms of an efficient way in terms of doing the people's business. And MIKE has a great appreciation for the history of the New York State legislature and the House of Representatives as well.

I have traveled the world with MIKE MCNULTY. My first trip with MIKE MCNULTY—he may not remember this—was not to what he may be thinking as Ireland, but it was actually Israel some 21, 22 years ago. And what a great trip that was, both of our first exposure to the Holy Land and to Israel and to experience that together, not only Jerusalem, but Galilee and all the important places from an historical and a religious aspect that I know he appreciated tremendously.

And that brings me to another issue, and that is international again, it is Ireland. There are many people in the Democratic and Republican Caucus who take their rightful place in terms of their input in bringing peace with justice—and we continue in that vein—to northern Ireland, the whole island of Ireland. But MIKE MCNULTY takes second seat to no one on that issue. From his days in the legislature in his support of the McBride principles—and MIKE MCNULTY was there when Sean McBride came to the New York legislature and addressed the New York Assembly. It was there, when the New York Senate refused to even let him on the floor of the Senate, but MIKE, through his moral suasion, was able really to accommodate Sean McBride on the floor of the House of the State Assembly, along with his colleagues, and how historic that was, the champion of the McBride principles MIKE MCNULTY was in the New York State legislature.

One of the founding members of the Irish Legislative Society—I know he is still a frequent visitor to their meetings, I know how much it means to him. But MIKE and I also had the chance to travel to Ireland on two occasions. Probably the most special occasion was with former President Clinton in year 2000 as he was ending his term as President. And we were there for the Thank You Tour, the Farewell Tour. And what a great opportunity that was for both of us to be in our ancestral homeland to see America so appreciated by another country for what we did to bring peace and justice to northern Ireland. We continue in that vein, and we will do so in MIKE's honor.

MIKE has been no stranger to trials and tribulations himself. On a personal level, he has known physical difficulties. And whenever we see MICHAEL struggle, we all say, thank you, God, that I don't have that. And MIKE has carried that for not only himself, but for all of us and for any person who has known a disability in this country. He has done it in a quiet and a dignified way, and it's something that I want him to know I've always admired you for, MICHAEL.

He has also known the loss of a brother, a brother who was killed during the Vietnam War. But MICHAEL has taken every ounce of anger and frustration and he has channeled it for the betterment of our country. We can all take a lesson, a page out of MICHAEL MCNULTY's life. And if we could all do just a little bit of what MIKE MCNULTY has done with the channeling of his own life experiences, we would all be a better Nation for it.

And I would just say lastly about MIKE—and I know my other colleagues want to speak as well—but I had the great honor this year to serve as the third member of the Ways and Means; there's CHARLIE RANGEL, there's MIKE MCNULTY, downstate and upstate, and now JOE CROWLEY. But MIKE welcomed me to the committee.

And there is a certain decorum that goes on in the committee, a certain way of doing things. It has its own Sergeant at Arms, its own little way of life. And knowing that MIKE MCNULTY was on the committee was of great comfort to me—not that I'm afraid of new beginnings, but it was a little challenging at first. I don't serve on the subcommittee that MIKE serves as chair on, but MICHAEL knows that I've sat in on a number of his hearings this year and last year and got to see MICHAEL in action as he asked piercing questions of people who came before the committee.

MIKE MCNULTY was always prepared. MIKE MCNULTY was not caught off

guard too often. MIKE MCNULTY was always prepared when it came to his committee work, but also when it came to votes on the floor. MIKE was always thoughtful about every position he took. He wasn't someone you just could come up to and say, MIKE, I need your vote. It was, well, let me tell you why I'm not voting that way, or let me tell you why I'm supporting you. That's the kind of legislator MIKE MCNULTY was—from Green Island, New York.

And I know MIKE's dad and his family are incredibly proud of the career that MIKE MCNULTY has had, serving both in the House of Representatives and the State Assembly and as Mayor of Green Island, that MIKE's career is not over. It is a new beginning for MIKE MCNULTY, maybe it's going back to his hometown, maybe it's going back to the Capitol region that he has served so well all these years. MIKE has many, many, many more years of contributions to make both to the State of New York and to our country.

MIKE, I love you. You are a great man. And you will always be my friend. So thank you for your years of service.

Mr. ACKERMAN. Now from the 24th Congressional District of the Empire State whose constituents are contiguous to MIKE's—also a MIKE—MIKE ARCURI.

Mr. ARCURI. I'm here tonight, I rise to honor MIKE MCNULTY.

You know, I think I'm probably one of the only ones that remembers MIKE way back. I was a college student at University of Albany when MIKE was representing the Village of Green Island as mayor. And I can remember listening to the news and hearing not only about MIKE, but about his entire family that served the Albany area for so many years with distinction. And I can't even tell you how great an honor it was when I finally was able to meet him, and then to serve with him here.

But I want to talk about my experience with MIKE MCNULTY in a little different way. I'm one of the new Members, one of the three new members of the New York delegation. And being a new Member, obviously, you look for people to get advice. And MIKE, being the Dean of the Upstate delegation, I naturally turned to him. And so many times I would sit down next to him and ask him questions. And I can't tell you how many times he would turn to me and say, well, MIKE, I think you might want to handle it this way, or think about it this way. And there was one time in particular when we were dealing with an issue that was difficult and I was a little bit concerned about it. And MIKE sat down and said, MIKE, really, you will see that it will work out, just think it through and handle it. And I don't think 2 days passed when exactly the advice that he gave me went exactly the way he said it would go, and the issue worked out.

And it wasn't just the fact that MIKE is always there to give freshman Members like myself advice, it's not only the quality of the advice that he gives, but the way that he gives the advice, in a patient way, in an understanding way, never forgetting what it's like to be new, never forgetting what it's like to not be completely familiar with the procedure, and just having the patience of a brother, of an older brother sitting down and explaining things. And that means a lot, MIKE. It has meant a lot to me, and I know it has meant a lot to the other freshmen.

What you have done for this institution, for the State of New York is incredible. And it's an honor to not only have been able to know you, but to have been able to have served with you.

So congratulations and good luck to MIKE MCNULTY, the consummate gentleman from New York.

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I would just like to advise our colleagues—and just put MIKE MCNULTY on the alert because he never gets caught off guard—that when we all finish, we are going to ask him to honor us by saying a few words, if he would.

Now, from the distinguished gentlewoman from the 18th Congressional District, chairman of the Subcommittee on State and Foreign Operations and Related Programs of the Committee on Appropriations and Homeland Security, NITA LOWEY.

Mrs. LOWEY. And I want to thank you, my friend from New York, for organizing this Special Order.

I think, frankly, it would have been more appropriate if we had organized it in the Chinese restaurant down the street because I know that there have been many special hours where Mr. ACKERMAN and Mr. MCNULTY and those of us that were lucky to join you really had wonderful evenings together, talking about the Congress, talking about life in general, and families.

I want to rise today, Mr. Speaker, to recognize the accomplishments of my good friend, Representative MIKE MCNULTY.

I didn't know you for all the 39 years of dedicated public service, but since you've been here, we've worked closely together, and I consider you a really good friend. MIKE's exemplary commitment has earned the admiration of constituents and colleagues alike.

And MIKE and I had a very special relationship. I do remember when it came time to get committees—and in those days, MIKE MCNULTY and I were fortunate to be asked to be on both Ways and Means and Appropriations. And the gentleman that MIKE was knew that appropriations was my first choice. And MIKE was generous enough—and perhaps wise enough—to choose the outstanding Ways and Means Committee. But I do remember those discussions, and I remember how gracious and elegant you were.

I also remember, MIKE MCNULTY, the time when I was exploring running for the Senate. And I had traveled a bit around New York and I met quite a few people. And no matter what, and no matter who was the opposition, every time I would come to the floor MIKE said, ''I'm with you. I'm with you.'' MIKE is the kind of friend who, when he's with you, he's with you, and you can always count on MIKE MCNULTY.

I also remember—and perhaps I won't discuss it on the floor today—that MIKE MCNULTY and my husband have had a very special relationship. We've had some good times together. And MIKE would always say, ''So, where's Steve? Where's Steve? We have some business to do today.'' And I'll remember those times, and I do hope we get to share many more.

MIKE, I also remember what a special experience it was for us both to get blessed by the Pope. And I remember very clearly MIKE MCNULTY and others who have had that experience before said, fill your pockets, fill your pockets with rosary beads. And boy, I filled my pockets so that I still have draws of them left, MIKE MCNULTY. So if there's anyone special that needs a little bit of blessing from our special trip with the Pope, I would be very happy to share it with you.

□ 2145

Now, when I look back at MICHAEL's background—a graduate of the College of Holy Cross in Worcester, Mass., MIKE began his career by serving as the youngest town supervisor in New York.

It's hard to believe that after 8 short years as town supervisor you were elected mayor of the Village of Green Island, New York, that you served until 1977 when you were elected to represent New York's 106th Assembly District, that in the New York legislature you served as the chairman of the assembly's Democratic study group, and that you chaired the subcommittees on alcoholism and corrections and transportation capital improvements. Later, you were appointed to the Legislative Commission on Rural Resources, an administrative review commission. In 1988, the same year I was elected, you were elected to represent New York's 23rd Congressional District in the United States Congress. In 1992, you were elected to represent New York's 21st Congressional District, which includes Albany, Montgomery, Schenectady, and Schoharie Counties with almost 80 percent of the vote.

I don't know how you did that. I've never gotten 80 percent of the vote, MICHAEL.

You were reelected for your 10th term in the United States House of Representatives in 2006, serving on the Armed Services Committee, the Small Business Committee, the International Relations Committee, the Committee on Post Office and Civil Service. You're currently serving on the Ways and Means Committee for the 15th year on which you chair the Subcommittee on Social Security.

Again, you've been such a tireless advocate for seniors. You championed the needs of hardworking families as a member of the Labor and Working Families Caucus, and you've really balanced your distinguished career with an equally impressive family life.

We've talked about your wife of 37 years. Now I've been married 47 years, MICHAEL, so I wish you good luck and success for the future when you'll be spending a lot more time with family—with Nancy and your four daughters: Michele, Angela, Nancy, and Maria, and with your five grandchildren. I have eight, so they can continue to work on that. They are Lola, Daniel, Teigin, Elijah, and Morgyn.

We've had such wonderful times together. I have such enormous respect for you. You're a real gentleman. You're a hard worker. You're the kind of person who I am proud to have as a friend and who I am proud to serve with in this Congress.

I want to congratulate you on your very successful career in public service and on your unparalleled devotion to your constituents. There is a lot more work to be done, so even though you're going home to be with family and friends, I know that all of the many challenges that we all face together will continue to attract you and will compel you to continue your great career in public service.

So thank you, my friend. I look forward to continuing to work with you and to keeping in touch with you. You're very, very special, and we all love you.

Thank you.

Mr. ACKERMAN. Thank you very much, NITA.

It's not quite Green Island, but the gentleman from Long Island would like to say a few words about being a member of the MIKE MCNULTY fan club, STEVE ISRAEL, a member of the Committee on Appropriations.

Mr. ISRAEL. Thank you. I would like to thank my friend and dear colleague, Mr. ACKERMAN, for the time.

I actually rise to demand equal time, Mr. MCNULTY. The gentlewoman from New York talked about having Chinese food for dinner from time to time. The gentlemen from New York—Mr. ACKERMAN, MIKE MCNULTY and I—have shared some Italian food also at various Italian restaurants in Washington, D.C., and I think that they deserve as much time as Chinese food.

Mr. Speaker, it is a rule, a practice, a custom, and a tradition of this Chamber that we refer to each other as the ''gentleman'' or as the ''gentlewoman.'' No Member of this body more deserves the title of ''gentleman'' than the gentleman from New York, MIKE MCNULTY. He is a gentleman in every true sense of the word.

MIKE and GARY ACKERMAN and I often sit together on the floor of this Chamber during votes. Sitting with MIKE is like sitting on an island of civility and of decency in turbulent and shark-infested waters. That's not to say that MIKE doesn't fight for his principles. He fights for his principles but not by shoving people out of the way and not with sharp elbows but with a quiet and respected determination. He has been doing that for 20 years.

Now, some Members of this body, having been here for 20 years, might grow jaded. They may begin to take it for granted. They may start to forget just what a glorious place this is but not MIKE. He was recently quoted in the Congressional Quarterly as saying, ''Especially at night when the Capitol is lit up, I still pinch myself. It is an honor to serve here.''

Nothing makes MIKE MCNULTY prouder than serving here in this Capitol except for maybe one thing, and that is his family. I've had the privilege of meeting members of his family here in Washington and when I visited Albany. When he introduces them to any of his colleagues, I can't think of anybody prouder than MIKE MCNULTY.

With always a gentle smile, with always a glint in his eye, his constituents have had a remarkable treasure representing them in Washington. I know they will miss him in Washington, but they gain him and his leadership at home.

Mr. Speaker, one of my favorite poets in the world is Rudyard Kipling, and one of my favorite poems of Kipling's is ''If.'' In that poem, he writes:

''If you can keep your head when all about you are losing theirs and blaming it on you, if you can trust yourself when all men doubt you . . . '' and then he goes on, ''If you can talk with crowds and keep your virtue or walk with kings—nor lose the common touch, if neither foes nor loving friends can hurt you; if all men count with you but none too much, if you can fill the unforgiving minute with 60-seconds' worth of distance run, yours is the Earth and everything that's in it, and—which is more—you'll be a Man, my son!''

We all know that MIKE MCNULTY is a great man, but more than that, Mr. Speaker, he is a gentleman who still pinches himself even late at night, under a gloriously lit dome, that has been made better and brighter for his presence here and for the work he will continue to do for our country.

I yield back my time.

Mr. ACKERMAN. I just want to remind the gentleman that he is still alive. Thank you very much, Mr. ISRAEL, for that eloquence.

Now, one of the newer members of our delegation, a celebrity in his own right, is the Chair of the Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs, on Transportation and Infrastructure, on the Select Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming, and on Veterans' Affairs, the Honorable JOHN HALL.

Mr. HALL of New York. Thank you, Congressman.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor my distinguished colleague from New York, Congressman MIKE MCNULTY.

After nearly 40 years of public service, Congressman MCNULTY is retiring, and he will be sorely missed. I will resist the suggestion of one of our fellow New York delegation members to sing that he's still the one, but I will say that, at the age of 22, he was elected to serve as supervisor of Green Island, making him at the time the youngest supervisor in New York. Since, he has served as mayor, as assemblyman and, for the last 20 years, as a Member of Congress. While his role may have changed, his dedication to fighting for the interests of New York's capital region have remained constant.

MIKE is known as a worker. I've observed that in the short time that I've been here. As the chairman of the Subcommittee on Social Security, he has worked to make sure that our seniors receive the benefits that they need in economic times where that effort is even more important than ever and when we can see how important it was that he was there to help protect against privatizing that Social Security.

I have only been honored to serve one term in this body with MIKE, but have already been impressed by the spirit of cooperation and of teamwork that he brings to the New York delegation. In addition to ''gentleman,'' I would add the word ''statesman.''

Some of us get more excited about issues. That doesn't mean that you care more or less about them, but MIKE's temperament has impressed me in its evenness and in its equanimity. I think that we could use a good dose of that from time to time here because we on both sides of the aisle and even in our own caucus have strong feelings about the issues, about the critical, important and immediate issues that we face.

So I will be sad that at the end of this session and that at the end of this term we'll be saying goodbye to Congressman MCNULTY, but I'm glad that he is here now, this week especially and as we go forward through the rest of this term, to help us deal with the serious issues we have on our plate and that the country is facing in these difficult times with the thoughtfulness, with the work ethic and with the equanimity and level-headedness that he brings to the Congress.

I wish you, Congressman MCNULTY, the best of luck and good times as you retire from the House to return home to your family and to your district. It has been an honor to serve with you.

I yield back.

Mr. ACKERMAN. Ladies and gentlemen of the House, I'm not addressing the Speaker as I should because it's quite unusual for those of us here on the floor who are controlling the time to get a request from the Speaker pro tem who wishes to step down from the chair in order to address the House.

So, Mr. Speaker, it's my privilege and pleasure to yield some time to the representative from the Fourth District of Pennsylvania, a member of the House Committee on Small Business, of the Committee on Education and Labor and of Transportation and Infrastructure, the Speaker pro tem, Congressman JASON ALTMIRE.

Mr. ALTMIRE. I thank the gentleman from New York.

I know it is somewhat unusual to come down from the chair, but I did

not want our colleagues to think nor certainly the American people watching tonight to think that New York has a monopoly on the MIKE MCNULTY fan club, because I certainly count myself as does, I'm sure, every Member of this House in that group.

I've told MICHAEL before that I was a staffer on Capitol Hill in the early 1990s, and people always ask now and asked even then ''Why is it so infrequent that you see large groups of people in the Chamber? You know, you seem to be speaking. There's not a lot of people there.'' It's because people are back in their offices, and they're watching it on TV. At the staff level, you do the same thing. You pay attention to what's happening on the House floor.

As a very young staffer, beginning in 1991, I learned about the House, and I learned about the procedures of the House by watching what was going on. In those days when the Democrats had control of Congress before the 14 years that they lost it, no one served in the chair more than Mr. MCNULTY. We enjoyed watching him, and I learned so much as a young staffer about this institution by watching Mr. MCNULTY in the chair.

I just could not sit without thinking of the great, pleasant irony for me that, on this night when we're honoring Mr. MCNULTY, I was actually in the chair.

So I wanted to come down and tell you that the spirit of Mr. MCNULTY is certainly going to live in this Chamber for a very, very long time and that the legacy lives on through his many legislative accomplishments and through, I'm sure, the countless—they have to number in the thousands—number of constituent services that you've provided over the years, the countless accomplishments. The spirit will remain within each of us who has had the honor to serve with him.

So I did just want to take a few minutes to say, A, it's not just New York that holds you in high esteem tonight but that I'm a better person for having known Mr. MCNULTY and that I know I'm a better House Member for having known him. So I thank Mr. MCNULTY.

I would yield my time back to Mr. ACKERMAN. Thank you for the opportunity.

Mr. ACKERMAN. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, if I can use some of the remaining time, this is a very fast-moving place. There are a lot of people who have been pretty hard-charging around here over the 26 years that I've been here and certainly over the history of the Congress, and we'll remember a lot of them because they're loud and boisterous, thundering; some people would say ''eloquent'' when referring to some, but all too often, we don't notice the quiet heroes who make all of the difference, who come here to our Nation's Capital, not for self-aggrandizement but unashamedly to full time represent only and exclusively the interests of the people who sent them here. Such a person is our friend MIKE MCNULTY.

You'll forgive us, Mr. Speaker, for having the braggadocio as New Yorkers, as we're supposed to have, I'm told, to be ever so proud of MIKE MCNULTY and of all that he represents and will always represent.

□ 2200

I was going to read a good part of his biography, much of which has been alluded to by some of our Members here, but I think I will bypass that, because those are all historical notes, and just talk about MIKE for a couple of minutes.

MIKE is truly one of the heroes to anybody who has ever met him. Much has been made of the fact that he was the youngest town supervisor, mayor, at the time of his election some 39 years ago, and has been in public service for his entire life. But it is not just being the youngest, but being one of the best, being one of the most humane, being one of the most compassionate. And I must say as a fellow Eagle Scout, I have always been in awe of MIKE because he became an Eagle Scout at the age of 12, not something very easily accomplished.

If you know anything about MIKE, you know that is even more extraordinary, because when MIKE was born in 1947 to Mr. and Mrs. Jack McNulty of Green Island, they were so very, very proud of MIKE, as they were of their other children, having great hopes and aspirations that he would be able to achieve and accomplish and make his mark on the world. And then when he was 2 years old they found out that he had the scourge of our time, of our generation, that he had polio, that he was not able to walk.

What a challenge that is for a family. What a challenge that is for a young man, not to be able to run around with his friends and grow up in the same way and do the same kinds of things with such ease that other people have. And yet MIKE persevered and made a full recovery.

I daresay that there are probably not too many people in the House except those who are close to MIKE that even knew that he had polio. And those accomplishments, not just the physical accomplishments of being able to get past that, but of being able to contribute to our society, to make a mark and to make a difference, without bringing any of the baggage that so many of us would probably bring to our careers and the rest of our lives. Not a note of bitterness, not a mark of anger, not a sign of why me, but always what can I do to help you, what can I do to contribute to society.

I try to think of words, as we all have, that would describe MIKE . I go back to the time we were Boy Scouts, in very different places, and he is the embodiment of trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, at least with the taxpayers' money, brave, clean and reverent. He is all of the above.

He is a man of great integrity, respected in this House by everybody. I don't know a person of the 435 Members of this House who doesn't truly hold MIKE MCNULTY in the highest of esteem. And he is very different in his approach to his job than so many other people that we can think of, presently and historically, people to whom we subscribe sharp elbows, as the word is; people who would push other people out of the way to get in front of the cameras, to beat them to the microphone, to get out a press release, to claim credit for something. MIKE has always been content just to get the job done, absent the big lights and the big crowds.

This is a place of show horses and showboats, and among this crowd, MIKE is a workhorse and a work boat. People would be absolutely astonished to know that it has been MIKE MCNULTY for these years who has often fought on their behalf successfully to maintain Social Security, something that in a few years hopefully he is going to enjoy for many, many, many years to come, and the work he has done on so many other things without taking credit. MIKE is about not taking credit. And in a place where there is very little of that going around, he is virtuous and a virtuoso.

One of the newspapers on Capitol Hill does this story every once in awhile about the Obscure Caucus. Well, MIKE is the chairman, as they always call him, of the Obscure Caucus. Not because of lack of contribution, but because of lack of spotlight; because of diligent work; because of doing his homework; because of always being prepared, for always being effective, for always getting things done. He is the quiet man around here, a very quiet guy, very respectful.

He is very religious, loves his church and its values that he holds very dearly. He doesn't wear them on his sleeve, but it is something that is very important to him. But so is respect for everybody else and their beliefs.

I remember traveling up to Albany once to one of the major synagogues in that town to participate, and MIKE being the Man of the Year. The Rabbi told me MIKE goes to synagogue on the Jewish High Holidays. He is given a place of honor, a seat of his own. It doesn't violate the gift rule.

He is the kind of person that we all want our kids to grow up to be, somebody who is respectable and respectful.

I traveled with him to Ethiopia with our dear friend Mickey Leland. MIKE didn't flinch. It didn't concern him that it was a lot more strenuous a trip for the Sub-Sahara region of the dark continent than it would be for most anybody else. He didn't blink. We flew in small planes, in and out, up in the Gandhara region, participating in the saving and rescue of the Ethiopian Jewish community that fled to Israel.

His work for the Irish people is legendary. His work for all people is admired by each and every one of us.

His family loves him, and there is not a conversation that I have ever had with MIKE that he doesn't mention my kids by name. I mentioned his children, his wife, Nancy, their great marriage, his five grandchildren of whom he is so proud and who I always see winding up in the newspapers upstate, as we call it, in pictures. These are his grandchildren, pictures with presidents and VIPs and movie stars, and every once in awhile they let MIKE get into the picture.

MIKE is going to be leaving Congress, and we are going to miss him. But he is going to go home to Nancy and the kids and the grandchildren and Big Jack, as his father is called. MIKE has been in public life for I think four different decades. His dad, Big Jack, has been in public life for seven. He still gets around, so proud of MIKE, and MIKE is so proud of him.

You know, there is a song, and I won't sing it here because it is against the rules and we certainly have previous speakers that sing a lot better than I do, but this song, the words of which are ''climb every mountain, ford every stream; follow every rainbow, until you find your dream.''

MIKE has shared his dream here with his friends and the American people, and now he follows his rainbow home, home in Albany, where he also served as speaker pro tem, chaired the New York State Assembly probably more than anybody in anyone's recent memory, as he did here during the early years when Democrats controlled the House; doing that not just because he knew the rules of the House better than anybody else, but because he thought it was his job to let other Members go home after putting in a full day's work, and he was willing to shoulder the responsibility, as you do tonight, Mr. Speaker, in keeping the House open while other Members prepare for tomorrow's day's work.

So, MIKE, as you follow that rainbow back to Nancy and the kids, knowing that you have a long career of some other kind, I hope, many offers I am sure, will come in, you are a quiet prize that the public will not allow to leave their midst. We are all going to miss you, buddy. I am going to miss you especially. Thank you for your service here, which ends this session, and thank you for your friendship, which will endure forever.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I would like to coax the recalcitrant, reticent, quiet Mr. MCNULTY to the microphone.

Mr. MCNULTY. I thank my friend. And for anyone who is listening tonight, you have seen ample demonstration of why I am such a grateful person, all of these wonderful friends. No one could have a better friend in the world than GARY ACKERMAN. And I want to thank him, and Representatives LOWEY, HINCHEY, CROWLEY, ARCURI, ISRAEL and HALL for the many kind things that they have said tonight about me and the members of my family.

I want to thank, of course, all of the members of the New York delegation, and also my dear friend the Speaker pro tem, my buddy, Jason, for his very kind words. I shall always be grateful for having been a member of our State delegation, chaired by CHARLIE RANGEL. I am grateful to all of my Democratic colleagues.

I am grateful to all of my Republican colleagues, especially JIMMY WALSH, who is a classmate of mine in the class of 1988, along with NITA LOWEY, and JIM is also retiring this year.

I am grateful to all of those with whom I have served through the years, all of the Speakers, from Jim Wright to NANCY PELOSI, and all of the Republican leaders, from Bob Michel to JOHN BOEHNER. And I am grateful to all of the staff of this great institution for the wonderful work that they do for us each and every day.

I have been truly blessed in my life. Paralyzed by polio in 1949, God eventually granted me a near complete recovery. And just look at my life since then. I have been blessed with a large and loving family, many wonderful friends, and a career that I have thoroughly enjoyed for 39 years, as town supervisor, as mayor. And as one of my colleagues back home said, and it is true, there is nothing more special than being elected mayor of your hometown.

□ 2215

Then to go to the New York State Assembly for 6 years, and then 20 years here in the United States Congress, and Steve is right, when I am walking outside and I see the dome lit up at night, I still pinch myself that I am here, MIKE MCNULTY, an average guy, from Green Island, New York, population 2,500. When I was a young public official, I had a dream. This was it, my dream came true.

I am especially grateful to my family, as others have pointed out, my wife of 37 years, Nancy; and our daughters, Michele, Angela, Nancy and Maria. I am especially grateful to them for the many sacrifices that they made so that I could pursue this career in public life, and all those of you who have families know what I am talking about. Thank you to our grandchildren, Teigin and Elijah, Lola, Morgyn and Daniel, for the joy they bring to us each and every day.

I send out a special message of love to Teigin tonight. She is in the hospital, and, hopefully, she will be right back in action very soon.

She was so proud to be here, standing right there in that spot at the beginning of this Congress, holding my hand when I stood up and voted to elect the first woman to serve as the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives. That was a very special moment for me, for the country and for Teigin. So I have special thoughts for Teigin tonight.

I am grateful to the others that you have mentioned, my mom and dad, and all of those who went before us, all the members of my family and to Frank and Lola Lazzaro, all the members of Nancy's great family, for their steadfast support all through the years.

As I look back on my life, I look forward to the challenges that lie ahead, but up to this point, I just have to acknowledge how much has been given to me. I have to acknowledge all of the lucky breaks that I have had in my life and in my career.

In thankfulness and gratitude for that, I have tried, to the best of my ability, to give back. I shall always endeavor for the rest of my life to live according to the fundamental principle that life is to give, not to take.

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, as Mike prepares to wrap up this part of his career, return home at the top of his game, under his own terms, under his own steam, we wish him Godspeed. We will be up to visit. Can't say that we are drinking buddies, Mike, but we are certainly eating buddies, take-out in good restaurants up your way.

Come down here and back into the city. We will be putting together a group of guys and gals just to hang out.

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my colleague and dear friend Representative MIKE MCNULTY on his upcoming retirement, and compliment his two decades of honorable service in the House, and nearly 40 years serving in elected office. His absence from the House will be felt, and I wish him happiness and success for the future and the successes it is sure to bring.

For 20 years Congressman MCNULTY has served his New York district with integrity and the utmost concern for his constituents and their communities. In his nearly 40 years serving those communities, MICHAEL has always advocated for intelligent and just solutions to the issues that touch his constituent's lives. As a mayor and New York State Legislator, Congressman MCNULTY advocated for improvements in substance-abuse education and prevention and fought for his communities' infrastructure and economic improvements. As a member of the House he has continued this advocacy on not only local issues, but humanitarian as well. He has been a leader on issues of human rights, hunger, poverty, and international affairs. In 2006, MIKE was reelected with nearly 78 percent of the vote, a well-deserved affirmation by his constituents of a job and career well done.

Congressman MCNULTY is a fairminded and level-headed individual who brought a wealth of experience and insight to his seat as Chairman of the Subcommittee on Social Security. His character is one of deliberate and thoughtful decision making, based on insight and a true understanding of his district and our country. He is an ever dependable friend and a colleague I greatly respect.

I had the opportunity to serve last year with MIKE as a Helsinki Commissioner, and visited Kyiv, working to further address continued humanitarian issues there. His work, our discussions and the successes we walked away with were exemplary of his high level of understanding and his personal attention to the challenges that the people of the region continue to face.

While I know that Congressman MCNULTY will be greatly missed by his colleagues here, I also know that his character and passion for a better world will only lend itself to continued service and continued good work.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all my colleagues to join me in congratulating Congressman MCNULTY, and wishing him our best for his future.

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my good friend and colleague, MIKE MCNULTY (NY–21), who is retiring after 10 terms in Congress.

With nearly 40 years in elective public office, MIKE has served his community as a local leader, a member of the state legislature, and its representative in Congress.

During his Congressional service, I have been privileged to work by his side on the Ways and Means Committee. On our Committee, MIKE can always be counted on to stand up for the interests of working families, senior citizens, and people with disabilities.

Most recently, as Chairman of the Social Security Subcommittee, MIKE has been a leader in protecting Social Security from Republican attempts to privatize it. He's also initiated improvements to the program as well. For example, in this Congress, Chairman MCNULTY was able to secure $150 million in additional funding for the Social Security Administration to lessen the backlog of cases and better serve beneficiaries.

While MIKE has never been one to reach for the headlines, when it came to speak up for seniors and the middle class, MIKE's voice was always heard loud and clear. We will miss MIKE's friendship and his steady leadership in Congress. The people of upstate New York are losing an outstanding representative, and we are all grateful for his lifetime of service to his community and our Nation.

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, we yield back.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. PEARCE (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today and until 2 p.m. tomorrow on account of traveling in New Mexico on business.

Mr. POE (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today on account of recovery efforts following Hurricane Ike.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Ms. WOOLSEY) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. LYNCH, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DEFAZIO, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. KAPTUR, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. SHERMAN, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Ms. FOXX) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. POE, for 5 minutes, September 26.

Mr. JONES, for 5 minutes, September 26.

Mr. SALI, for 5 minutes, September 23.

Ms. FOXX, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. MORAN of Kansas, for 5 minutes, today, September 23, 24 and 25.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana, for 5 minutes, today, September 23, 24, 25 and 26.

SENATE BILL REFERRED

A bill of the Senate of the following title was taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 531. An act to repeal section 10(f) of Public Law 93–531, commonly known as the ''Bennett Freeze'', to the Committee on Natural Resources.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Ms. Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled bills of the House of the following titles, which were thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 2608. An act to amend section 402 of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 to provide, in fiscal years 2009 through 2011, extensions of supplemental security income for refugees, asylees, and certain other humanitarian immigrants, and to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to collect unemployment compensation debts resulting from fraud.

H.R. 5551. An act to amend title 11, District of Columbia Official Code, to implement the increase provided under the District of Columbia Appropriations Act, 2008, in the amount of funds made available for the compensation of attorneys representing indigent defendants in the District of Columbia courts, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5893. An act to reauthorize the sound recording and film preservation programs of the Library of Congress, and for other purposes.

SENATE ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

The Speaker announced her signature to enrolled bills of the Senate of the following titles:

S. 996. An act to amend title 49, United States Code, to expand passenger facility fee eligibility for certain noise compatibility projects.

S. 2339. An act to designate the Department of Veterans Affairs clinic in Alpena, Michigan, as the ''Lieutenant Colonel Clement C. Van Wagoner Department of Veterans Affairs Clinic''.

S. 3406. An act to restore the intent and protections of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. HALL of New York. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 18 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, September 23, 2008, at 9:00 a.m., for morning-hour debate.

EXPENDITURE REPORTS CONCERNING OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL

Reports concerning the foreign currencies and U.S. dollars utilized for speaker-authorized official travel during the fourth quarter of 2007, the first and second quarters of 2008, pursuant to Public Law 95–384 are as follows:

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, KAY A. KING, PH.D., HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JUNE 27 AND JULY 8, 2008

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Kay A. King, Ph.D.	6/27	6/29	Nigeria		648.00		(3)				648.00
	6/29	7/01	Zambia		745.00						745.00
	7/01	7/06	South Africa		1,401.00						1,401.00
	7/06	7/07	Liberia		140.00						140.00
Committee total					2,934.00						2,934.00

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.
[3] Military air transportation.

KAY A. KING, July 22, 2008.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, DELEGATION TO UNITED KINGDOM, KAZAKHSTAN, AND ITALY, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JUNE 27 AND JULY 3, 2008

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Hon. Alcee L. Hastings	6/28	7/02	Kazakhstan		2,646.32		6,287.73				8,934.05
	7/02	7/03	Italy		639.00		(3)				639.00
Hon. Zach Wamp	6/27	6/28	United Kingdom		711.79		(3)				711.79
	6/28	7/02	Kazakhstan		2,646.32						2,646.32
	7/02	7/03	Italy		639.00						639.00
Hon. Robert Aderholt	6/27	6/28	United Kingdom		711.79		(3)				711.79
	6/28	7/02	Kazakhstan		2,646.32						2,646.32
	7/02	7/03	Italy		639.00						639.00
Hon. Mike McIntyre	6/27	6/28	United Kingdom		711.79		(3)				711.79
	6/28	7/02	Kazakhstan		2,646.32						2,646.32
	7/02	7/03	Italy		639.00						639.00
Hon. Loretta Sanchez	6/27	6/28	United Kingdom		711.79		(3)				711.79
	6/28	7/02	Kazakhstan		2,646.32						2,646.32
	7/02	7/03	Italy		639.00						639.00
Hon. Hilda L. Solis	6/28	6/28	United Kingdom		711.79		(3)				711.79
	6/28	7/02	Kazakhstan		2,646.32						2,646.32
	7/02	7/03	Italy		639.00						639.00
Hon. Diane Watson	6/27	6/28	United Kingdom		711.79		(3)				711.79
	6/28	7/02	Kazakhstan		2,646.32						2,646.32
	7/02	7/03	Italy		639.00						639.00
Hon. Madeleine Z. Bordallo	6/27	6/28	United Kingdom		711.79		(3)				711.79
	6/28	7/02	Kazakhstan		2,646.32						2,646.32
	7/02	7/03	Italy		639.00						639.00
Hon. G.K. Butterfield	6/27	6/28	United Kingdom		711.79		(3)				711.79
	6/28	7/02	Kazakhstan		2,646.32						2,646.32
	7/02	7/03	Italy		639.00						639.00
Hon. Gwen S. Moore	6/27	6/28	United Kingdom		711.79		(3)				711.79
	6/28	7/02	Kazakhstan		2,646.32						2,646.32
	7/02	7/03	Italy		639.00						639.00
Fred Turner	6/27	6/28	United Kingdom		711.79		(3)				711.79
	6/28	7/02	Kazakhstan		2,375.20						2,375.20
	7/02	7/03	Italy		639.00						639.00
Robert Hand	6/27	6/28	United Kingdom		631.79		(3)				631.79
	6/28	7/02	Kazakhstan		1,627.20						1,627.20
	7/02	7/03	Italy		489.00						489.00
Shelly Han	6/27	6/28	United Kingdom		711.79		(3)				711.79
	6/28	7/02	Kazakhstan		2,375.20						2,375.20
	7/02	7/03	Italy		639.00						639.00
Lale Mamaux	6/27	6/28	United Kingdom		711.79		(3)				711.79
	6/28	7/02	Kazakhstan		2,375.20						2,375.20
	7/02	7/03	Italy		639.00						639.00
Winsome Packer	6/28	7/03	Kazakhstan		2,812.98		4,000.00				6,812.98
Mischa Thompson	6/27	6/28	United Kingdom		711.79		(3)				711.79
	6/28	7/02	Kazakhstan		2,291.20						2,291.20
	7/02	7/03	Italy		639.00						639.00
Daniel Redfield	6/27	6/28	United Kingdom		711.79		(3)				711.79
	6/28	7/02	Kazakhstan		2,375.20						2,375.20
	7/02	7/03	Italy		639.00						639.00
Taylor Morgan	6/27	6/28	United Kingdom		711.79		(3)				711.79
	6/28	7/02	Kazakhstan		2,375.20						2,375.20
	7/02	7/03	Italy		639.00						639.00
Committee total					67,092.22		10,287.73				77,379.95

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.
[3] Military air transportation.

Hon. ALCEE L. HASTINGS, Chairman, July 28, 2008.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, DELEGATION TO GHANA, LIBERIA, DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO, KENYA, MALAWI AND MAURITANIA, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JUNE 28 AND JULY 8, 2008

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Hon. David Price	6/28	6/29	Ghana		424.00		(3)				424.00
Hon. Lois Capps	6/28	6/29	Ghana		424.00		(3)				424.00
Hon. Jim Cooper	6/28	6/29	Ghana		424.00		(3)				424.00
Hon. Mel Watt	6/28	6/29	Ghana		424.00		(3)				424.00
Hon. Brad Miller	6/28	6/29	Ghana		424.00		(3)				424.00
John Lis	6/28	6/29	Ghana		424.00		(3)				424.00
Brad Smith	6/28	6/29	Ghana		424.00		(3)				424.00
Thomas Ross	6/28	6/29	Ghana		424.00		(3)				424.00
Rachael Leman	6/28	6/29	Ghana		424.00		(3)				424.00
Janice McKinney	6/28	6/29	Ghana		424.00		(3)				424.00
Barbara Chow	6/28	6/29	Ghana		424.00		(3)				424.00
Hon. David Price	6/29	7/01	Liberia		600.00		[3] 195.00				795.00
Hon. Lois Capps	6/29	7/01	Liberia		600.00		[3] 195.00				795.00
Hon. Jim Cooper	6/29	7/01	Liberia		600.00		[3] 195.00				795.00
Hon. Mel Watt	6/29	7/01	Liberia		600.00		[3] 195.00				795.00
Hon. Brad Miller	6/29	7/01	Liberia		600.00		[3] 195.00				795.00
Hon. Keith Ellison	6/29	7/01	Liberia		390.00		5,866.24				6,256.24
John Lis	6/29	7/01	Liberia		600.00		[3] 195.00				795.00
Brad Smith	6/29	7/01	Liberia		600.00		[3] 195.00				795.00
Thomas Ross	6/29	7/01	Liberia		600.00		[3] 195.00				795.00
Rachael Leman	6/29	7/01	Liberia		600.00		[3] 195.00				795.00
Janice McKinney	6/29	7/01	Liberia		600.00		[3] 195.00				795.00
Barbara Chow	6/29	7/01	Liberia		600.00		[3] 195.00				795.00
Hon. David Price	7/01	7/02	DRC		372.00		(3)				372.00
Hon. Lois Capps	7/01	7/02	DRC		372.00		(3)				372.00
Hon. Jim Cooper	7/01	7/02	DRC		372.00		(3)				372.00
Hon. Mel Watt	7/01	7/02	DRC		372.00		(3)				372.00
Hon. Brad Miller	7/01	7/02	DRC		372.00		(3)				372.00
Hon. Keith Ellison	7/01	7/02	DRC		372.00		(3)				372.00
John Lis	7/01	7/02	DRC		372.00		(3)				372.00
Brad Smith	7/01	7/02	DRC		372.00		(3)				372.00
Thomas Ross	7/01	7/02	DRC		372.00		(3)				372.00
Rachael Leman	7/01	7/02	DRC		372.00		(3)				372.00
Janice McKinney	7/01	7/02	DRC		372.00		(3)				372.00
Barbara Chow	7/01	7/02	DRC		372.00		(3)				372.00

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, DELEGATION TO GHANA, LIBERIA, DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO, KENYA, MALAWI AND MAURITANIA, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JUNE 28 AND JULY 8, 2008—Continued

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Hon. David Price	7/02	7/05	Kenya		1,074.00		(3)				1,074.00
Hon. Lois Capps	7/02	7/05	Kenya		1,074.00		(3)				1,074.00
Hon. Jim Cooper	7/02	7/05	Kenya		1,074.00		(3)				1,074.00
Hon. Mel Watt	7/02	7/05	Kenya		1,074.00		(3)				1,074.00
Hon. Brad Miller	7/02	7/05	Kenya		1,074.00		(3)				1,074.00
Hon. Keith Ellison	7/02	7/05	Kenya		1,074.00		(3)				1,074.00
John Lis	7/02	7/05	Kenya		1,074.00		(3)				1,074.00
Brad Smith	7/02	7/05	Kenya		1,074.00		(3)				1,074.00
Thomas Ross	7/02	7/05	Kenya		1,074.00		(3)				1,074.00
Rachael Leman	7/02	7/05	Kenya		1,074.00		(3)				1,074.00
Janice McKinney	7/02	7/05	Kenya		1,074.00		(3)				1,074.00
Barbara Chow	7/02	7/05	Kenya		1,074.00		(3)				1,074.00
Hon. David Price	7/05	7/06	Malawi		315.00		(3)				315.00
Hon. Lois Capps	7/05	7/06	Malawi		315.00		(3)				315.00
Hon. Jim Cooper	7/05	7/06	Malawi		315.00		(3)				315.00
Hon. Mel Watt	7/05	7/06	Malawi		315.00		(3)				315.00
Hon. Brad Miller	7/05	7/06	Malawi		315.00		(3)				315.00
Hon. Keith Ellison	7/05	7/06	Malawi		315.00		(3)				315.00
John Lis	7/05	7/06	Malawi		315.00		(3)				315.00
Brad Smith	7/05	7/06	Malawi		315.00		(3)				315.00
Thomas Ross	7/05	7/06	Malawi		315.00		(3)				315.00
Rachael Leman	7/05	7/06	Malawi		315.00		(3)				315.00
Janice McKinney	7/05	7/06	Malawi		315.00		(3)				315.00
Barbara Chow	7/05	7/06	Malawi		315.00		(3)				315.00
Hon. David Price	7/06	7/07	Mauritania		340.00		(3)				340.00
Hon. Lois Capps	7/06	7/07	Mauritania		340.00		(3)				340.00
Hon. Jim Cooper	7/06	7/07	Mauritania		340.00		(3)				340.00
Hon. Mel Watt	7/06	7/07	Mauritania		340.00		(3)				340.00
Hon. Brad Miller	7/06	7/07	Mauritania		340.00		(3)				340.00
Hon. Keith Ellison	7/06	7/07	Mauritania		340.00		(3)				340.00
John Lis	7/06	7/07	Mauritania		340.00		(3)				340.00
Brad Smith	7/06	7/07	Mauritania		340.00		(3)				340.00
Thomas Ross	7/06	7/07	Mauritania		340.00		(3)				340.00
Rachael Leman	7/06	7/07	Mauritania		340.00		(3)				340.00
Janice McKinney	7/06	7/07	Mauritania		340.00		(3)				340.00
Barbara Chow	7/06	7/07	Mauritania		340.00		(3)				340.00
Committee total											44,877.24

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.
[3] Military air transportation.

Hon. DAVID E. PRICE, Chairman.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMISSION ON SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN APR. 1 AND JUNE 30, 2008

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Winsome Packer	4/01	4/28	Austria		6,736.43						6,736.43
	5/09	6/30	Austria		18,615.00		5,695.00				24,310.90
Hon. Alcee L. Hastings	4/12	4/15	Denmark		1,416.00		9,800.98				11,216.98
Hon. Hilda Solis	4/13	4/15	Denmark		944.00		6,638.98				7,582.98
Fred Turner	4/13	4/15	Denmark		944.00		9,858.40				10,802.40
Mischa Thompson	4/13	4/15	Denmark		944.00		6,638.98				7,582.98
Alex Johnson	5/13	5/19	Uzbekistan		1,236.00		12,399.47				13,635.47
Winsome Packer	5/13	5/17	Poland				1,488.05				1,488.05
Shelly Han	5/18	5/22	Czech Republic		1,443.07		7,308.47				8,751.54
	5/27	6/02	Macedonia		1,362.00						1,362.00
Ronald McNamara	5/18	5/23	Georgia		1,760.00		10,340.62				12,100.62
Orest Deychakiwsky	5/18	5/23	Georgia		1,760.00		10,340.62				12,100.62
Hon. Alcee L. Hastings	5/24	5/25	Denmark		713.93		8,612.72				9,326.65
	5/25	5/27	Russia		942.00						942.00
	5/27	5/28	Finland		632.00						632.00
	5/28	5/31	Austria		1,525.15						1,525.15
Mischa Thompson	5/28	6/03	Austria		1,793.00		5,695.42				7,488.42
Alex Johnson	5/28	6/01	Austria		1,095.00		5,695.42				6,790.42
Committee total					43,861.58		100,514.03				144,375.61

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

Hon. ALCEE L. HASTINGS, Chairman, July 29, 2008.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN APR. 1 AND JUNE 30, 2008

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Hon. Jean Schmidt	6/13	6/16	Kosovo		557.00		(3)				557.00
	6/16	6/17	Bosnia		277.00		(3)				277.00
	6/17	6/18	Ireland		61.65		3,020.00				3,081.65
Hon. Nick Lampson	5/25	5/26	India				(3)				
	5/26	5/27	Pakistan		96.00		(3)				96.00
	5/23	5/25	Germany		391.00		(3)				391.00
	5/27	5/28	Italy		273.00		(3)				273.00
Hon. Collin C. Peterson	5/27	5/30	Belgium		1,739.04		(3)				1,739.04
Hon. Tim Holden	5/27	5/30	Belgium		2,058.44		(3)				2,058.44
Hon. Frank D. Lucas	5/27	5/30	Belgium		1,739.04		(3)				1,739.04
Hon. Lincoln Davis	5/27	5/30	Belgium		2,058.44		(3)				2,058.44
Hon. Virginia Foxx	5/27	5/30	Belgium		2,048.44		(3)				2,058.44
Delegation & Control	5/27	5/30	Belgium				(3)		6,406.94		6,406.94
Chandler Goule	5/27	5/30	Belgium		1,739.04		(3)				1,739.04
Martha Josephson	5/27	5/30	Belgium		1,739.04		(3)				1,739.04

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN APR. 1 AND JUNE 30, 2008—Continued

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Nona Darrell	5/27	5/30	Belgium		1,739.04		(3)				1,739.04
Hon. Collin C. Peterson	5/30	5/31	France		792.06		(3)				792.06
Hon. Frank D. Lucas	5/30	5/31	France		792.06		(3)				792.06
Hon. Lincoln Davis	5/30	5/31	France		846.75		(3)				846.75
Hon. Virginia Foxx	5/30	5/31	France		846.75		(3)				846.75
Nona Darrell	5/30	5/31	France		792.06		(3)				792.06
Chandler Goule	5/30	5/31	France		792.06		(3)				792.06
Martha Josephson	5/30	5/31	France		792.06		(3)				792.06
Hon. Tim Holden	5/29	5/31	France		846.75		(3)				846.75
Delegation and Control	5/29	5/31	France				(3)		7,575.70		7,575.70
Hon. Collin C. Peterson	5/31	6/03	Spain		1,615.42		(3)				1,615.42
Hon. Frank D. Lucas	5/31	6/03	Spain		1,615.42		(3)				1,615.42
Hon. Lincoln Davis	5/31	6/03	Spain		1,615.42		(3)				1,615.42
Hon. Tim Holden	5/31	6/03	Spain		1,615.42		(3)				1,615.42
Nona Darrell	5/31	6/03	Spain		1,615.42		(3)				1,615.42
Chandler Goule	5/31	6/03	Spain		1,615.42		(3)				1,615.42
Martha Josephson	5/31	6/03	Spain		1,615.42		(3)				1,615.42
Delegation and Control	5/31	6/03	Spain				(3)		4,587.23		4,587.23
Hon. Virginia Foxx	5/31	6/02	Spain		1,126.95		6,949.47				8,076.42
Committee total					35,461.61		9,969.47		18,569.87		64,000.95

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.
[3] Military air transportation.

Hon. COLLIN C. PETERSON, Chairman, July 30, 2008.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN APR. 1 AND JUNE 30, 2008

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Greg Lankler	3/29	4/01	Germany		1,449.00						1,449.00
	4/01	4/02	Austria		221.00						221.00
Commercial air transportation							7,457.69				7,457.69
Misc. travel cost							65.80				65.80
Hon. Carolyn Kilpatrick	5/16	5/16	Haiti		80.00		(3)				80.00
Hon. Roybal-Allard	5/16	5/16	Haiti		80.00		(3)				80.00
Hon. Barbara Lee	5/16	5/16	Haiti		80.00		(3)				80.00
Hon. Allen Boyd	5/24	5/26	Germany		391.00		(3)				391.00
	5/26	5/27	Pakistan		126.00		(3)				126.00
	5/27	5/28	Italy		273.00		(3)				273.00
Hon. James Moran	5/24	5/25	Egypt		133.00		(3)				133.00
	5/25	5/30	United Arab Emirates		697.41		(3)				697.41
	5/30	5/31	France		203.00		(3)				203.00
Hon. Ray LaHood	5/24	5/25	Cyprus		371.81		(3)				371.81
	5/25	5/27	Kazakhstan		1,088.00		(3)				1,088.00
	5/27	5/29	Saudi Arabia		843.17		(3)				843.17
	5/29	5/31	United Arab Emirates		1,105.00		(3)				1,105.00
	5/31	6/02	Egypt		559.31		(3)				559.31
Hon. Jack Kingston	5/25	5/25	Cyprus		371.81		(3)				371.81
	5/25	5/27	Kazakhstan		1,088.00		(3)				1,088.00
	5/27	5/29	Saudi Arabia		843.17		(3)				843.17
	5/29	5/31	United Arab Emirates		1,105.00		(3)				1,105.00
	5/31	6/02	Egypt		559.31		(3)				559.31
Hon. Rush Holt	6/09	6/10	Netherlands		233.00						233.00
Commercial air transportation							7,685.00				7,685.00
Committee total					11,900.99		15,208.49				27,109.48

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.
[3] Military air transportation.

Hon. DAVID R. OBEY, Chairman, July 30, 2008.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN APR. 1 AND JUNE 30, 2008

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Visit to Germany, Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Italy, with CODEL Capuano, April 10–15, 2008:											
Hon. Frank LoBiondo	4/11	4/11	Germany		150.00						150.00
	4/12	4/13	Afghanistan		75.00						75.00
	4/13	4/14	Pakistan								
	4/14	4/15	Italy		150.00						150.00
Visit to Israel, April 21–22, 2008:											
Roger Zakheim	4/21	4/22	Israel		260.00						260.00
Visit to England, Afghanistan and Pakistan, April 24–29, 2008:											
Hon. Adam Smith	4/24	4/26	England		181.00						181.00
	4/26	4/27	Afghanistan		25.00						25.00
	4/27	4/28	Pakistan		684.00						684.00
	4/28	4/29	England		181.00						181.00
Hon. Mac Thornberry	4/24	4/26	England		181.00						181.00
	4/26	4/27	Afghanistan		25.00						25.00
	4/27	4/28	Pakistan		684.00						684.00
	4/28	4/29	England		181.00						181.00
Hon. Gabrielle Giffords	4/24	4/26	England		181.00						181.00
	4/26	4/27	Afghanistan		25.00						25.00
	4/27	4/28	Pakistan		684.00						684.00
	4/28	4/29	England		181.00						181.00
Hon. Bill Shuster	4/24	4/26	England		181.00						181.00
	4/26	4/27	Afghanistan		25.00						25.00

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN APR. 1 AND JUNE 30, 2008—Continued

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
	4/27	4/28	Pakistan		684.00						684.00
	4/28	4/29	England		181.00						181.00
Hon. K. Michael Conaway	4/24	4/26	England		181.00						181.00
	4/26	4/27	Afghanistan		25.00						25.00
	4/27	4/28	Pakistan		684.00						684.00
	4/28	4/29	England		181.00						181.00
William Natter, III	4/24	4/26	England		181.00						181.00
	4/26	4/27	Afghanistan		25.00						25.00
	4/27	4/28	Pakistan		684.00						684.00
	4/28	4/29	England		181.00						181.00
Alexander Kugajevsky	4/24	4/26	England		181.00						181.00
	4/26	4/27	Afghanistan		25.00						25.00
	4/27	4/28	Pakistan		684.00						684.00
	4/28	4/29	England		181.00						181.00
Delegation Expenses	4/27	4/28	Pakistan						1,117.57		1,117.57
Visit to the Czech Republic with CODEL Cramer, May 2–8, 2008:											
Hon. Jim Marshall	5/02	5/08	The Czech Republic		660.00						660.00
Commercial airfare							6,535.94				6,535.94
Visit to Iraq, Kuwait, June 2–8, 2008:											
Michael Casey	6/03	6/06	Kuwait		432.00						432.00
	6/04	6/05	Iraq								
Commercial airfare							16,839.81				16,839.81
Paul Arcangeli	6/03	6/06	Kuwait		432.00						432.00
	6/04	6/05	Iraq								
Commercial airfare							4,997.34				4,997.34
Debra Wada	6/03	6/06	Kuwait		432.00						432.00
	6/04	6/05	Iraq								
Commercial airfare							16,839.81				16,839.81
Stephanie Sanok	6/03	6/06	Kuwait		415.50						415.50
	6/04	6/05	Iraq								
Commercial airfare							16,839.81				16,839.81
Joshua Holly	6/03	6/06	Kuwait		416.00						416.00
	6/04	6/05	Iraq								
Commercial airfare							16,839.81				16,839.81
Jenness Simler	6/03	6/06	Kuwait		409.34						409.34
	6/04	6/05	Iraq								
Commercial airfare							16,839.81				16,839.81
Committee total					11,328.84		95,732.33		1,117.57		108,178.74

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

Hon. IKE SKELTON, Chairman, July 31, 2008.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN APR. 1 AND JUNE 30, 2008

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Hon. Jim Cooper	5/16	5/19	Egypt		$411.00		[3]				$411.00
Committee total					411.00						411.00

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.
[3] Military airfare.

Hon. JOHN M. SPRATT, Jr., Chairman, July 29, 2008.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND LABOR, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN APR. 1 AND JUNE 30, 2008

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]

HOUSE COMMITTEES

Please Note: If there were no expenditures during the calendar quarter noted above, please check the box at right to so indicate and return. ☒

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

Hon. GEORGE MILLER, Chairman, July 25, 2008.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN APR. 1 AND JUNE 30, 2008

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Hon. Charlie Melancon	5/24	5/25	Cyprus		156.00			(3)			156.00
	5/26	5/27	Kazakhstan		374.00			(3)			374.00
	5/27	5/29	Saudi Arabia		306.00			(3)			306.00
	5/29	5/31	United Arab Emirates		386.00			(3)			386.00
	5/31	6/02	Egypt		206.00			(3)			206.00
Committee total					1,428.00						1,428.00

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.
[3] Military air transportation.

Hon. JOHN D. DINGELL, Chairman, July 31, 2008.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN APR. 1 AND JUNE 30, 2008

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
David Abramowitz	5/25	5/26	China		264.00						264.00
	5/26	5/29	North Korea		733.00		1,155.35				1,888.35
	5/29	5/30	China		289.00						289.00
	5/25	5/30					[4] 9,756.21				9,756.21
Douglas Anderson	5/27	5/30	Germany		1,146.00						1,146.00
	5/30	5/31	United Kingdom		535.00						535.00
	5/27	5/31					[4] 9,132.77				9,132.77
David Beraka	5/26	5/28	Denmark		866.00						866.00
	5/28	5/30	United Kingdom		935.00						935.00
	5/26	5/30					[4] 8,398.97				8,398.97
Hon. Don Burton	5/27	5/30	Belgium		2,058.44		(3)				2,058.44
	5/30	5/31	France		846.75		(3)				846.75
	5/31	6/03	Spain		1,615.42		(3)				1,615.42
Hon. Steve Chabot	4/11	4/12	Jordan		237.43		(3)				237.43
	4/12	4/13	Iraq				(3)				
	4/13	4/14	Belgium		349.29		(3)				349.29
Hon. Eliot L. Engel	6/13	6/16	Kosovo		557.00		(3)		[5] 12,510.93		13,067.93
	6/16	6/17	BiH		277.00		(3)				277.00
	6/17	6/18	Ireland		147.00		5,520.00				5,667.00
Hon. Eni F. H. Faleomavaega	5/02	5/06	Greece		1,752.00				[5] 3,321.00		5,073.00
	5/06	5/07	Germany		210.00						210.00
	5/02	5/07					[4] 7,875.81				7,875.81
	6/17	6/19	Germany		782.00		8,691.94				9,473.94
	6/26	6/30	Hong Kong		3,108.00		10,625.66		[5] 2,168.00		15,901.66
Hon. Jeff Fortenberry	5/16	5/19	Egypt		584.00		(3)				584.00
Hon. Luis G. Fortuño	5/24	5/25	Egypt		577.00		(3)				577.00
	5/25	5/30	United Arab Emirates		2,685.84		(3)				2,685.84
	5/30	5/31	France		203.00		(3)				203.00
Mark Gage	5/25	5/28	Italy		1,420.00						1,420.00
	5/28	5/29	United Kingdom		505.00						505.00
	5/25	5/29					[4] 8,222.13				8,222.13
Hon. Sheila Jackson-Lee	5/16	5/16	Haiti				(3)				
Nurjadi Jasin	5/20	5/21	Indonesia		479.76						479.76
	5/21	5/24	Timor Leste		576.60						576.60
	5/20	5/24					[4] 804.34				804.34
Jonathan Katz	6/13	6/16	Kosovo		557.00		(3)				557.00
	6/16	6/17	BiH		277.00						277.00
	6/17	6/18	Ireland		147.00		5,520.00				5,667.00
Sarah Kiko	5/30	6/06	Uganda		2,179.85		10,630.69				12,810.54
Vili Lei	5/02	5/06	Greece		1,752.00						1,752.00
	5/06	5/07	Germany		210.00						210.00
	5/02	5/07					[4] 7,875.81				7,875.81
	6/28	7/06	Australia		2,851.00		13,523.66				16,374.66
Noelle LuSane	4/11	4/14	South Africa		1,407.00		10,406.31				11,813.31
Pearl-Alice Marsh	5/30	6/07	Uganda		2,315.39		10,420.94				12,736.33
Peter Martin	6/19	6/23	Italy		2,190.50		9,482.39				11,672.89
Hon. Gregory W. Meeks	5/16	5/16	Haiti		80.00		(3)				
Mark Milosch	6/29	7/01	China		732.00		9,664.51				10,396.51
Jonathan Cobb Mixter	5/25	5/26	China		309.00						309.00
	5/26	5/29	North Korea		813.00		2,510.35				3,323.35
	5/29	5/31	China		618.00						618.00
	5/25	5/31					[4] 9,756.21				9,756.21
Hon. Donald M. Payne	4/11	4/14	South Africa		1,407.00		10,406.31				11,813.31
Don Phan	5/25	5/26	China		309.00						309.00
	5/26	5/29	North Korea		813.00		1,155.35				1,968.35
	5/29	5/31	China		618.00						618.00
	5/25	5/31					[4] 9,756.21				9,756.21
Sarah Preisser		5/27	Italy		N/A		2,225.35				2,225.35
Eric Richardson	5/24	5/26	China		618.00						618.00
	5/26	5/29	North Korea		813.00		1,155.35				1,968.35
	5/29	5/31	China		618.00						618.00
	5/24	5/31					[4] 9,756.21				9,756.21
David Richmond	5/02	5/06	Greece		1,752.00						1,752.00
	5/06	5/07	Germany		210.00						210.00
	5/02	5/07					[4] 7,875.81				7,875.81
	6/28	7/06	Australia		2,851.00		13,523.66				16,374.66
Sheri Rickert	5/29	5/31	United Kingdom		1,029.21						1,029.21
	6/01	6/06	Uganda		1,653.85						1,653.85
	5/29	6/06					[4] 10,766.98				10,766.98
Robin Roizman	5/25	5/28	Italy		1,869.00						1,869.00
	5/28	5/29	United Kingdom		535.00						535.00
	5/25	5/29					[4] 8,222.13				8,222.13
Hon. Loretta Sanchez	5/27	5/30	Belgium		2,058.44		3,977.40				6,035.84
	5/30	5/31	France		846.75		(3)				846.75
	5/31	6/03	Spain		1,615.42		(3)				1,615.42
Daniel Silverberg	5/28	5/31	Israel		866.00		6,942.30				7,808.30
Amanda Sloat	—	5/28	Italy		N/A		4,235.10				4,235.10
Hon. Christopher H. Smith	6/21	6/23	Italy		1,233.82		7,598.61				8,832.43
	6/29	7/01	China		732.00		9,664.51				10,396.51
Jason Steinbaum	5/27	5/30	Haiti		732.00		1,395.80				2,118.80
	6/13	6/16	Kosovo		557.00		(3)				557.00
	6/16	6/17	BiH		277.00		(3)				277.00
	6/17	6/18	Ireland		147.00		5,520.00				5,667.00
Tuchrello William	5/20	5/21	Indonesia		224.17						224.17
	5/21	5/24	Timor Leste		559.53						559.53
	5/20	5/24					[4] 776.54				776.54
Robyn Wapner	5/27	5/30	Haiti		723.00		1,455.80				2,178.80
Hon. Diane E. Watson	5/16	5/16	Haiti		80.00		(3)				80.00
Lynne Weil	5/26	5/28	Denmark		726.00						726.00
	5/28	5/30	United Kingdom		935.000						935.00
	5/26	5/30					[4] 5,650.06				5,650.06
Kristin Wells	5/27	5/30	Germany		1,046.00						1,046.00
	5/30	5/31	United Kingdom		519.00						519.00
	5/27	5/31					[4] 9,406.95				9,406.95
Lisa Williams	5/02	5/06	Greece		1,752.00						1,752.00
	5/06	5/07	Germany		210.00						210.00
	5/02	5/07					[4] 7,875.81				7,875.81
	6/28	7/06	Australia		2,851.00		13,523.66				16,374.66
Committee total					74,036.46		312,839.95		17,999.93		404,876.34

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.
[3] Military air transportation.
[4] Round trip airfare.
[5] Indicates delegation costs.

Hon. HOWARD L. BERMAN, Chairman, July 30, 2008.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN APR. 1 AND JUNE 30, 2008

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
HOUSE COMMITTEES											
Please Note: If there were no expenditures during the calendar quarter noted above, please check the box at right to so indicate and return. ☒											

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

Hon. ROBERT A. BRADY, Chairman, July 31, 2008.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN APR. 1 AND JUNE 30, 2008

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Hon. Keith Ellison	5/16		Haiti		241.00						241.00
Hon. Hank Johnson	5/16		Haiti		241.00						241.00
Committee total					482.00						482.00

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

Hon. JOHN CONYERS, Jr., Chairman.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN APR. 1 AND JUNE 30, 2008

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Hon. Nick J. Rahall II	5/24	5/25	Cyprus		371.81		(3)		14,261.19		14,633.00
Rick Healy	5/24	5/25	Cyprus		318.25		(3)				318.25
Amelia Jenkins	5/24	5/25	Cyprus		318.25		(3)				318.25
Linda Livingston	5/24	5/25	Cyprus		318.25		(3)				318.25
Christopher Fluhr	5/24	5/25	Cyprus		318.25		(3)				318.25
Hon. Nick J. Rahall, II	5/26	5/27	Kazakhstan		1,088.00		(3)				1,088.00
Rick Healy	5/26	5/27	Kazakhstan		1,088.00		(3)				1,088.00
Amelia Jenkins	5/26	5/27	Kazakhstan		1,088.00		(3)				1,088.00
Linda Livingston	5/26	5/27	Kazakhstan		1,088.00		(3)				1,088.00
Christopher Fluhr	5/26	5/27	Kazakhstan		1,088.00		(3)				1,088.00
Hon. Nick J. Rahall, II	5/27	5/29	Saudi Arabia		843.17		(3)		8,035.42		8,878.59
Rick Healy	5/27	5/29	Saudi Arabia		781.78		(3)				781.78
Amelia Jenkins	5/27	5/29	Saudi Arabia		781.78		(3)				781.78
Linda Livingston	5/27	5/29	Saudi Arabia		781.78		(3)				781.78
Christopher Fluhr	5/27	5/29	Saudi Arabia		781.78		(3)				781.78
Hon. Nick J. Rahall II	5/29	5/31	United Arab Emirates		1,105.00		(3)				1,105.00
Rick Healy	5/29	5/31	United Arab Emirates		1,105.00		(3)				1,105.00
Amelia Jenkins	5/29	5/31	United Arab Emirates		1,105.00		(3)				1,105.00
Linda Livingston	5/29	5/31	United Arab Emirates		1,105.00		(3)				1,105.00
Christopher Fluhr	5/29	5/31	United Arab Emirates		1,105.00		(3)				1,105.00
Hon. Nick J. Rahall, II	5/31	6/02	Egypt		559.31		(3)				559.31
Rick Healy	5/31	6/02	Egypt		558.75		(3)				558.75
Amelia Jenkins	5/31	6/02	Egypt		558.75		(3)				558.75
Linda Livingston	5/31	6/02	Egypt		558.75		(3)				558.75
Christopher Fluhr	5/31	6/02	Egypt		558.75		(3)				558.75
David Whaley	6/21	6/29	Chile		1,595.00		6,135.00				7,730.00
Julia Hathaway	6/21	6/29	Chile		1,595.00		6,135.00				7,730.00
Committee total					22,564.41		12,270.00		22,296.61		57,131.02

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.
[3] Military air transportation.

Hon. NICK J. RAHALL II, Chairman, July 31, 2008.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN APR. 1 AND JUNE 30, 2008

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Christopher Bright	4/11	4/12	Jordan		312.43		(3)				312.43
	4/12	4/13	Iraq								
	4/13	4/14	Belgium		474.29						474.29
Christopher Davis	4/11	4/12	Jordan		223.43						223.43
	4/12	4/13	Iraq								
	4/13	4/14	Belgium		304.29						304.29
Margaret Daum	4/11	4/12	Jordan		191.43						191.43
	4/12	4/13	Iraq								
	4/13	4/14	Belgium		291.29						291.29
Hon. Todd Russell Platts	4/11	4/12	Jordan		171.43						171.43
	4/12	4/13	Iraq								
	4/13	4/14	Belgium		235.29						235.29
Hon. Stephen Lynch	4/11	4/12	Jordan		312.43						312.43
	4/12	4/13	Iraq								
	4/13	4/14	Belgium		474.29						474.29
Delegation costs—Brussels									3,228.74		3,228.74
Hon. Christopher Shays	5/16	5/19	Egypt		626.00		(3)				626.00
Hon. Eleanor Holmes Norton	5/16	5/16	Haiti		80.00		(3)				80.00
Naomi Seiler	5/30	6/06	Uganda		2,080.69		10,206.44				12,287.13
Jesseca Boyer	5/30	6/06	Uganda		2,035.97		10,465.44				12,501.41
Hon. Tom Davis	5/24	5/25	Egypt		133.00		(3)				133.00
	5/25	5/30	United Arab Emirates		697.00						697.00
	5/30	5/31	France		203.00						203.00
Hon. Darrell Issa	5/24	5/25	Cyprus		371.81		(3)				371.81

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN APR. 1 AND JUNE 30, 2008—Continued

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
	5/26	5/27	Kazakhstan		773.00						773.00
	5/27	5/29	Saudi Arabia		693.17						693.17
	5/29	5/31	United Arab Emirates		1,105.00						1,105.00
	5/31	6/02	Egypt		509.31						509.31
Sharon Boyl	5/24	5/25	Cyprus		318.25		(3)				318.25
	5/26	5/27	Kazakhstan		1,013.00						1,013.00
	5/27	5/29	Saudi Arabia		631.78						631.78
	5/29	5/31	United Arab Emirates		1,105.00						1,105.00
	5/31	6/02	Egypt		538.75						538.75
Committee Total					15,905.33		20,671.88		3,228.74		39,805.95

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.
[3] Military air transportation.

Hon. HENRY A. WAXMAN, Chairman, July 30, 2008.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN APR. 1 AND JUNE 30, 2008

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Hon. Tom Feeney	4/22	4/26	China		1,436.00		10,034.16		712.28		12,182.44
Ken Monroe	4/22	4/26	China		1,436.00		9,756.16		19.30		11,211.46
Hon. Brian Baird	5/16	5/19	Egypt		833.00		(3)		[4] 7,277.00		8,110.00
Hon. Dana Rohrabacher	5/27	5/30	Germany		1,623.00		[5] 8,991.99				10,614.99
	6/02	6/03	Germany		541.00				4,216.44		4,757.41
	5/30	6/02	Russia		1,758.31		[5] 203.31		1,333.39		3,295.01
Hon. Ben Chandler	6/13	6/16	Ecuador		150.00		(3)				150.00
Hon. Darlene Hooley	6/13	6/16	Ecuador		150.00		(3)				150.00
Hon. Frank Lucas	6/13	6/16	Ecuador		150.00		(3)				150.00
Hon. Bob Inglis	6/13	6/16	Ecuador		150.00		(3)				150.00
Margaret Caravelli	6/13	6/16	Ecuador		150.00		(3)				150.00
Jean Fruci	6/13	6/16	Ecuador		150.00		(3)				150.00
Chuck Atkins	6/13	6/16	Ecuador		150.00		(3)				150.00
Leigh Ann Brown	6/13	6/16	Ecuador		150.00		(3)				150.00
Hon. Brian Baird	6/13	6/16	Ecuador		150.00						150.00
	6/13	6/16	Ecuador		13,128.38		[3] 4,532.90		4,290.82		21,952.10
Chris King	6/17	6/22	Denmark		1,832.00		6,669.07				8,501.07
Committee total					23,937.69		40,187.59		17,849.23		81,974.51

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.
[3] Furnished by DOD.
[4] For entire delegation.
[5] Commercial air transportation.

Hon. BART GORDON, Chairman, July 30, 2008.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN OCT. 1 AND DEC. 31, 2007

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]

HOUSE COMMITTEES

Please Note: If there were no expenditures during the calendar quarter noted above, please check the box at right to so indicate and return. ☒

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

Hon. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ, Chairwoman, July 24, 2008.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2008

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Hon. Nydia Velázquez	1/05	1/07	Egypt		266.00						266.00
	1/07	1/08	Ghana		278.00						278.00
	1/09	1/11	South Africa		426.00						426.00
	1/12	1/15	Morocco		463.04						463.04
Hon. Steve Chabot	1/08	1/11	Taiwan		1,029.00						1,029.00
	1/11	1/12	Indonesia		283.00						283.00
	1/12	1/13	Malaysia		173.00						173.00
	1/13	1/15	Singapore		792.00						792.00
Hon. Kevin Fitzpatrick	1/08	1/11	Taiwan		1,029.00						1,029.00
	1/11	1/12	Indonesia		283.00						283.00
	1/12	1/13	Malaysia		173.00						173.00
	1/13	1/15	Singapore		792.00						792.00
					[3] −250.00						−250.00
Committee total					5,487.04						5,487.04

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.
[3] Less $250.00 unused per diem returned to Department of State.

Hon. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ, Chairwoman, July 24, 2008.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN APR. 1 AND JUNE 30, 2008

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
HOUSE COMMITTEES											
Please Note: If there were no expenditures during the calendar quarter noted above, please check the box at right to so indicate and return. ☒											

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

Hon. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ, Chairwoman, July 24, 2008.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN APR. 1 AND JUNE 30, 2008

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Hon. James Oberstar	5/05	5/06	Slovenia		375.00		10,075.77		269.28		10,720.05
Jim Kolb	5/05	5/06	Slovenia		375.00		10,075.77		269.28		10,720.05
Hon. Peter DeFazio	5/15	5/20	Egypt		833.00		(3)				833.00
Sharon Barkeloo	5/25	5/26	France		872.00		8,768.97				9,640.97
	5/27	5/28	England		1,170.00		365.50				1,535.50
	5/29	5/31	Spain		1,209.00						1,209.00
Niels Knutson	5/25	5/26	France		872.00		7,825.14				8,697.14
	5/27	5/28	England		1,170.00		365.50				1,535,50
	5/29	6/01	Spain		1,209.00						1,209.00
Committee total					8,085.00		17,325.11		538.56		46,100.21

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.
[3] Military air transportation.

Hon. JAMES L. OBERSTAR, Chairman, July 25, 2008.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN APR. 1 AND JUNE 30, 2008

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Hon. John Linder	5/24	5/25	Cyprus		371.81						371.80
	5/26	5/27	Kazakhstan		1,088.00						1,088.00
	5/27	5/29	Saudi Arabia		843.17						843.17
	5/29	5/31	United Arab Emirates		1,105.00						1,105.00
	5/31	6/02	Egypt		559.31						559.31
Hon. Xavier Becerra	5/27	5/28	Bolivia		202.00						202.00
	5/28	5/30	Argentina		312.00						312.00
	5/30	5/31	Ecuador		174.00						174.00
Alexander Perkins	6/08	6/14	Peru		1,204.97		3,912.71		506.14		5,623.82
David Thomas	6/08	6/14	Peru		1,016.06		2,983.70		506.14		4,505.90
Committee total					6,876.32		6,896.41		1,012.28		14,785.01

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

Hon. CHARLES B. RANGEL, Chairman, August 1, 2008.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN APR. 1 AND JUNE 30, 2008

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Hon. Darrell Issa	4/05	4/07	Asia		359.00						
Commercial airfare							8,819.13				9,178.13
James Lewis	4/5	4/7	Asia		359.00						
Commercial airfare							9,756.13				10,115.13
Hon. Mike Thompson	4/24	4/29	Mexico		700.00						
Commercial airfare							1,800.47				2,500.47
Curtis Flood	4/24	4/29	Mexico		700.00						
Commercial airfare							1,800.47				2,500.47
Meghann Courter	4/24	4/29	Mexico		700.00						
Commercial airfare							1,800.47				2,500.47
Hon. Robert Cramer	5/01	5/06	Europe		660.00						
Commercial airfare							6,295.06				6,955.06
Mieke Eoyang	5/01	5/06	Europe		660.00						
Commercial airfare							6,295.06				6,955.06
Hon. Mike Thompson	5/01	5/04	Middle East		420.00		(3)				
Hon. Rush Holt	5/01	5/04	Middle East		420.00		(3)				
							(3)				
Joshua Kirshner	5/01	5/04	Middle East		420.00		(3)				420.00
Hon. Silvestre Reyes	5/22	5/27	Middle East		282.00						
	5/22	5/27	Europe		273.00						
	5/22	5/27	Europe		231.00		(3)				786.00
Hon. Dutch Ruppersberger	5/22	5/27	Middle East		282.00						
	5/22	5/27	Europe		273.00						
	5/22	5/27	Europe		231.00		(3)				786.00
Hon. Peter Hoekstra	5/22	5/27	Middle East		282.00						
	5/22	5/27	Europe		273.00						
	5/22	5/27	Europe		231.00		(3)				786.00
Michael Delaney	5/22	5/27	Middle East		282.00						
	5/22	5/27	Europe		273.00						
	5/22	5/27	Europe		231.00		(3)				786.00
Jeremy Bash	5/22	5/27	Middle East		282.00						
	5/22	5/27	Europe		273.00						
	5/22	5/27	Europe		231.00		(3)				786.00

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN APR. 1 AND JUNE 30, 2008—Continued

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
James Lewis	5/22	5/27	Middle East		282.00						
	5/22	5/27	Europe		273.00						
	5/22	5/27	Europe		231.00		(3)				786.00
Donald Vieira	5/24	5/29	Middle East		50.00						
	5/24	5/29	Europe		289.00						
	5/24	5/29	Europe		518.00		(3)				857.00
George Pappas	5/24	5/29	Middle East		50.00						
	5/24	5/29	Europe		289.00						
	5/24	5/29	Europe		518.00		(3)				857.00
Mark Young	5/24	6/03	Asia		2,400.00						
Commercial airfare							6,359.78				8,759.78
George Pappas	5/24	6/03	Asia		2,400.00						
Commercial airfare							6,359.78				8,759.78
Mieke Eoyang	5/25	6/01	Asia		800.00						
	5/25	6/01	Asia		878.61						
Commercial airfare							8,899.76				10,775.37
Joshua Kirshner	5/25	6/01	Asia		800.00						
	5/24	6/03	Asia		878.61						
Commercial airfare							9,010.76				10,689.37
Fredreick Fleitz	5/25	6/01	Asia		800.00						
	5/25	6/01	Asia		878.61						
Commercial airfare							9,040.76				10,719.37
Donald Vieira	6/28	7/03	Latin America		410.00						
	6/28	7/03	Latin America		371.00						
Commercial airfare							7,725.86				8,506.86
Iram Ali	6/28	7/03	Latin America		410.00						
	6/28	7/03	Latin America		371.00						
Commercial airfare							7,534.85				8,315.85
Meghann Courter	6/28	7/03	Latin America		410.00						
					371.00						
Commercial airfare							7,534.85				8,315.85
Jeremy Bash	6/28	7/03	Europe		766.00						
	6/28	7/03	Africa		278.00		9,054.55				10,098.55
Brian Morrison	6/28	7/03	Europe		766.00						
	6/28	7/03	Africa		278.00						
Commercial airfare							9,054.5				10,098.55
Joshua Kirshner	6/28	7/03	Europe		766.00						
	6/28	7/03	Africa		278.00						
Commercial airfare							9,054.55				10,098.55
Christopher Donesa	6/28	7/03	Europe		766.00						
	6/28	7/03	Africa		278.00						
Commercial airfare							9,054.55				10,098.55
John Heath	6/28	7/03	Europe		766.00						
	6/28	7/03	Africa		278.00						
Commercial airfare							9,869.55				10,913.55
Committee total											165,344.77

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.
[3] Military air transportation.

Hon. SILVESTRE REYES, Chairman.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

8506. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Tuberculosis; Amend the Status of New Mexico From Accredited Free to Modified Accredited Advanced [Docket No. APHIS-2008-0068] received September 17, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

8507. A letter from the Director, Specialty Lenders Division, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Intermediary Relending Program (RIN: 0570-AA70) received September 17, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

8508. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia; Interstate Movement and Import Restrictions on Certain Live Fish [Docket No. APHIS-2007-0038] (RIN: 0579-AC74) received September 10, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

8509. A letter from the Assistant Director, Directives and Regulations Branch, Office of Regulatory and Management Services, USDA Forest Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Predecisional Administrative Review Process for Hazardous Fuel Reduction Projects Authorized Under the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (RIN: 0596-AC15) received September 15, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

8510. A letter from the Administrator, Agency for International Development, transmitting a report on an Anti-Deficiency Act violation, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1351; to the Committee on Appropriations.

8511. A letter from the Principal Deputy, Department of Defense, transmitting authorization of Colonel John B. Cooper, United States Air Force, to wear the authorized insignia of the grade of brigadier general, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 777; to the Committee on Armed Services.

8512. A letter from the Under Secretary for Personnel and Readiness, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General Robert T. Dail, United States Army, and his advancement to the grade of lieutenant general on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

8513. A letter from the Chief Counsel, FEMA, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Final Flood Elevation Determinations — received September 15, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

8514. A letter from the Deputy Director, Terrorism Risk Insurance Program, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule — Terrorism Risk Insurance Program; Terrorism Risk Insurance Program Reauthorization Act Implementation (RIN: 1505-AB93) received September 17, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

8515. A letter from the Chief, Division of Statutory Programs, Department of Labor, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment to Guidelines for Processing Applications for Assistance To Conform to Sections 3013(h) and 3031 of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible and Efficient Transportation Equity Act--A Legacy for Users and To Improve Processing for Administrative Efficiency (RIN: 1215-AB58) received September 10, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and Labor.

8516. A letter from the Chairman, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's annual report, covering the fiscal year from October 1, 2006, through September 30, 2007, pursuant to 16 U.S.C. 797(d); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

8517. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Mgmt. Staff, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Supplemental Applications Proposing Labeling Changes for Approved Drugs, Biologics, and Medical Devices [[Docket No. FDA-2008-N-0032] (formerly Docket No. 2008N-0021)] (RIN: 0910-ZA32) received September 19, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

8518. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Mgmt. Staff, Department of

Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Irradiation in the Production, Processing and Handling of Food [[Docket No.FDA-1999-F-2405] (formerly 1999F-5522)] received September 10, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

8519. A letter from the Chief, Policy Division, International Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — In the Matter of Spectrum and Service Rules for Ancillary Terrestrial Components in the 1.6/2.4 GHz Big LEO Bands Globalstar Licensee LLC, Authority to Implement an Ancillary Terrestrial Component [IB Docket No. 07-253 Call Sign S2115] received September 10, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

8520. A letter from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — In the Matter of Amendment of Section 73.202(b), FM Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations. Watermill and Noyack, New York [MB Docket No. 03-44 RM-10650 RM-11396] received September 10, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

8521. A letter from the Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Industry Codes and Standards; Amended Requirements [NRC-2007-0003] (RIN: 3150-AH76) received September 15, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

8522. A letter from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Copies of international agreements, other than treaties, entered into by the United States, pursuant to 1 U.S.C. 112b; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

8523. A letter from the Director, International Cooperation, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's intent to sign the NATO Alliance Ground Surveillance Programme Memorandum of Understanding, pursuant to Section 27(f) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

8524. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

8525. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

8526. A letter from the Law Clerk, Department of Transportation, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

8527. A letter from the Law Clerk, Department of Transportation, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

8528. A letter from the Executive Director, Election Assistance Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Freedom of Information, Government in the Sunshine, and Privacy Act Requirements (RIN: 3265-AA00) received September 15, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

8529. A letter from the Director, Office of National Drug Control Policy, transmitting the Office's report entitled, ''Fiscal Year 2007 Accounting of Drug Control Funds''; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

8530. A letter from the Executive Director, Election Assistance Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Testimony by Commission Employees Relating to Official Information and Production of Official Records in Legal Proceedings, Standards of Conduct for Commission Employees, and Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Handicap in Programs or Activities Conducted by the U.S. Election Assistance Commission (RIN: 3265-AA01) received September 15, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on House Administration.

8531. A letter from the Assistant Secretary — Land and Minerals Management, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Bonus or Royalty Credits for Relinquishing Certain Leases Offshore Florida [Docket ID: MMS-2007-OMM-0064] (RIN: 1010-AD44) received September 17, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

8532. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Special Regulation: Areas of the National Park System (RIN: 1024-AD53) received September 16, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

8533. A letter from the Director, Department of the Interior, transmitting a report entitled, ''Report to Congress: Minerals Management Service Royalty In Kind Operation Program,'' pursuant to Section 342 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

8534. A letter from the Assistant Field Supervisor, Department of the Interior, transmitting a report entitled, ''Flow-Overbank Inundation Relationship For Potential Fall-Run Chinook Salmon and Steelhead/Rainbow Trout Juvenile Outmigration Habitat In The Tuolumine River,'' pursuant to 34 U.S.C. 3406(b)(1)(B) Public Law 102-575; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

8535. A letter from the Acting Director Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod by Catcher Vessels 60 ft (18.3 m) LOA and Longer Using Hook-and-Line Gear in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area [Docket No. 071106673-8011-02] (RIN: 0648-XK13) received September 15, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

8536. A letter from the Acting Director Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pollock in Statistical Area 630 in the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No. 071106671-8010-02] (RIN: 0648-XK11) received September 10, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

8537. A letter from the Acting Director Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Greenland Turbot in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area [Docket No. 071106673-8011-02] (RIN: 0648-XJ95) received September 10, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

8538. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of Class E5 Airspace; Long Prairie, MN [Docket No. FAA-2008-023; Airspace Docket No. 08-AGL-1] received September 15, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8539. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of Class E Airspace; Long Prairie, MN [Docket No. FAA-2008-0023; Airspace Docket No. 08-AGL-1] received September 15, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8540. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Proposed Establishment of Class E Airspace; Philippi, WV [Docket No. FAA-2008-0131; Airspace Docket 08-AEA-12] received September 15, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8541. A letter from the Administrator, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, transmitting a legislative proposal to extend existing legislative authority to make payments to Russia for astronaut crew transport and rescue support for the international space station; to the Committee on Science and Technology.

8542. A letter from the Administrator, Small Business Administration, transmitting the Administration's annual report for fiscal year 2007 on Minority Small Business and Capital Ownership Development, pursuant to 15 U.S.C. 636(j)16(A); to the Committee on Small Business.

8543. A letter from the Chief, Trade and Commercial Regulations Branch, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Extension of Import Restrictions Imposed on Aarchaeological Material from Cambodia [CBP Dec. 08-40 Docket No. USCBP-2008-0076] (RIN: 1505-AB99) received September 17, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

8544. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Tier I Issue: IRC Section 118 Abuse Directive #5 [LMSB Control No: LMSB-4-0808-041] received September 16, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

8545. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — 26 CFR 601.601: Rules and regulations. (Also Part I, 163) (Rev. Proc. 2008-51) received September 15, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

8546. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Part I — Rulings and Decisions Under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 Section 401. — Qualified Pension, Profit-sharing, and Stock Bonus Plans 26 CFR 1.401-1: Qualified pension, profit-sharing, and stock bonus plans. (Also, 414.) (Rev. Rul. 2008-45) received September 15, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

8547. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Update for Weighted Average Interest Rates, Yield Curves, and Segment Rates [Notice 2008-69] received September 15, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

8548. A letter from the Director, Homeland Security Institute, transmitting the Institute's annual report; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

8549. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator, Office of Diversion Control, Department of Justice, transmitting the Department's final rule — Control of a Chemical Precursor Used in the Illicit Manufacture of Fentanyl as a List 1 Chemical [Docket No. DEA-299F] (RIN: 1117-AB12) received

September 15, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and the Judiciary.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. CONYERS: Committee on the Judiciary. H.R. 6577. A bill to express the consent and approval of Congress to an interstate compact regarding water resources in the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin (Rept. 110–863). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. SESTAK: Committee on the Judiciary. H.R. 5352. A bill to protect seniors in the United States from elder abuse by establishing specialized elder abuse protection and research programs and activities to aid victims of elder abuse, to provide training to prosecutors and other law enforcement related to elder abuse prevention and protection, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 110–864 Pt. 1). Ordered to be printed.

Mr. OBERSTAR: Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. H.R. 6370. A bill to transfer excess Federal property administered by the Coast Guard to the Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians (Rept. 110–865). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. OBERSTAR: Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. H.R. 6524. A bill to authorize the Administrator of General Services to take certain actions with respect to parcels of real property located in Eastlake, Ohio, Koochiching County, Minnesota, and for other purposes (Rept. 110–866 Pt. 1). Ordered to be printed.

Mr. WELCH of Vermont: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 1476. A resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 5244) to amend the Truth in Lending Act to establish fair and transparent practice relating to the extension of credit under an open end consumer credit plan, and for other purposes (Rept. 110–867). Referred to the House Calendar.

DISCHARGE OF COMMITTEE

[The following action occurred on September 19, 2008]

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XII of the Committee on Armed Services discharged from further consideration. H.R. 2343 referred to the Committee of the While House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed.

[The following actions occurred on September 22, 2008]

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XII the Committee on Ways and Means discharged from further consideration. H.R. 5352 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XII the Committee on Armed Services discharged from further consideration. H.R. 6524 referred to the Committee of the While House on the State of the Union.

TIME LIMITATION OF REFERRED BILL

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XII the following action was taken by the Speaker:

[The following action occurred on 9/19/2008]

H.R. 6357. Referral to the Committee on Ways and Means extended for a period ending not later than September 26, 2008.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. BROWN of South Carolina:

H.R. 6980. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to increase the amount of the Medal of Honor special pension provided under that title by up to $1,000; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. BACA:

H.R. 6981. A bill to make technical corrections to section 4406 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Ms. SPEIER:

H.R. 6982. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 210 South Ellsworth Avenue in San Mateo, California, as the ''Leo J. Ryan Post Office Building''; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. KENNEDY (for himself, Mr. RAMSTAD, Mr. DINGELL, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. ANDREWS, Mr. STARK, and Mr. WAXMAN):

H.R. 6983. A bill to amend section 712 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, section 2705 of the Public Health Service Act, and section 9812 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to require equity in the provision of mental health and substance-related disorder benefits under group health plans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Education and Labor, and Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. OBERSTAR (for himself, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. MICA, Mr. COSTELLO, and Mr. PETRI):

H.R. 6984. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to extend authorizations for the airport improvement program, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the funding and expenditure authority of the Airport and Airway Trust Fund, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BACA:

H.R. 6985. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to require air carriers to waive certain baggage fees for members of the uniformed services traveling under orders; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. COHEN:

H.R. 6986. A bill to amend section 1821(a)(1) of title 12, United States Code, to raise the maximum Federal deposit insurance coverage to $200,000; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. FEENEY (for himself, Mr. ROSKAM, and Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey):

H.R. 6987. A bill to amend the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 to require officers to repay bonus amounts received during a year in which their company is subject to a taxpayer bailout, as well as the two previous years; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. HOLT:

H.R. 6988. A bill to amend the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981 to treat wildlife, other than birds, used or intended to be used in penned dog training activities as prohibited wildlife species under that Act, to make corrections in the provisions relating to captive wildlife offenses under that Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. ISRAEL:

H.R. 6989. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the burial in a national cemetery of a parent of a deceased veteran when there is no eligible spouse or dependent of the veteran; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Ms. KAPTUR:

H.R. 6990. A bill to establish the independent Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac Investigative Commission to investigate the officers and directors at Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac responsible for making the decisions that led to the enterprises' financial instability and the subsequent Federal conservatorship of such enterprises; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. LARSON of Connecticut:

H.R. 6991. A bill to establish an Energy Policy Council to develop a National Energy Plan and monitor the implementation thereof, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS:

H.R. 6992. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to establish a program to facilitate the transfer to non-Federal ownership of appropriate reclamation projects or facilities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. MELANCON (for himself and Mr. KLEIN of Florida):

H.R. 6993. A bill to authorize the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to procure, launch, and operate the next generation of weather forecasting satellites; to the Committee on Science and Technology.

By Mr. NUNES:

H.R. 6994. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study on the feasibility and suitability of constructing a storage reservoir, outlet works, and a delivery system for the Tule River Indian Tribe of California to provide a water supply for domestic, municipal, industrial, and agricultural purposes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. SCHIFF (for himself and Mr. ROGERS of Michigan):

H.R. 6995. A bill to amend the National Child Protection Act of 1993 to establish a permanent background check system; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CHILDERS (for himself and Mr. BOUSTANY):

H. Con. Res. 422. Concurrent resolution recognizing the importance of the Department of Agriculture Forest Service Experimental Forests and Ranges on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the establishment of the first experimental forest at Fort Valley, Arizona; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. HALL of Texas:

H. Res. 1471. A resolution honoring the 50th anniversary of the successful demonstration of the first integrated circuit and its impact on the electronics industry; to the Committee on Science and Technology. considered and agreed to.

By Mr. SMITH of New Jersey (for himself, Mr. DOYLE, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mrs. MALONEY of New York, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. FORTENBERRY,

Mr. WOLF, Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA, Mr. PAYNE, and Mr. FORTUÑO):

H. Res. 1472. A resolution supporting international health and education grant programs related to autism spectrum disorders; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. CHABOT (for himself and Ms. VELÁZQUEZ):

H. Res. 1473. A resolution recognizing the 150th anniversary year of the founding of Macy's, Inc., as an American entrepreneurial success story and the role Macy's, Inc., plays in supporting America's small businesses and vendors, including those that are minority and women owned; celebrating the vision, innovativeness, and ingenuity of all of our Nation's small businesses that aspire to grow and prosper as Macy's, Inc., has over its 150-year history; and congratulating Macy's, Inc., as an American entrepreneurial success story; to the Committee on Small Business.

By Mr. RADANOVICH (for himself, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. NUNES, Mr. COSTA, Ms. MATSUI, Mrs. BONO MACK, Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California, and Mr. SHIMKUS):

H. Res. 1474. A resolution recognizing the 50th anniversary of the first vertical ascent of the face of El Capitan in Yosemite National Park and honoring the historic climbing feat of the original climbing team; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. MARSHALL:

H. Res. 1475. A resolution recognizing the strategic success of the troop surge in Iraq and expressing gratitude to the members of the United States Armed Forces who made that success possible; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. ELLSWORTH (for himself, Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky, and Mr. DONNELLY):

H. Res. 1477. A resolution recognizing the importance and sustainability of the United States hardwoods industry and urging that United States hardwoods and the products derived from United States hardwoods be given full consideration in any program directed at constructing environmentally preferable commercial, public, or private buildings; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. PALLONE (for himself and Mr. HALL of Texas):

H. Res. 1478. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of ''National Falls Prevention Awareness Day'' to raise awareness and encourage the prevention of falls among older adults; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. SHERMAN (for himself, Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, Mr. FILNER, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. BACA, and Mr. HONDA):

H. Res. 1479. A resolution commemorating the 50th anniversary of California State University, Northridge (CSUN), an extraordinary public university dedicated to promoting the intellectual, economic, and cultural qualities of the San Fernando Valley; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 303: Mrs. BONO MACK.

H.R. 581: Mr. MCCOTTER.

H.R. 642: Mr. ARCURI, Ms. BEAN, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. SPRATT, Mr. MELANCON, Mr. BISHOP of New York, Mr. OBERSTAR, Mr. REYES, Mr. SALAZAR, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. SKELTON, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Ms. SOLIS, Mr. TAYLOR, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. ROTHMAN, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. DICKS, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. HARE, Ms. HARMAN, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. HONDA, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. KIND, Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. NADLER, Mr. ETHERIDGE, Mr. FOSSELLA, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN.

H.R. 661: Mr. PORTER and Mr. REICHERT.

H.R. 758: Mr. SOUDER.

H.R. 882: Mr. UDALL of New Mexico and Mr. LOBIONDO.

H.R. 1014: Mr. FATTAH.

H.R. 1280: Mr. REICHERT and Mr. CROWLEY.

H.R. 1321: Mrs. DAVIS of California.

H.R. 1395: Mr. MCCOTTER.

H.R. 1422: Mr. WOLF.

H.R. 1621: Mr. HODES.

H.R. 1820: Mr. CLAY, Ms. HIRONO, and Mr. ANDREWS.

H.R. 1828: Mr. SESTAK.

H.R. 1840: Ms. SLAUGHTER and Mr. HINCHEY.

H.R. 1843: Mr. BERRY.

H.R. 1884: Mrs. MUSGRAVE, Mr. KENNEDY, Ms. RICHARDSON, Mr. BISHOP of New York, and Mr. SHAYS.

H.R. 2020: Mr. ROSKAM.

H.R. 2066: Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts.

H.R. 2108: Mr. MCNERNEY.

H.R. 2122: Mr. MURTHA.

H.R. 2125: Ms. GIFFORDS.

H.R. 2132: Mr. HODES.

H.R. 2136: Mr. SHERMAN.

H.R. 2184: Mr. SPRATT.

H.R. 2331: Mr. CAZAYOUX.

H.R. 2514: Ms. SOLIS.

H.R. 2606: Mr. MURTHA, Mrs. DRAKE, Ms. SUTTON, and Ms. BERKLEY.

H.R. 2809: Mr. WEXLER.

H.R. 2826: Mr. ALLEN, Mr. KUCINICH, and Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts.

H.R. 2923: Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota.

H.R. 3109: Mr. UPTON and Mr. EHLERS.

H.R. 3334: Mr. ALTMIRE and Mr. HOEKSTRA.

H.R. 3544: Mr. MURTHA.

H.R. 3740: Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California.

H.R. 4048: Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. FILNER, Mr. RANGEL, and Mr. CLEAVER.

H.R. 4236: Mr. MURTHA and Mr. VAN HOLLEN.

H.R. 4238: Mr. ROTHMAN.

H.R. 4304: Mr. SHUSTER.

H.R. 4544: Mr. CLAY, Mr. REHBERG, and Mr. INGLIS of South Carolina.

H.R. 4899: Mrs. NAPOLITANO.

H.R. 4930: Mr. ALTMIRE and Mr. COURTNEY.

H.R. 4992: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.

H.R. 4993: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.

H.R. 5058: Mr. ELLISON.

H.R. 5268: Mr. CARNAHAN.

H.R. 5404: Mr. LARSON of Connecticut.

H.R. 5426: Mr. MILLER of North Carolina.

H.R. 5496: Mr. MCGOVERN.

H.R. 5509: Mr. SHAYS.

H.R. 5534: Mr. KUCINICH and Mrs. TAUSCHER.

H.R. 5564: Mr. SALI.

H.R. 5585: Mr. ALTMIRE, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. MOORE of Kansas, Mr. LATHAM, and Mr. GRIJALVA.

H.R. 5604: Mr. LANGEVIN.

H.R. 5635: Mr. SHIMKUS and Mr. MATHESON.

H.R. 5673: Mrs. BIGGERT.

H.R. 5674: Mr. OLVER.

H.R. 5698: Mrs. BIGGERT.

H.R. 5714: Mrs. BIGGERT, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. CANNON, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. LAMPSON, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. ELLSWORTH, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. CARTER, Mr. ANDREWS, Mr. JONES of North Carolina, Mr. PUTNAM, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Mr. BARROW, Mr. DICKS, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. BOUSTANY, Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois, and Mr. HONDA.

H.R. 5793: Mr. SIRES.

H.R. 5833: Mr. SPACE.

H.R. 5852: Mr. SHAYS.

H.R. 5873: Mr. SERRANO.

H.R. 5887: Mr. BERMAN.

H.R. 5925: Mr. HONDA.

H.R. 5936: Ms. SLAUGHTER.

H.R. 5950: Mr. FILNER.

H.R. 5977: Mr. CARNAHAN.

H.R. 5998: Mr. CARNAHAN.

H.R. 6057: Mr. SCHIFF.

H.R. 6197: Mr. WAMP, Mr. GORDON, Mr. COHEN, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, and Mr. DUNCAN.

H.R. 6228: Mr. ROTHMAN.

H.R. 6259: Mr. LATHAM.

H.R. 6321: Mr. HINCHEY.

H.R. 6381: Mr. BERRY.

H.R. 6387: Mr. MORAN of Virginia.

H.R. 6512: Mr. SALI.

H.R. 6549: Mr. SCHIFF.

H.R. 6561: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.

H.R. 6567: Mr. CARDOZA.

H.R. 6573: Mr. SESTAK and Ms. BERKLEY.

H.R. 6598: Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. CAPUANO, Ms. ESHOO, Ms. SOLIS, Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. EMANUEL, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND.

H.R. 6600: Mr. VAN HOLLEN and Mr. PORTER.

H.R. 6612: Mr. ROSS.

H.R. 6643: Mr. BLUMENAUER and Mr. NADLER.

H.R. 6646: Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey.

H.R. 6660: Mr. SERRANO.

H.R. 6661: Mr. MCNERNEY.

H.R. 6666: Mr. WILSON of South Carolina.

H.R. 6680: Mr. BLUMENAUER and Mrs. MALONEY of New York.

H.R. 6694: Mr. WALSH of New York.

H.R. 6706: Mr. LINCOLN DAVIS of Tennessee.

H.R. 6708: Mr. KIND.

H.R. 6831: Mr. BARROW and Mr. BERRY.

H.R. 6853: Ms. BERKLEY.

H.R. 6856: Mr. BLUMENAUER.

H.R. 6860: Mr. WILSON of South Carolina.

H.R. 6869: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY and Mr. FILNER.

H.R. 6873: Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. MILLER of North Carolina, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. MEEK of Florida, Mr. PORTER, Mrs. CAPPS, Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, Mr. GORDON, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, and Mr. DOGGETT.

H.R. 6875: Mr. JACKSON of Illinois.

H.R. 6884: Mr. ARCURI, Mr. DOYLE, Mr. HONDA, Mr. TIBERI, and Mr. GORDON.

H.R. 6890: Mr. SCALISE.

H.R. 6896: Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. GOODLATTE, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Ms. HOOLEY, Mr. CONAWAY, and Mr. WESTMORELAND.

H.R. 6897: Mr. ROHRABACHER.

H.R. 6911: Ms. BERKLEY, Mr. WEINER, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. MCCOTTER, and Mr. FORTUÑO.

H.R. 6913: Mr. MCNULTY.

H.R. 6922: Mrs. GILLIBRAND.

H.R. 6928: Mr. WALZ of Minnesota.

H.R. 6937: Mr. BLUMENAUER.

H.R. 6939: Mr. LOEBSACK.

H.R. 6950: Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. DOGGETT, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Mr. PAYNE, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, and Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.

H.R. 6951: Mr. BLUMENAUER.

H.R. 6955: Mr. MCCOTTER and Mr. SESSIONS.

H.R. 6962: Mr. RANGEL and Mr. CROWLEY.

H.R. 6966: Mr. LOBIONDO, Mr. SAXTON, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. BOSWELL, Mr. SIRES, Mr. HODES, and Mr. ROTHMAN.

H.R. 6970: Mr. MORAN of Virginia and Ms. SUTTON.

H. Con. Res. 70: Mr. DENT.

H. Con. Res. 393: Mr. HINOJOSA, Ms. GRANGER, Mr. UPTON, Mr. HOEKSTRA, Ms. MATSUI, Mrs. CUBIN, Mr. LATHAM, Mr. BILBRAY, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. BACHUS, Mr. BOUSTANY, Mr. DOYLE, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. LAHOOD, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. KELLER, Mr. CARTER, Mr. PASCRELL, Ms. LEE, Mr. SPRATT, Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California, Ms. PRYCE of Ohio, Mrs. EMERSON, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. ROYCE, Mr. BONNER, Ms. HOOLEY, Ms. SCHWARTZ, Mr. BARROW, Mr. HILL, Mr. KLINE of Minnesota, Mrs. MALONEY of New York, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mrs. BIGGERT, and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.

H. Con. Res. 407: Mr. ENGEL, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. TIBERI, and Mr. CHABOT.

H. Con. Res. 411: Mr. HASTINGS of Washington, Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida, and Mr. SALI.

H. Con. Res. 416: Mr. DINGELL, Mr. MELANCON, Mr. INSLEE, Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, Mr. REICHERT, and Mr. WAXMAN.

H. Res. 556: Mr. TIAHRT.

H. Res. 758: Mr. BOEHNER, Mr. BOSWELL, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. KLEIN of Florida, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. BACA, Mr. COHEN, and Mr. HOLDEN.

H. Res. 887: Mr. SHUSTER.

H. Res. 988: Mr. CRAMER, Mr. COSTA, and Mr. BOYD of Florida.

H. Res. 1064: Mr. PICKERING, Mr. WALSH of New York, Mr. HINCHEY, and Mr. TOWNS.

H. Res. 1303: Mr. ROTHMAN.

H. Res. 1314: Ms. DELAURO.

H. Res. 1328: Mr. TIBERI, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. CLAY, Mr. ALTMIRE, Mr. HOLDEN, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Ms. GRANGER, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, and Mr. KILDEE.

H. Res. 1336: Mr. MARCHANT and Mr. PORTER.

H. Res. 1358: Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. DONNELLY, Mr. GOODLATTE, Mr. LAMPSON, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. LUCAS, Mr. PENCE, Mr. STUPAK, Mr. WATT, and Mr. SALI.

H. Res. 1361: Mr. CONYERS, Mr. PAYNE, and Ms. LEE.

H. Res. 1364: Mrs. DRAKE and Mr. MCKEON.

H. Res. 1369: Mr. STARK and Mr. ELLISON.

H. Res. 1381: Mr. FILNER, Mr. NADLER, Ms. HARMAN, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, and Ms. BALDWIN.

H. Res. 1386: Mr. PITTS, Mr. PICKERING, and Mr. BOOZMAN.

H. Res. 1390: Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN and Mr. MATHESON.

H. Res. 1392: Mr. SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. MAHONEY of Florida, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Mr. FOSTER, Mr. MILLER of North Carolina, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Ms. BEAN, Mr. CARSON, Mr. TIBERI, Mr. CAMPBELL of California, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. JONES of North Carolina, Mr. MOORE of Kansas, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. SOUDER, Mr. KIRK, and Mr. LAHOOD.

H. Res. 1410: Mr. PAYNE.

H. Res. 1411: Mr. WALDEN of Oregon.

H. Res. 1416: Mr. PICKERING.

H. Res. 1421: Mr. ROHRABACHER, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. ORTIZ, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. SHAYS, Mr. GALLEGLY, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, and Mr. KLINE of Minnesota.

H. Res. 1435: Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut, Mr. MORAN of Kansas, Mr. ROHRABACHER, and Mr. SOUDER.

H. Res. 1446: Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. BACA, Mr. PASCRELL, Mrs. MALONEY of New York, Mr. COSTA, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. ORTIZ, Mr. REYES, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. SALAZAR, Mr. SERRANO, Ms. SOLIS, and Ms. VELÁZQUEZ.

H. Res. 1451: Mr. FATTAH, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. COSTA, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. BACHUS, Mr. ROTHMAN, Mr. MCCOTTER, Ms. BERKLEY, Mr. SHAYS, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. EHLERS, Mr. HOLT, Mr. STARK, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mrs. TAUSCHER, Mr. SHERMAN, and Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California.

H. Res. 1452: Mr. MCHUGH and Mr. STEARNS.

H. Res. 1453: Mr. PAUL, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. RUSH, Mr. COHEN, Mr. TOWNS, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Mr. CARSON, Mr. CARSON, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Ms. WATSON, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. RANGEL, Mrs. MALONEY of New York, Mr. WATT, Mr. CLAY, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. KUCINICH, Mr. PAYNE, Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota, Ms. CLARKE, Mr. CAPUANO, Ms. BERKLEY, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. KENNEDY, Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland, Mr. WELLER, Mr. CLEAVER, Ms. LEE, Mr. JEFFERSON, Mr. MANZULLO, Mr. EMANUEL, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. HARE, Mr. SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. SESTAK, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. PASCRELL, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Ms. RICHARDSON, Mr. MEEK of Florida, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois, and Ms. NORTON.

H. Res. 1462: Mr. CAPUANO, Ms. LEE, Ms. BERKLEY, Mr. HOLT, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. RUSH, Mr. MCCOTTER, and Mr. THOMPSON of California.

H. Res. 1463: Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. HONDA, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, and Mr. SHAYS.

CORRECTION

United States of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 110th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 154 WASHINGTON, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2008 No. 150

Senate

(Legislative day of Wednesday, September 17, 2008)

The Senate met at 3 p.m., on the expiration of the recess, and was called to order by the Honorable JIM WEBB, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Virginia.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Almighty God, sovereign Lord of the universe, limitless, timeless, in whom resides all wisdom and power, remind our Senators today that they have nothing to fear about the future when they remember how You have led us in the past. Energize their memories to remember the dangers, toils, and snares over which You have brought our Nation and world so that Your peace will guard their hearts. Lord, may they never forget that the galaxies belong to You and the fullness thereof, the world, and they who dwell therein. Teach them the wisdom of seeking You so that they will fulfill Your purposes for their lives.

We pray in the Name of Him who is the author and finisher of our faith. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable JIM WEBB led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

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

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, September 22, 2008.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable JIM WEBB, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Virginia, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mr. WEBB thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

DISCHARGED NOMINATIONS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session and that the Senate Foreign Relations Committee be discharged from the following, and the Senate proceed to their consideration, en bloc: PN2053, Senator BILL NELSON, to be a Representative of the United States to the 63rd Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations, and PN2054, Senator BOB CORKER of Tennessee, to be a Representative of the United States to the 63rd Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations; that the nominations be confirmed and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, en bloc; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action; that no other motion be in order; and that the Senate resume legislative session.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The nominations considered and confirmed are as follows:

UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

BILL NELSON, of Florida, to be a Representative of the United States of America to the Sixty-third Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations.

BOB CORKER, of Tennessee, to be a Representative of the United States of America to the Sixty-third Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will now return to legislative session.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following leader remarks, the Senate will proceed to a period for the transaction of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each. As previously announced, there will be no rollcall votes today.

Last week, we were able to reach an agreement to consider H.R. 6049, the tax extenders legislation. Following morning business tomorrow, the Senate will consider three amendments to the bill, with limited debate and votes in relation to the amendments. Senators should expect the first amendment vote to occur prior to the caucus lunches and the remaining votes in the afternoon. One of the things to consider now is maybe not having morning business tomorrow to move this along more rapidly.

The Republican leader is seeking recognition, and when he finishes, I will give a few remarks.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

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

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MAIN STREET RESCUE PLAN

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, when there is a fire in your kitchen threatening to burn down your home, you don't want someone stopping the firefighters on the way and demanding they hand out smoke detectors first or lecturing you about the hazards of keeping paint in the basement. You want them to put out the fire before it burns down your home and everything you have saved for your whole life.

The same is true of our current economic situation. We know there is a serious threat to our economy. We know we must take action to try to head off a serious blow to Main Street.

Over the weekend, Congress received a straightforward four-page Main Street rescue plan aimed at protecting millions of American families and small businesses from the potentially devastating effects of a credit meltdown. We are told that inaction could make it impossible for ordinary Americans to take out loans for college tuition, cars, new homes, and everything else, triggering a corresponding collapse in manufacturing and services that could wipe out savings and lead to massive job losses. The final cost of the plan is unclear, but the potential consequences of inaction are not.

This proposal was designed to contain a spreading crisis, and urgent action is needed. That is why Republicans have resisted the impulse to try to add permanent tax relief and other aid to families and businesses that we believe is critical to the long-term health of our Nation's economy. And we ask our colleagues across the aisle to show similar restraint so that whatever action we take can be done quickly and in time to make a real difference.

This stabilization plan gives us an opportunity to prevent long-term damage to Americans' savings, home values, and livelihoods—to contain the problem from spreading to Main Street. Surely we can all agree to work with each other and stand up for the American people instead of using the bill as fly paper for partisan add-ons.

Republicans have many serious questions about this plan, but this is the only concrete plan we have seen so far that aims to protect Americans on Main Street—to protect their homes, their savings, their retirement plans, protect endangered jobs and small businesses—and we shouldn't jeopardize that effort by delaying urgent action or playing partisan politics.

Americans want to know their savings and retirement accounts are safe. They want the security of knowing the problems on Wall Street are not going to spread to Main Street. The only way we can give them that security and that assurance is by putting partisan interests aside.

There will be many more questions about this plan. I have many myself. But we owe it to the American people to do our due diligence quickly and act swiftly, Democrats and Republicans alike, to contain this crisis before it is too late.

I am confident that we can work together. The American people are counting on us. Let's not disappoint them.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

MASTER SERGEANT THOMAS L. BRUNER

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to one of Kentucky's great heroes in uniform. MSG Thomas L. Bruner of Owensboro, KY, was tragically lost while serving his country in Afghanistan on October 28, 2007. A proud member of the Army Reserves for many years, he was 50 years old.

For his valor in uniform, Master Sergeant Bruner received several medals, decorations, and awards, including the Meritorious Service Medal, the Joint Service Commendation Medal, two Army Commendation Medals, two Army Achievement Medals, the Army Good Conduct Medal, the National Defense Service Medal with two Bronze Service Stars, and two Armed Forces Reserve Medals with ''M'' device.

Those who knew him will remember Master Sergeant Bruner—or, as friends called him, ''Tommy''—as a family man. ''Family was first to him,'' says his brother, Robert Bruner. ''It was all the time family, family, family, everywhere he went.''

He was devoted to his wife Jane Bruner, to whom he was married for 27 years. They met in a club where she served bar. Night after night, he would walk in and notice her. Jane was skeptical at first, but eventually Tommy convinced one of her friends to trick Jane into going out with him after the club closed. ''He spoiled me rotten,'' Jane recalls. ''He would do everything for me. He was my everything . . . my life.''

Jane's two sons, Tom-Tom and Brian Sanefur, became Tommy's stepsons, and he loved them like his own. ''He was always there,'' Brian remembers. ''He was a good father, husband, and friend.''

Perhaps even better than fatherhood was grandfatherhood. Tommy had three grandkids—T.J., Jacob, and ''Baby'' Grace—and loved playing with them. ''He lived for those grandkids,'' Jane says. She remembers how it was not uncommon for Tommy to crawl down on the floor with them and watch cartoon after cartoon.

The most exciting holiday in the Bruner household was Christmas because Tommy outdid everyone on decorations. He was able to spend each Christmas at home. ''He had reindeer, he had lights, a snowman, a sled,'' Jane recalls. ''We've always had big Christmases.'' While serving in Afghanistan, Tommy even told Jane that he had gone to a bazaar there and done some Christmas shopping for her and the children.

Soon before his passing, Tommy and Jane built a new house together in Owensboro, and Tommy helped pick out the colors. The couple saved up their money until they could build a home of their dreams. Jane has planted a white dogwood tree now at the house in Tommy's memory.

In that house, Tommy turned the garage into what Jane calls his ''war room,'' where he put up pictures of battles from the Revolutionary War to Operation Enduring Freedom. It was his little getaway, and Jane has left it just as it was.

Tommy was a veteran soldier, having served on Active Duty from 1975 to 1979 and then joined the Army Reserves in 1981. He volunteered to serve in Afghanistan because he wanted to help train the younger soldiers and was deployed with Headquarters, 2nd Brigade, 100th Division, U.S. Army Reserve, based out of Owensboro, KY. ''He wanted to go, and I said, 'There's no way I'm going to stop you from doing what you want to do,' '' Jane says. ''He was just a soldier doing his job, and he loved it.''

Jane also recalls that Tommy said he loved it in Afghanistan. He thought the country was beautiful, and he was trying to learn the language. He told Jane the mission in Afghanistan was the highlight of his career.

Patrick Rowe, the training coordinator at the Owensboro Army Reserve Center, recalls Tommy's bond with his fellow soldiers. ''He knew his guys,'' Patrick said. ''You could ask him anything about anybody.''

At home, Tommy attended Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church and worked as manager at the Don Moore Auto Mall. They appreciated him there because he was ''so picky,'' Jane says. He paid attention to every detail. He had been planning to retire after his latest tour, but Jane thinks he still would have worked there to give himself something to do.

Tommy died of a heart attack while serving his country in Afghanistan. Jane knew something was wrong because Tommy called her every day, until one day he did not call.

Our thoughts are with his many loved ones after such a loss. We are thinking of his wife Jane; his stepsons, Tom and Brian Sanefur; his mother Martha; his grandmother Virginia; his grandchildren, T.J., Jacob, and Grace Sanefur; his brother Robert; and many other beloved friends and family members.

Jane received an insurance settlement after Tommy died. She decided she already had everything she wanted, so she gave the money to the grandchildren. ''It is what he would have wanted,'' Jane said.

I express my deepest sympathies to Jane Bruner and to all of her and Tommy's family. I would like them to know this Senate honors MSG Thomas L. Bruner's great devotion and his sacrifice, and we offer our deepest gratitude to him and his family for all they have given our Nation.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, leadership time is reserved.

The majority leader.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I wish to make my statement before morning business starts.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT LEGISLATION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, this weekend the Bush administration sent to Congress its plan to address our country's growing economic crisis. All my Democratic colleagues in the Senate understand the need to take action to steady our economy, and we are prepared to act swiftly and responsibly to pass legislation that puts interest in the security of the American people first. We know, for example, that last year 2½ million Americans secured mortgages, and nearly half of all college students secured loans so they could go to school. The consequences of a broken banking system, devoid of loans for homes, college tuition, automobiles, and business investment would be devastating. We are prepared to do what is necessary to avoid these unacceptable consequences, but we will not let haste abandon good judgment in the process.

The Bush administration has called on Congress to rubberstamp its bill without serious debate or efforts to improve it. We can't let that happen. The legislation sent to the Congress by the Treasury Department recognizes the scope of the crisis the Bush administration created, a view that we share with Secretary Paulson. The Bush administration's bill is a starting point but by no means the final product.

Democrats believe there should be protection for the taxpayers who are footing the bill for this legislation. That begins with more oversight, more transparency, more accountability, and more controls to prevent conflicts of interest. Democrats believe there should be limits on compensation for company executives who benefit from this legislation so the American people don't see their tax dollars spent on exorbitant corporate pay and even golden parachutes. The American people earn their pay through honest hard work and so should CEOs.

What is a golden parachute? It is a method of compensating executives when they leave their companies. It would be wrong for these employees—these managers who are leaving their companies—to get huge amounts of money for simply leaving. This legislation should prevent that.

We believe that in exchange for shouldering the enormous burden of the Bush plan, taxpayers should reap any future economic rewards. That is what happened when we bailed out the savings and loans. It should happen here. That means this plan should not permit taxpayer money to purchase an asset at an inflated price exclusively for the benefit of private shareholders.

Democrats believe this legislation affects not just the American economy but the global economy, and we will call upon other nations to do their part. But one of the provisions suggested in this bill is that we would spend money to bail out foreign banks. I think we have to be very careful with that.

We believe this legislation should provide aid for Americans at risk of losing their homes to foreclosure. As the law currently stands, the wealthiest Americans can seek mortgage assistance from a bankruptcy judge to help keep their second, their third, their fourth, their fifth, their sixth, even their seventh home, but working families can't seek mortgage relief from a bankruptcy judge for their first and only home—their primary residence. That makes no sense, and we should change it. Bankruptcy court should have the authority to reach mutually beneficial arrangements to allow families to keep their homes and prevent more foreclosures.

We believe it is not enough to fund a Wall Street bailout. We need an economic recovery plan to create jobs, provide better unemployment insurance, and invest in our country's infrastructure. Now, such a plan has to be voted upon before we adjourn, either as part of this legislation or separately. These steps will help catalyze long-term economic growth once the dust on Wall Street settles.

Democrats in Congress fully understand the severity of the situation and the need to pass legislation, but we are not willing to give President Bush a blank check. We are now seeing 8 years of reckless Bush economic policies come crashing down with unimaginable speed and severity. This crisis puts our economy and the well-being of the American people in serious jeopardy.

President Bush said on Friday we should assign blame later. What else is he going to say? Of course, he would say exactly that because he is the culprit of the crisis. What else would the culprit say?

The American people have a right to know what brought us to this grave economic danger. The answer is the President and a Republican Congress determined to repeal all reasonable oversight and accountability and ignore what they couldn't repeal and allow corporate greed and recklessness to saturate our economy. Democratic and Republican Presidents who served before President Bush all understood that demanding accountability from the financial sector is not somehow anticapitalist but the opposite: It maintains balance, protects taxpayers, and keeps our economy running smoothly.

The greed-fueled Bush-Cheney economy thought they knew better. They put cronies and idealogues in charge of our most critical regulatory agencies, people who disdain Government oversight of any kind and systematically put Wall Street ahead of Main Street. One example of this irresponsibility: The Bush administration refused to provide oversight of the mortgage industry to ensure the rules were followed. The result was massive fraud, predatory lending, and a practice of preying on American families with deceptive, dishonest loans.

Now, we all know the banking industry has been deregulated, and the few regulations left were not in force. But now we find an article written by Senator MCCAIN in one of the health journals saying he thinks the health care industry should be deregulated just like the bank industry. How about that. It is in writing. President ''Wannabe'' MCCAIN has written an article saying we should treat the health industry just like the banking industry. Now, that is enough said about how Senator MCCAIN is going the take care of the problems of this country economically.

This hands-off, business-first, Bush-Cheney economic philosophy infiltrated nearly all aspects of the economy—from mortgages to consumer safety to the airline industry—and the people of America are now left to suffer the consequences. This morning, Monday, the first day of autumn, President Bush released a statement preemptively criticizing Democrats for working to improve his plan. If the President is serious about reaching an effective, bipartisan solution to the economic crisis he and his people created, he should join us in solving the crisis he created.

We Democrats in the Senate are not going to drag our feet. We will respond with the urgency of action this situation demands. But after 8 years of a fiscal dereliction of duty, it is time for accountability. It has taken 8 years of this dereliction of duty. Should we resolve the issue in 1 day? I think not.

Democrats understand the two primary responsibilities of Government are to protect the physical and fiscal well-being of the people. Whatever the ultimate cost of this legislation, we always remember these funds don't come from some nameless Government account. Every dollar comes directly out of the pocket of every American taxpayer; every dollar that should have been saved for someone's secure retirement, every dollar that could have been invested in health care for the uninsured or education for students or to fund a small business startup. We Democrats understand the value of each and every dollar spent on this plan because we know each and every dollar comes from the American people. We will work unending hours in a bipartisan manner to ensure this legislation doesn't just get done but that we get it done right. s

ADVANCING AMERICA'S PRIORITIES ACT

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I have a unanimous consent to take up, if we have someone here on the other side. We have been working for this entire Congress, especially hard the last 6 months, to complete legislation that one Senator has held up—34 different bills dealing with very important issues: stroke victims, people who are paralyzed, postpartum depression.

We have situations dealing with very serious issues. In fact, the ''Oprah'' show has dealt with one issue that this one Senator has held up dealing with sexual predators, pornography. But one Senator has held up 34 different bills. Now, remember, these are authorizations. There isn't a single penny spent in any of these bills.

We have legislation being help up which deals with Emmett Till, giving some recognition to what has gone on in years past about people of color and how they were treated.

So I am going to take a few minutes to make a series of unanimous-consent requests to try to get some important bills passed. I will start with S. 3297, the Advancing America's Priorities Act. And then if Republicans block that, I am going to break it into various parts and seek unanimous consent to pass these.

The Senator from Oklahoma has said he has no problem with eight or so bills. We will see. It is hard for me to comprehend how, each day that goes by, these very important pieces of legislation are held up. We have tried to get these passed. I have filed cloture on two separate occasions, and it has been blocked by Republicans. This is regrettable obstructionism, but it has plagued this Congress. We have had approximately 95 filibusters used this Congress.

We all know the Senate was not built for speed. That is the way the Founding Fathers set this up. But what has happened is ridiculous. The Senate rules give rights to the minority, as they should, and even individual Senators. The Senate rules sometimes make things move slowly and don't allow the majority to run roughshod over the minority, and I agree with that. The rules promote bipartisanship. They promote a deliberative process and policies with broad support throughout the country.

At the same time, however, these rights come with some responsibilities. Traditionally, the rules of the Senate have not been abused by the minority or by individual Senators. When a policy has brought bipartisan support and the Senate committees have acted, individual Senators would not hold up important pieces of legislation in years past because, otherwise, one Senator is saying: I know best. That is what has happened here. I know better than the committee. I know better than the Congress, better than the Senate, better than the broad bipartisan majority. The Senate rules were meant to promote centrism, not egocentrism.

It used to be that if one Senator was trying to abuse the Senate rules, then his or her caucus would set them straight—they would vote for cloture, to end the filibuster of the one who was halting progress on broad bipartisan legislation. Unfortunately, we have a minority now that is not interested in keeping the trains running in America. In fact, they are interested primarily in obstructing the process on important legislation. There is no better example than what has happened on these bills.

Remember, these bills have passed the House of Representatives, they have been reported out of the committees of jurisdiction. We have seen an unprecedented number of filibusters by the Republicans. It is not a few more than previous Congresses. The Republicans have shattered the record for obstructionism. At each step of the legislative process, we have seen delay, obstruction, delay, obstruction. We have had to waste weeks and weeks of Senate floor time before we could vote on legislation which ends up passing by a huge margin.

We are told by the Secretary of the Treasury, we are told by the head of the Federal Reserve System that the No. 1 problem that caused the start of the financial meltdown was the housing crisis. Let's go back and look at that: Seven filibusters were initiated to pass the housing legislation that we ultimately passed. Seven filibusters. In that process, more than 100,000 people went into foreclosure.

We have seen delay, delay, delay. It is regrettable. It is an abuse of the process, and it is shameful. The height of the ridiculousness came on the cloture vote on the motion to proceed to S. 3297, these 47 bills, this package of legislation made up exclusively of bills with broad bipartisan support. These bills all passed the House with huge bipartisan votes—an average of about 380 votes in the House. Almost a third of the package has been introduced by Republican Senators. All the bills had bipartisan lists of cosponsors—every one of them. The bills had seen extensive legislative action. All had been marked up by the House committee, voted on by the House, marked up by the Senate committee, and reported to the floor. The vast majority had seen all three processes. Scores of amendments had been considered and disposed of during the legislative process.

In Congresses past, these bills would have passed with unanimous consent with minimal floor time or at least gotten the support of the minority to stop this abuse of process. But here, no. In fact, some version of the six bills had passed by unanimous consent in previous Congresses. Those six bills, plus scores of others, with over $1.3 trillion of new authorizations, passed under Republican rule last Congress with no offsets. How foolish it is to have offsets for authorizations—and that is just counting the bills that passed by unanimous consent or with the ''yes'' vote of Senator COBURN. But not this Congress. This Congress, the Republicans allowed each of these bills to be held up by the whimsy of one Senator of their caucus, and then, to show the height of how the Republican minority doesn't help, now I am being asked to wait until 6:30 or 7 o'clock today, until he shows up, holding up the entire Senate, holding up the passage of these bills. These bills are not just naming of courthouses. These are bills dealing with the Christopher Reeve paralysis bill, helping people who are paralyzed, stroke victims; setting up a registry for Lou Gehrig's disease.

What were the bills the Republican Congress allowed Senator COBURN to hold up? I will talk about each one at greater length later, perhaps, but here is a quick rundown of each of these bills: a bill to stop exploitation of children by Internet predators, which has been held up for months and months; bills to promote research and education about strokes, paralysis—including helping paralyzed veterans. We have seen it on their license plates—''paralyzed veterans.'' That is what they have in Nevada. I don't know if they have it other places. Paralysed veterans—held up; Lou Gehrig's disease; postpartum depression; a bill to promote Internet broadband access throughout the country; bills to improve research into knowledge about oceans; a bill to improve the health and safety of America's beaches; a bill to improve treatment options for mentally ill criminals; a bill to help keep America's kids off the streets and extend a helping hand to children who have already run away from home; a bill to reauthorize an agency that operates at a net profit to the U.S. Government, that has helped promote U.S. exports for years; bills to promote important U.S. foreign policy and diplomacy programs.

Each of these bills has broad bipartisan support and has seen extensive legislative action. Yet Republicans are allowing one person to hold up these bills. They vote with him. They vote with him. They are just as responsible as he is because they let him get away with it.

One of the worst things about this obstructionism is that it was based on false and disingenuous arguments. The primary argument made by Senator COBURN was the package of bills would spend over $10 billion; it costs too much. There is not one penny spent. To show how absolutely foolish this is, he wrote me a letter and said what he would like me to do is for me to pick $10 billion out of this, delete it from the bill, and then offer an amendment to put it back in—that I would do that. The argument that it would cost $10 billion is simply false. It is not true. It is erroneous. The package of bills included only authorizations. There was not a dime of appropriations to the package.

Everyone in the institution knows an authorizing bill does not spend a

penny. Just to hammer the point home, we had the independent CBO confirm that the package did not result in any new spending—which didn't take a Ph.D. at CBO to figure that out. Authorizations allow programs to be created and funded. When we pass an authorizing bill, we hope the authorized level will be looked at it in appropriations committee—as I did as a longtime member. But we realize there are competing priorities, and full funding doesn't come very often.

There is an entirely separate process that determines actual spending levels; that is, the budget and appropriations process. The budget and appropriations process determines total spending and sifts through competing priorities to determine how much money each program should get.

Further, even when a new program is funded, that money does not just appear out of thin air. The appropriators make tough choices. Sometimes they will cut one program to the bone to accommodate a new program. Other times they will take a little bit here or there to accomplish what they want. But in all cases the spending decisions are made through budget and appropriations, not through the authorizing process.

Unfortunately, pesky little things like facts and the truth have not been much of an obstacle to obstructionism this year, especially on these 34 bills. It is an old playbook. If you repeat a lie enough, then gullible people, I guess, believe it. But facts are facts and truth is truth. The main argument against this package is false.

I am going to try again. Due to Republican obstructionism, we simply do not have time to spend a full week of Senate floor time on these bills. I filed cloture on a motion to proceed once before. The Republicans voted against it, so we would have to do that. It takes 2 years—2 days, I am sorry; it seems like 2 years—2 days to get to that first vote, and then there is 30 hours, and then on the bill I have to file cloture again; 2 more days, 30 more hours. That has happened almost 95 times this year, but on these bills, that is what they did. We do not have time to do that. If we have a lameduck session, perhaps so.

UNANIMOUS-CONSENT REQUEST—S. 3297

I am going to seek unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to Calendar No. 894, all 34 bills, that the bill be read three times, passed, the motion to reconsider be laid on the table.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection?

The Senator from Arizona.

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, and I will object on behalf of Senator COBURN, the majority leader is correct, he will be here a little later this afternoon and will speak to each of these issues. In the meantime, he has asked that I respond to the majority leader's unanimous-consent request. The only other thing I would say is that his primary objection, as the majority leader is aware, is that there have been 35 bills combined into one. Instead of having different votes on different bills, you get one vote on 35 bills, and Senator COBURN has already indicated his willingness to allow votes on several of these bills: the Drug Endangered Children Act; child pornography prosecutions—Enhancing the Effective Prosecution of Child Pornography Act; the Appalachian Regional Development Act Amendments of 2008; the Prenatally and Postnatally Diagnosed Conditions Awareness Act; the Christopher and Dana Reeve paralysis bill that the majority leader mentioned; the Vision Care for Kids Act; the Preservation of Records of Servitude, Emancipation, and Post-Civil War Reconstruction Act; and with some changes the ALS Registry Act; the Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crime Act; and the PROTECT Our Children Act.

As I said, the majority leader is aware of Senator COBURN's objections to considering these bills as one, and therefore I would be required to object.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection is heard.

The majority leader is recognized.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I say to my friend, with all the many days, weeks, and months they have been held up, you cannot blame Senator COBURN alone because there has been the complicity of these people on this side of the aisle allowing him to do this. It is shameful. There is no other way to say it. Everyone knows this doesn't cost a single penny. To say they are objecting because we lump them together—did they want us to file cloture on every one of these 34 bills? Every one of them? Remember what it takes; I have gone over it: 2 days to get to cloture, 30 hours after that, get on the bill, 2 more days, 30 more hours—it is outrageous what has happened to this country with this Republican status quo. And look what the status quo has gotten us. We are now in a financial meltdown.

The objection is unfortunate. These are broadly bipartisan bills, these are good bills, these are important bills, but we are not going to let obstruction go that easy. I am going to enter a series of unanimous-consent requests here to try to move pieces of this package.

I repeat, the outrageousness of all of this—do you think I might have something else to do tonight at 7 o'clock while we are waiting for him to jet in from Oklahoma or wherever he comes from? Do you think other people have other things to do than to meet his schedule, so he can be here to do a few things?

The first unanimous-consent request is the entire health care portion of this package. This portion consists of very important bills covering a range of diseases and conditions. I venture to say that every American, every family in America is touched by some portion of the health care provisions of this package.

I see in this body the Senator from Maryland. With her help—we were new in this body. I had three women come to visit me in Nevada. They were all very sick. They had a disease called interstitial cystitis. I had never heard the words in my life. Those women did not want to see me. They were sick. More than 90 percent of the people who get this disease are women. Because we are a male-dominated legislature—not as much as we used to be—she was here alone, the only woman. I said we have to do something about this because people say this was a psychosomatic disease. Fortunately, one of the women who got this disease was an orthopedic surgeon. She said: It is not psychosomatic. It is like slivers of glass being shoved up and down in my bladder. It is not psychosomatic.

I got the Senator from Maryland to help me. First of all, we established a registry for this disease. Now 40 percent of the people who get this disease are symptom free. There is a medicine that has come about that helps these people.

In addition to that, because of the advocacy of the Senator from Maryland, the National Institutes of Health now have a protocol, so that everything that is done to study disease, women have to be included. She knows they studied 10,000 people to find out what effect aspirin would have on heart disease. We looked at the study and not a single woman was tested. They were all men. We have been a male-dominated legislature, so we ignored them. But because of Senator MIKULSKI, we have not done that.

What we are trying to do with this registry is the same thing, with interstitial cystitis; that is, start having someplace where a doctor in Las Vegas or a doctor in Baltimore or a doctor in Chicago or in Phoenix can send to a place: Here is what happened with ALS. We were able to diagnose it; she got it; he got it; here is how long they lived; here are the symptoms—put something together so the great minds of America can work to deal with this disease. It doesn't cost any money. But Dr. COBURN has held it up, and he is going to continue to hold it up. He said this is one he will not agree to.

As I mentioned, every one of these deals with some problem that people within the sound of my voice—either their families, friends, or neighbors have a situation that encompasses this. The Christopher and Dana Reeve Paralysis Act has been held up for 2 years by this guy—2 years. I mentioned that also includes paralyzed veterans and the STOP Stroke Act. We have the Melanie Blocker Stokes MOTHERS Act—that is postpartum depression. Postpartum depression is serious. People are hospitalized as a result of that.

We need do some work on it. Dr. COBURN said this would not accomplish a thing, doctors know what to do now. All it would do is create a lot of bureaucracy. We do not need to worry about these people. Doctors know what to do.

Vision care for kids, and the Prenatally and Postnatally Diagnosed Conditions Awareness Act. Three of the six bills on here, on the health care title package, were introduced by Republicans. All of these bills passed the House with strong bipartisan support and have strong bipartisan support in the Senate. But they will not let us go forward, the Republicans, even though there are an equal number of bills basically on both sides of the aisle. The Republicans are supporting Dr. COBURN in helping us get nothing done.

UNANIMOUS-CONSENT REQUEST—TITLE I OF S. 3297

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I have a bill at the desk which is word for word identical to title I of our bill, which is the health care provisions. I ask unanimous-consent the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of the bills at the desk, which consists of title I of S. 3297, the health care title of that bill, the bill be read three times and the motion to reconsider be laid on the table.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection?

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, and I will object on behalf of Senator COBURN, I would note two things: First, that we do not have to wait until 7 o'clock tonight. I came over to the Chamber so the majority leader could posit his unanimous-consent requests and there would be somebody here to speak on behalf of my colleague Senator COBURN. That is why I am here.

Secondly, as I said, some of these bills, there are eight of them, that Senator COBURN has said, let's pass them right now. We do not have to go through the whole rigmarole of filing cloture and 30 hours of debate and all of the things the majority leader talked about.

One or two of those are on the list he spoke about. There are eight in total here. So I would note that it boils down to ''take it or leave it,'' either all 35 or none, whereas Senator COBURN's view is that some of these bills could be passed without the necessity of filing cloture; let's just do it. But he and the majority leader have not been able to agree on which ones they are. Therefore, the objection must be made.

Mr. REID. I say to my friend, through the Chair, then are you saying that if I offer unanimous-consent on the Stop Stroke Act, the Mothers Act, ALS Registry, Downs Syndrome Support, Christopher Reeves, do these individually, that you will allow those to pass?

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, it is my understanding that there are eight bills on the list Senator COBURN has developed that do not need modification. There are three, at least, one of which was mentioned, the ALS Registry, that he believe need changes. I assume he and the majority leader have discussed that.

Mr. REID. So you say there are eight we can pass right now?

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, I think it is important, since I am speaking on behalf of another Senator, that staffs make sure what I have said is accurate. But my understanding is there are eight bills Senator COBURN has no objection to proceeding with. Obviously, he and the majority leader, you and he have been discussing how to put these together and get them done, but there may be changes necessary in the ALS Registry and Emmett Till Unresolved Civil Rights Crime Act, and the Protect Our Children.

Mr. REID. So what I say, if there are eight of them that we can pass, let's do it right now.

Mr. KYL. Well, I am speaking on behalf of someone else. I want to make sure what I have represented here is accurate. I am perfectly willing at this time to get the two staffs together to see if that can be done.

Mr. REID. I say respectfully, our staffs have spent, with his staff, unending hours. And I will be anxious to see, whenever he shows up, because it is always, when you get right down to it, you cannot do it. If there are eight we can do right now, let's do them right now; do them one at a time.

I will ask unanimous-consent. We will do them right now. The ones we cannot do, we will wait until next year when we get a new Congress and a new President. And the people who are sick and need this help will have to wait until we have a Congress that is willing to pass those.

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, in further clarifying with staff, we know there are some that could be cleared right now, at least three. There are others where someone else has posed an objection, and I do not know who that might be, or which side it is on.

But our staff indicates if the two staffs can get together, they think at least on some of these it can be resolved very quickly.

Mr. REID. We have gone in the last minutes—this is what I have dealt with—from eight to three. I will take the three. What are the three?

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, with all due respect, that is not fair to what I said. I am not in the middle of this. There are staff on both sides who have been working on these. My understanding is that Senator COBURN is not the sole objector with respect to some. There are three where he was the sole objector. He is willing to let them go.

I cannot speak to anyone else, to whatever objections might exist. But staff informs me they believe if we were to sit down and have the two staffs of the majority and minority work together, that perhaps up to eight of these bills could be cleared today.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I say with all due respect to my friend, the junior Senator from Arizona, he is in the middle of this. Every Republican Senator is in the middle of this, because we could not move forward on these bills previously. So you cannot—because someone is objecting, it does not mean that is grounds for your not being a part of it. People on the Republican side of the aisle voted overwhelmingly not to move forward. So I tell you what, Mr. President. I will be happy to take the suggestion of my friend from Arizona. In the next hour or so we will sit down, my staff—I do not know about Senator COBURN's staff, maybe they are in Oklahoma also. But we will be happy to sit down and work to get some of these bills passed, so I will return at a later time.

Mr. KYL. Would the majority leader indulge me one moment here? My staff has indicated there are four ready to go right now. I will read the title and then your staff will have those. One is the Prenatal Conditions Bill; another is the Child Pornography bill, that is S. 4136; another relates to Child Pornography, S. 4120; and then there is a House message accompanying S. 496. Apparently all four of those are ready to go. That is the Appalachian Development bill.

Mr. REID. We will take the first three. Let me think about this for a moment. Are these all Republican bills?

We will do them all, except for the Appalachian whatever it is.

Mr. KYL. If the majority leader wishes, I will ask unanimous-consent——

Mr. REID. And the language has not been changed in any way?

Mr. KYL. Let me combine the three then to make it simpler.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous-consent, since these are different committees——

Mr. REID. If I can interrupt my friend, there are a couple different versions of the bills floating around. On these three, which I am very happy to get done, we will make sure that the minority and majority staff agree it is the right piece of legislation so we do not make another mistake.

Mr. KYL. What we will do is have your staff confirm that this is, in fact, the version, and then either you or I or someone else can ask unanimous-consent to clear these three bills?

Mr. REID. We will wait for Senator COBURN's arrival.

Mr. KYL. That is certainly fine.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, you can now announce morning business.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will now be a period for the transaction of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The Senator from Maryland is recognized.

ECONOMIC BAILOUT

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I want to speak about this bailout we have been asked to do. Starting last week, we were told by the powers that be in the Bush administration we needed to do a $700 billion bailout to stabilize our economy.

When we heard that, Americans became scared. People who save for their retirement, those who have been faithful in paying their mortgage, those who have worked hard to pay for college, are wondering what is going on. People who have worked hard and played by the rules are wondering, are they being asked to bail out those who did not? Americans are mad as hell and they want to know what about them. They watched Wall Street executives pay themselves lavish salaries. They watched them do irresponsible lending practices. They watched them do casino gambling on risky investment mechanisms. And now those very same Americans who worked hard and played by the rules, were prudent investors, prudent savers, prudent citizens, are asked to pay the bill for those who did not.

Now, it is for those people that I know the Government must do something. We must protect our economy and we must protect our way of life and we must protect our middle class. Sure, the economy is in a crisis. And, yes, we do have a credit crisis. Wall Street did make very bad decisions. But now they are asking Main Street to pay the bill. We must act to restore our confidence in our economy. I agree, we must act promptly. But this Senator will not be stampeded into voting for this Bush administration bill.

So far during the last 7 years, every time there is a crisis, they generate fear and they generate bad ideas. Do you remember after the horrific days of 9/11 when we all came to the floor and pledged our patriotism? I said, we needed to put politics aside because we needed to be the red, white, and blue party. Well, they took advantage of that. And in that process we passed something like the PATRIOT Act, allowing our Government to act with undue secrecy with no parameters. We created the dysfunctional Department of Homeland Security.

Now we are being asked to deal with the fiscal crisis and the financial crisis. I am concerned we are going to create a fiscal FEMA. We must act with resolve, but we cannot be a rubberstamp for the administration's proposal. This proposal gives sweeping authority to those who were asleep at the switch in the first place.

Remember the Fed? Remember the maestro at the Fed who plunged down interest rates, and now helped create the housing bubble? Then there is the Treasury. There is the Secretary of the Treasury. A couple of months ago he said, no problem—like our President ''fundamentally sound.''

Then a couple of months later they said, oh, there is a problem. And we have lurched from one bailout to another: Bear Stearns, the insurance company, oh, no, not to Lehman, then after that failed, so we have gone from ''no problem'' to lurching around, to now $700 billion and a blank check.

We have seen those George Bush plans before. Now this one is a three-page bill. It gives the Secretary of the Treasury unlimited power to intervene in our financial markets without any review by Congress, agencies, or courts. They make the Secretary of the Treasury a financial czar, a financial potentate, because it says: Give us a blank check with no balances.

Well, I say: No checks without balances. Even the President of the United States of America has to come to us to declare war. I believe the Secretary of the Treasury should be accountable to the Congress and to whether mechanisms—if he is going to intervene with $700 billion in his pocket. I say no regulations without any safeguards. No way. No blank check. There must be regulations. There best be safeguards. If they do not want regulation, no way. If they do not want safeguards, no way.

We are in uncharted waters, so we need to ask tough questions. First, how do we know it will work? What guarantees are there it will work? Could this bankrupt our Treasury because it has no parameters? Could it cause runaway inflation, further eroding our economy? What are the safeguards?

Also, who is going to benefit? Is it going to be the same Wall Street go-go guy, the same Wall Street casino types who are going to benefit now? Whatever we do, we have to insist that those who created this scandal do not benefit from the bailout: no golden parachutes.

Let them feel the hard landing that my constituents faced when they were laid off at Bethlehem Steel. Let them feel the hard landing of what it is like to have your mortgage foreclosed upon. Let them feel the hard landing my constituents are facing right now. We do not need to subsidize bad behavior.

Now George Bush said he was the first MBA President. Well, hello, I do not have confidence in this administration. Remember, this was the same crowd that brought us Katrina, FEMA, and ''hey, you are doing a good job, Brownie.''

Well, is this what we are now supposed to say to those who are managing our finances? I don't think so.

We also have to prudently ask ourselves, are there better alternatives? Let me be clear: I do believe we need to act promptly but with safeguards. We need to act with resolve, but we need to have regulation and even retribution. If we have stabilization, which I believe we must do, we must also have reform. We are all looking at the administration's plan, but I want everyone to know where I stand. At a minimum, the plan must, first, be limited and temporary. It cannot be open-ended. There also must be a plan for those who have had those hard landings on Main Street. We need to put people first, to keep people in their homes, those who have had some of the most significant mortgage payment challenges, no golden parachutes that reward top executives for their excesses, their recklessness, and their sheer stupidity and greed, no blank checks. There must be accountability and oversight. Rescue does require reform, regulation, and a strong possibility of retribution. It must be transparent. I am for prompt action, but I will not be stampeded the way I have been stampeded in this institution by this administration in the past.

We need to make sure we do it right. That means not handing over a blank check or getting rid of the balances. We have to ask tough questions and be sure we have the right principles. If not, then the taxpayers will be on the hook. If we make the wrong decisions, taxpayers will be on the hook not only for Wall Street's bad decisions, but I don't want to set this up for Government's bad decisions. We need to get Government back on the side of the people who need it. We need to put the public good over private profits. This means we need to take a look at a 21st century regulatory system. I am tired of seeing this laxity where what emerges when we deregulate is the emergence of sharks and whales. Either way, the minnows get swallowed up. We don't want our economy to sink, and I think it is time to swim. But when we do, we need to make sure we are asking the right questions. We need to fight for the middle class. We need to fight for the people who go by the rules. We need to have a legislative framework that rewards those who did their very best and might be having a temporary spill.

I look forward to hearing more about this plan, but right now I need to know more. I need to be reassured more, and I need to be absolutely sure that those who created the crisis don't benefit from it and we don't leave the middle class with all of the responsibility.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CARDIN). The Senator from Virginia.

Mr. WEBB. Mr. President, I begin by complimenting the senior Senator from Maryland on her statement. I know many of us on this side of the aisle are going to be asking a lot of the same questions. We have the same sense of urgency about helping the country while at the same time we protect the people who have had no voice and no power, as this proposal was put together. I was with our colleagues on this side of the aisle during the conference call on Friday when this situation was explained. I have a number of the same types of questions as those raised by the senior Senator from Maryland. This is why I rise today.

This is a very complicated issue, and we are being asked to resolve it on a tight time-line. The American people want some reassurance. They do want us to represent them and do something about the systemic flaws that allowed

this debacle to occur, not simply to vote on a mechanical fix, but to address the issues and policies that allowed this massive financial crisis to emerge.

Americans are also interested, as the senior Senator from Maryland pointed out, in preventing those who benefitted and contributed to the problem, from unjustly enriching themselves.

We are seeing in this proposal the possibility of a huge transfer of power to the executive branch—not simply to the executive branch, to one official in the executive branch—with very few strings attached. This individual, whose career I respect, spent that career in the markets. Now, we are going to empower this individual and the Department of the Treasury to get directly involved in the stock market in a discretionary way that has very little precedent in our history. At the same time, there are potential conflicts of interest that are unavoidable and will need to be examined.

However we sort out this problem over the next several days or longer, there are a couple of areas where I believe that without the right type of guarantees, it will be very difficult for me personally to vote in favor of the proposal that came from the administration.

First, we must put regulation and accountability back into the system. It is inarguable that the regulatory structure now in place has not protected either our financial system or the American taxpayer. The administration is asking for unprecedented rescue, and that rescue cannot come without fixing the system.

Second and equally important, there should be guarantees in any legislation that address the issue of executive compensation. I have been speaking about this issue for many years. I mentioned this in every single meeting I had when I was campaigning for the Senate. It is not inaccurate to say that executive compensation in American business today is wildly out of sync with our history, and with other countries in the world. When I graduated from college, the average corporate CEO made 20 times what the average worker made. Today the average CEO makes 400 times what the average worker makes. This is not a global phenomenon; this is an American phenomenon. If you go to Japan, whose economic system works quite well in terms of the health of its economy and its balance of trade, the average corporate CEO makes 10 times what the average worker makes. Again, ours make 400 times. If you look at Germany, which has one of the highest balances of trade in the world, totaling $280 billion last year, the average corporate CEO makes 11 times what the average worker makes. Yet presently, our corporate CEOs make 400 times.

The principles should be clear. If, in solving the problem, we are going to take tax money from Americans, many of whom do not own stock, then the executives involved should get a Federal salary. This issue was raised with Mr. Paulson over the weekend.

I have an article that came from today's Financial Times, in which he said the Treasury Department fears that if we reduced executive compensation, it would ''undermine banks' willingness to take part'' in the program because it would be punitive in nature. I must say, I have a hard time figuring that out. We were told on Friday that we are in a crisis that, and that if we do not resolve it within the next week or so, it is going to undermine the entire banking system around the world, the entire global financial system. Yet we are told that if we ask these corporate CEOs to take a salary in line with what Federal officials receive, they won't participate. What are they saying? We have a crisis that is going to affect us all; we are all going to have to take some sort of a hit. It is certainly punitive to the American taxpayers, who did not participate in these decisions, and who did not receive any of the profits. How is it punitive to an individual to say: All right, if we are bailing you out, you reduce your pay. We are giving you Federal tax dollars. You take Federal pay until this is solved. You make the American taxpayer whole. We will make you whole. If you increase the profitability, as you say you will be able to do, then you can increase your compensation commensurately.

The legislation we are considering must have a provision in it that creates fairness for the people who are going to foot the bill. We are sent here, those of us who believe in the traditional precepts of the Democratic Party, to make sure that the health of society is measured not at the top, not at the apex, but at the base, by the well-being of the people who are doing the hard work of our society. It is our mission, it is our duty, to look after their needs.

If we can't get to the bottom of this by the end of this week, as some seem to be worrying about, maybe we need to take another week. Maybe we need to stay with this until we can get it done. When you are betting $700 billion to a trillion dollars, we need to figure out a formula we are all comfortable with.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The assistant majority leader.

Mr. DURBIN. I thank the Senator from Virginia for his comments. I know when he spoke in response to the State of the Union a little over a year ago, he raised the issue of executive compensation. If I am not mistaken, he made the point that the average worker, in the course of a year's work, made what the average executive makes in a day. Maybe it was even more of a contrast. But it is a clear indication of how things have gotten completely out of line. I ask the Senator from Virginia if he could recount what that comparison was between pay for CEOs and the pay for workers?

Mr. WEBB. The Senator from Illinois is correct. I mentioned earlier that executive compensation in our country is wildly out of control, in terms of our own history and in terms of what is going on in the rest of the world. I do not believe it is punitive or unreasonable to ask for a fair measure when tax dollars are being used to help bail these companies out. When the Senator from Illinois and I were finishing college, the average corporate CEO made 20 times what the average worker makes. Today it is 400 times. If we take that multiple and apply it to what I was saying in response to the State of the Union address a year and a half ago, in one year the average worker in this country makes what his boss makes in one day. There is plenty of room to be fair to the system and fair to the individuals who are asking for the bailout, but ultimately we must be fair to the taxpayers who are asked to dig down in their pockets and help us straighten out this problem.

Mr. DURBIN. I have been in on these meetings, and some were historic and ominous. Secretary Paulson, Chairman Bernanke of the Federal Reserve, and Chairman Cox of the SEC came to us last Thursday night to discuss what we faced. They were using words such as ''meltdown'' and ''collapse,'' talking about the very severe economic crisis which we are facing. Certainly, the events of the last few weeks and months back up the concern.

When we raised the question of executive compensation, though, the push back from the administration was: Listen, don't mess with the salaries of these CEOs, even if their banks are failing because they may not do business with the Government. They may not let the taxpayers bail them out if we restrict their annual bonuses and restrict their golden parachutes.

I struggle with this concept, I say to the Senator from Virginia. Is the administration suggesting they would rather see their banks fail, would rather see their hedge funds fail, their mortgage operations fail than not receive their annual bonus? Is that the argument that is being made to us?

I do not know if the Senator from Virginia can recall any other aspects of public or private life where we pay such rich rewards for incompetency. Where the businesses fail, it seems these executives take away the most money. In the Financial Times or in the Wall Street Journal this morning—one of these publications—they talked about Barclays riding to the rescue of part of Lehman Brothers. They said, incidentally, just before Lehman Brothers went belly up, they brought in $2.5 billion for executive compensation and bonuses, momentarily before they were about to go out of business. That is unconscionable.

Now we are asking the taxpayers to come in with hard-earned tax dollars to rescue these companies and subsidize the compensation of executives so they do not have any interruption in their

annual bonuses or any interruption in their parachutes and rewards? There has been an interruption in the lives of most taxpayers.

I say to the Senator from Virginia, is there a parallel here of a similar example that I am missing?

Mr. WEBB. I say to the Senator from Illinois, I also heard Secretary Paulson say something similar in the conference call in which we were participating on Friday, and I find his comments very puzzling—I am not violating confidentiality because Secretary Paulson said it at least three times over the weekend on different television shows. When he was asked, on the one hand, whether this is a crisis that threatens to undermine all of the financial markets within a few days, and on the other, if it would be punitive to ask the executives to take a pay hit. And, in fact, Secretary Paulson indicated that some of these banks might not participate if they are asked to do that.

I would suggest there are plenty of competent officials who may have lost their jobs over the past few weeks who could step in if these particular individuals do not think this is a good formula. What I was saying in concept is, if you take in a Federal dollar to bail yourself out, you ought to get a Federal salary until the taxpayer is made whole.

If you show managerial skills to pull us out of this, such that the assets you are requiring us to purchase improve in value, then, you could get some commensurate compensation because this is compensation for actual performance.

Mr. DURBIN. So you are saying pay for performance, in other words, instead of pay for title or pay for past performance. That is a radical concept, but most workers in America would be able to identify with that. That is kind of what they face when they go to work.

Mr. WEBB. I would say to the Senator from Illinois, very quickly, when we use the word ''punitive,'' we should keep in mind that there are many people in this country who are teaching school or out driving a truck who are going to have to pay more taxes for this, but who have not had the benefit, in many cases, of even owning stock. They are going to have to pay a penalty for the malfeasance that has brought us to this situation.

If the administration and Secretary Paulson and others truly want to solve this problem—and I think they do—then they ought to be able to yield on this point simply because of the logic of it.

Mr. DURBIN. I might say to the Senator from Virginia, the $700 billion represents roughly about $2,000 of indebtedness for every man, woman, and child in America to make up for the mistakes of these banks.

There is another thing that troubles me. There is great potential for conflicts of interest because decisions have to be made by the Secretary of the Treasury under his proposal about where the Federal taxpayers will step in with their money and buy illiquid assets; in other words, buy the mistakes, the mortgage securities, for example. Those decisions will have a direct impact on the survival of institutions and on the jobs of the people who are affected by those.

We want to make sure there is no conflict of interest, that the decisions are made by those who have no skin in the game, no investment in the decision, and it has to be at least subject to some review. There is no one in this country, thank goodness, above the law, and yet in the proposal given to us by the Treasury Department, there is no judicial or administrative review of decisions being made about where the $700 billion is going to be invested. We are being asked—in a hurry—to get this done in a hurry, to give more authority to this administration, specifically to this Secretary of the Treasury, a man whom I respect, but to give more authority to him than anyone has ever had in the history of the United States, and to say that his actions are not subject to review by any court, any administrative body, when there is such a great potential for conflict of interest. That concerns me.

Mr. WEBB. I say to the Senator from Illinois, first, I wholly agree with you on that point. I mentioned in my comments a little while ago about the potential for conflict of interest. This is the continuation of a trend that disturbs me greatly, that is the movement of power toward the executive branch.

I was a committee counsel in the U.S. Congress 30 years ago. If you examine the balance between the executive branch and the legislative branch over those 30 years, it has steadily, particularly since 9/11, moved toward the executive branch. This is another example of that movement.

I would make one other point. I and a number of other people, Senator BAYH among them, have been very worried about sovereign wealth funds. I have talked about them and have been able to participate in some hearings on other committees about a foreign government directly investing in our economy. One of the points I made several times is that the U.S. Government has never directly invested in a discretionary manner in our markets.

So we are seeing two different trends that are disturbing and that we should be thinking about. One is, if we do transfer this amount of authority to the Secretary of Treasury, the Federal Government, on a discretionary basis—one individual, on a discretionary basis—is going to invest in parts of the economy. All this in their own discretion, decided without review, as the Senator from Illinois mentioned. That is a kind of a sovereign wealth fund in our own country, but with the bad assets.

The second trend we are now seeing is the movement, particularly from the Government of China over the last 10 days, of massive investments from a country that on one level is potentially a great strategic adversary, and certainly an economic competitor, directly into our economy. There is a 49-percent purchase proposal for Morgan Stanley from the sovereign wealth fund of the Chinese Government.

So there are many pieces in motion. We have the gravest duty to sort them out. I congratulate the Senator from Illinois for his comments.

Mr. DURBIN. I thank the Senator from Virginia.

There are so many questions that have been raised by this proposal from the administration. I have to say at the outset, for those of us who have been here a number of years, this has an eerie resemblance to something I have seen before. It was on the floor of this Senate 6 years ago when we were told by this administration in October, before an election, that we had to give to the President of the United States the authority to invade Iraq. Oh, he did not say he was going to do it. He just needed the authority to invade Iraq because of weapons of mass destruction.

Of course, the pressure was building on Members of Congress: Do something. Saddam Hussein may have nuclear weapons. Condoleezza Rice talked about mushroom-shaped clouds. It was in that environment and atmosphere that the President said: Give me the authority; I will make the decision about whether we should invade Iraq.

The pressure was on. Some of us were up for reelection at the time. I can recall going to editorial boards in Chicago, and I can tell you, I lost their endorsements because I said there is something that concerns me about this. We are delegating so much power to this President. It is far easier to get in a war than it is to get out of one.

Here we are 6 years later. We are still in it. Mr. President, 4,183-plus American lives have been given in this conflict, 20,000, 30,000 have returned with serious wounds and injuries—amputations, paralysis, traumatic brain injury. I cannot tell you how much money we have spent there. It is almost as much as the President is asking now for the banks, maybe more.

We are being told again, as we approach another election: Give the authority to the administration, to the President, and step aside; in their wisdom, they will handle it. I worry about that. As I said, I respect Henry Paulson. I really do. I do not think he is a politician at heart. I think he is a patriot, a citizen who wants to do the best for his country. But his actions have to be put in a constitutional context. We have the balance of powers in this country because that is what America is. It is not because of what this current crop of politicians dreamed up. It is what the Founding Fathers said we are all about. We do not want to give too much power to any branch of Government. We want other branches to be involved.

A proposal is coming from this administration now, a few weeks before the election, with ominous clouds gathering over the financial institutions of America, and we are being told: Trust us. Trust us to give to the Secretary of the Treasury the authority to take $700 billion and to buy assets in banks without the review of any court or any administrative body.

I do not see in here the protections against conflict of interest. Why should I worry about conflicts of interest? Have we had any conflicts of interest with the war in Iraq? Let me think for a moment. Does the word ''Halliburton'' spring to mind, these no-bid contracts for billions of dollars that shortchanged our troops and our taxpayers? Excuse me if I am cynical and skeptical, but I have seen this movie, and I don't like the ending. The taxpayers pay too much money. The troops do not get protection. Halliburton gets billions of dollars in contracts.

So should I be concerned that there is going to be one person in the administration or a handful allocating $700 billion without anybody looking over their shoulder? Yes, I am concerned.

Then there is a question about the banks we are going to help. This started out about the American economy and American financial institutions, and now it has become something larger. At the last minute, the Treasury Department said: Oh, we are going to help foreign banks too. Really? Foreign banks? I want to know more about that. I want to know how much we are going to get into this in terms of these foreign banks. A lot of these questions have to be asked and answered before any of us in good conscience can vote for this.

But that is the reality of what we face. Just in case people are keeping score, things have changed in the United States of America in the last several weeks. Some of it was lost on the business pages, and some of it most people did not focus on. But I have tried to study it a little more closely with this $700 billion request.

To put this into perspective, the debt of the U.S. Government is $5.4 trillion. In the combined history of the United States of America, all of the money we have had to borrow to keep this Government moving over and above what we raised in taxes comes to $5.4 trillion. That debt, incidentally, has gone up dramatically, a record-breaking pace under the Bush administration. We are now facing, this year, a $480 billion deficit—I am sorry, I think it is $407 billion, but it will be $480 billion next year, a record-breaking deficit.

So to put that in perspective, this is our mortgage, America, $5.4 trillion and growing. It is a mortgage we will pay as long as we are alive, and so will our kids and so will their kids. That is the starting point. What has happened recently?

Almost 2 weeks ago, the decision was made that we would assume liability—the Federal Government would assume the liability, a second mortgage, if you will—for Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. Now, this is a government-sponsored entity which basically guarantees 50 percent of all the mortgages in America. So now our second mortgage is, we are stepping in—not the shareholders of the companies, the taxpayers are stepping in to guarantee the solvency of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. There was not much else we could do, I will be honest with you. We reached a terrible point where there were not many alternatives.

How much liability is involved in Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac? Well, it will be easy to remember. It is exactly the same liability as America's national debt: $5.4 trillion. The second mortgage on America is the same as the first mortgage. Now, don't get me wrong. Behind Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac is a lot of property—homes, businesses, real estate. So it isn't as if there isn't collateral involved, but we are on the hook for $5.4 trillion. That is not the end of the story. The story goes on.

We decided that people who have mutual funds—my family has done that too—and have taken cash and put it into money market mutual funds—everybody knows what I am talking about; it is not the CD at the bank at the corner where Uncle Sam stands and says: We are going to protect you via the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, but it is the money market mutual fund where you move money out of your stocks, out of your mutual funds, put it into your money market mutual funds because it makes a little bit better than what they are paying at the bank. It turns out they are in trouble. They are in such trouble now that we are going to have to step in for the mutual funds and provide a money market guarantee on the mutual funds. OK, we have our national debt and we have our secondary mortgage—Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac—$5.4 trillion more, and now we are stepping in to guarantee money market mutual funds. How much could that be? Well, it is much smaller than the other two. It is $3.4 trillion. Stay tuned, sharpen your pencil, there is more to follow because we are being asked now to come up with $700 billion to buy illiquid assets. What is that? Something nobody wants to buy. We are going to buy them.

Do we have to do this and try to stop the seizure of the credit institutions of America? We may have no choice, but I think it is reasonable to ask a few questions. Just as we should have asked more questions about weapons of mass destruction 6 years ago before we found ourselves in this war, we need to ask questions today about where this is leading, and we need some protection for the taxpayers of this country.

I walked down LaSalle Street on Friday. It is a great street in Chicago, lined with banks and big office buildings. A lot of people came and said hi, but a lot of them came to me and said: Are you going to do this, $700 billion for bailing out these banks? I said: I don't know. At the end of the day, I don't know. I want to see what the administration comes back with. Right now we have a concept. I want to see a proposal.

I thought to myself as I walked along there and had a little press conference with a bunch of folks who walked by on the sidewalk listening: These are the folks who are going to pay for this idea. These are the taxpayers who are going to have to come up with the money for this—for all of this. None of these taxpayers got a notice about the annual bonus checks at these major companies that are going under. They didn't receive any of that. They didn't get a parachute either. They are the taxpayers. Unfortunately, it will be a bigger tax bill because of this.

What has happened is a fundamental failure of a philosophy that has been tested and tried for the last 10 years or so that says the Government ought to get out of the way, no questions asked, and don't diminish the dynamic aspect of this economy with overregulation. That, to me, is something we need to take a second look at.

Incidentally, my staff has told me the national debt is over $10 trillion. I misspoke on the primary mortgage. I got the wrong figures out of the paper today, and I want the record to reflect it: The primary mortgage is over $10 trillion, and Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac is an additional $5.3 trillion in liabilities, as I said earlier. That shows you the amount of debt that is involved.

So the fundamental failure of the philosophy is this belief that somehow we, as taxpayers, have a responsibility to rescue but not a responsibility to regulate. That is not right. If the full faith and credit of the United States of America is going to come to the rescue of these private institutions, we have an obligation in Government to the taxpayers of this country to ask the hard questions in advance, before the disaster arrives. We should have been asking these questions a long time ago. We should have asked them about the predatory lending practices of major credit institutions. We have had several votes on the floor of the Senate on that issue. We should have been asking about how this money was being loaned—the circumstances.

I guess there is not much sympathy for people facing foreclosure in America today. A lot of us might be inclined to think: These poor souls, they should have been a little more careful, until you take the time to meet some of them. Some of them got carried away. Don't get me wrong. I can't have a lot of sympathy for them. They made big mistakes trying to make big money, but some of these folks were conned. They signed up for mortgages full of tricks and traps that ended up exploding in their faces and now they are going to lose their homes.

At the end of the day, this crisis started with a housing catastrophe and disaster and continues because of it. It is up to us now to decide what we are going to do about it. We can rescue the folks at the top—that is what is being proposed—but we need to do a lot more than that. I think we need to set up a mechanism for those who are about to lose their homes to be protected.

Here is an interesting thing. If you face bankruptcy today and you have seven or eight homes and go into the bankruptcy court, they can renegotiate the terms of all your mortgages, except one. They cannot renegotiate the terms of the mortgage on your home. Why? If they can renegotiate the terms on my vacation home, my farm, my ranch, my property in some other place, why not my home? There is no good explanation. The fact that the bankruptcy court cannot renegotiate leads us, sadly, to the point where banking institutions and credit lenders and the others are not renegotiating terms. They would rather see people fail and face foreclosure. I think we have to do something to make sure the bankruptcy courts have that option. I think there should be incentives for those lending institutions to try hard to keep people in their homes.

Mr. President, 340,000 Americans were foreclosed on in the month of August. It is a record-breaking number. Not since the Great Depression have we seen that percentage of homeowners facing that kind of liability. So we have to keep the taxpayers in mind when we read this proposal of the Treasury. We have to keep homeowners in mind, and we ought to keep accountability in mind. At the end of the day, there is no branch of this Government above the law. When it comes to $700 billion in taxpayers' dollars and money—and hard-earned money, I might add—they are not above the law.

One last point I wish to make. Senator MCCAIN has made a name for himself in the Senate, calling himself a leading deregulator. He has been opposed to regulation. In fact, he teamed up with Senator Phil Gramm of Texas, who was his inspiration for years, and they voted together on many issues: to deregulate, get the Government out of the economy. Let a thousand flowers bloom. Let's let these forces of capitalism go to work. I am not going to diminish the power of the entrepreneurial spirit and the forces of capitalism, but they can get carried away. We saw it happen with the savings and loan crisis and we have seen it happen with the subprime mortgage crisis. We have seen it before. It might happen again if we don't learn a lesson.

I am disappointed that Senator MCCAIN in the past took that position. I am troubled that, in a recent article in Contingencies magazine, he said about our health care market:

> Opening up the health insurance market to more vigorous nationwide competition, as we have done over the last decade in banking, would provide more choices of innovative products less burdened by the worst excesses of State-based regulation.

I don't know when Senator MCCAIN wrote that. It couldn't have been recently because I have to tell my colleagues that if he is promising for the health insurance market what we now face in the banking market after deregulation, God help American families. I couldn't disagree more with Senator MCCAIN's position on deregulation when it came to banking, and now his position on deregulation when it comes to health insurance companies.

If the Government doesn't set the rules, the insurance companies will. How would you like to throw yourself on the mercy of that insurance company adjuster, when it is your health or the health of one of your kids on the line? Insurers compete with one another, trying to avoid costly patients and avoid paying for procedures. We hear about it almost every day. According to Senator MCCAIN, let a thousand flowers bloom. Let the market work. The market works pretty well if you are young and healthy or wealthy. It doesn't work very well if you are older, have a history of illness, and don't have much of an income. That is why we need sensible regulation.

This idea that we are going to move away from employer-based health insurance, as Senator MCCAIN has said—well, I am sure there are some people who buy into that. Put each one of the customers in America out on their own buying health insurance instead of buying through pools where they work, and we know what will happen. The sickest people will have the toughest time finding insurance and paying for it. That isn't how it should work. We learned that, I am afraid, the hard way, and Senator MCCAIN is stuck on that. I think he is wrong. I think we need a health insurance program in America which gives us all a fighting chance. Unfortunately, Senator MCCAIN's approach does not. So we have to make sure that when it comes to banking or health insurance, Senator MCCAIN's approach is not going to be our approach. This idea of deregulation may at one time have had wide subscription, but today it does not. We have to move forward with the concept that there is an appropriate role for Government—not to go too far but to provide enough protection, disclosure, transparency, and accountability to make sure we don't find ourselves in the crisis we find today with our banking institutions.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Minnesota is recognized.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, first of all, I wish to thank the Senator from Illinois for his leadership. He has been an advocate for a long time for changing the way this administration has allowed these agencies to decay and to not be regulated—not just our financial market but our consumer market and the market for oil and other things. I thank the Senator from Illinois for his leadership and his farsightedness during these last few years.

UNANIMOUS-CONSENT AGREEMENT—RESOLUTIONS EN BLOC

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the relevant committees of jurisdiction be discharged and the Senate now proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following resolutions: S. Con. Res. 96, S. Res. 614, S. Res. 653, S. Res. 644, S. Res. 646, S. Res. 652, S. Res. 651, H. Con. Res. 163, S. Res. 648, S. Res. 502, S. Con. Res. 93, H. Con. Res. 296, S. Res. 634, and S. Res. 657.

I further ask unanimous consent that the Senate then proceed to a number of resolutions submitted earlier today:

S. Res. 670, S. Res. 671, S. Res. 672, S. Res. 673, S. Res. 674, S. Res. 675, and S. Res. 676, all en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Chair hears none, and it is so ordered.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolutions be agreed to, the preambles be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolutions were agreed to.

The preambles were agreed to.

The resolutions, with their preambles, read as follows:

S. CON. RES. 96

Whereas on May 12, 2008, Irena Sendler, a living example of social justice, died at the age of 98;

Whereas Irena Sendler repeatedly risked her life during the Holocaust to rescue over 2,500 Jewish children who lived in the Warsaw ghetto in Poland from Nazi extermination;

Whereas Irena Sendler was inspired by her father, a physician who treated poor Jewish patients, to dedicate her life to others;

Whereas Irena Sendler became an activist at the start of World War II, heading the clandestine group Zegota and driving an underground movement that provided safe passage for Jews from the Warsaw ghetto who faced disease, execution, or deportation to concentration camps;

Whereas Irena Sendler became 1 of the most successful workers within Zegota, taking charge of the children's division and using her senior position with the welfare department in Warsaw to gain access to and from the ghetto to build a network of allies to help ferry Jewish children from the Warsaw ghetto;

Whereas Irena Sendler was arrested by the Gestapo on October 20, 1943, tortured, and sentenced to death by firing squad;

Whereas Irena Sendler never revealed details of her contacts, escaped from Pawiak prison, and continued her invaluable work with Zegota;

Whereas in 1965, Irena Sendler was recognized as ''Righteous Among the Nations'' by the Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial in Israel;

Whereas in 2006, Irena Sendler was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize;

Whereas Irena Sendler was awarded the Order of the White Eagle, the highest civilian decoration in Poland;

Whereas ''Tzedek: The Righteous'', a documentary film, and ''Life in a Jar'', a play about the rescue efforts made by Irena Sendler, chronicle the life of Irena Sendler;

Whereas Irena Sendler, a woman who risked everything for the lives of others and

whose bravery is unimaginable to many, expressed guilt for not being able to do more for the Jewish people; and

Whereas the story of Irena Sendler reminds citizens of the United States and the world community not only of the horrible cruelty at the time of the Holocaust, but also the incredible difference 1 person can make: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That Congress—

(1) mourns the loss of Irena Sendler, a woman whose bravery and heroic efforts saved over 2,500 Jewish children during the Holocaust;

(2) pays respect and extends condolences to the Sendler family;

(3) honors the legacy of courage, selflessness, and hope that Irena Sendler exhibited; and

(4) remembers the life and unwavering dedication to justice and human rights of Irena Sendler.

S. RES. 614

Whereas over-the-counter and prescription medicines are extremely safe, effective, and potentially lifesaving when used properly;

Whereas the abuse and recreational use of over-the-counter and prescription medicines can be extremely dangerous and produce serious side effects;

Whereas in a recently sampled month, 7,000,000 individuals aged 12 or older reported using prescription psychotherapeutic medicines for nonmedical purposes;

Whereas abuse of prescription medicines, including pain relievers, tranquilizers, stimulants, and sedatives is second only to marijuana, the number 1 illegal drug of abuse in the United States;

Whereas recent studies indicate that 2,400,000 children, or 1 in 10 children aged 12 through 17, have intentionally abused cough medicine to get high from the ingredient dextromethorphan;

Whereas 4,500,000, or 1 in 5, young adults have used prescription medicines for nonmedical purposes;

Whereas according to research from the Partnership for a Drug-Free America, more than ⅓ of teens mistakenly believe that taking prescription drugs, even if not prescribed by a doctor, is much safer than using more traditional street drugs;

Whereas the lack of understanding by teens and parents of the potential harms of these powerful prescription drugs makes raising public awareness about the dangers of the misuse of such drugs more critical than ever;

Whereas misused prescription drugs are most often obtained through friends and relatives;

Whereas misused prescription drugs are also obtained through rogue Internet pharmacies;

Whereas parents should be aware that the Internet gives teens access to websites that promote medicine abuse;

Whereas National Medicine Abuse Awareness Month promotes the messages that over-the-counter and prescription medicines should be taken only as labeled or prescribed, and that taking over-the-counter and prescription medicines for recreational uses or in large doses can have serious and life-threatening consequences;

Whereas National Medicine Abuse Awareness Month will encourage parents to become educated about prescription drug abuse and talk to teens about all types of substance abuse;

Whereas observance of National Medicine Abuse Awareness Month should be encouraged at the national, State, and local levels to increase awareness of the misuse of medicines;

Whereas some groups, including the Consumer Healthcare Products Association and the Community Anti-Drug Coalition of America, have taken important steps by creating educational toolkits, including ''A Dose of Prevention: Stopping Cough Medicine Abuse Before it Starts'', which provides guides to educate parents, teachers, law enforcement officials, doctors and healthcare professionals, and retailers about the potential dangers of abusing over-the-counter cough and cold medicines;

Whereas the Partnership for a Drug-Free America and community alliance and affiliate partners have undertaken a nationwide prevention campaign utilizing research-based educational advertisements, public relations and news media, and the Internet to inform parents about the negative teen behavior of intentional abuse of medicines so that parents are empowered to effectively communicate the facts about this dangerous trend with teens and to take necessary steps to safeguard prescription and over-the-counter medicines at home; and

Whereas educating the public about the dangers of medicine abuse and promoting prevention is a critical component of what must be a multi-pronged effort to curb the disturbing rise in medicine misuse: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the month of August 2008 as ''National Medicine Abuse Awareness Month''; and

(2) urges communities to carry out appropriate programs and activities to educate parents and youth about the potential dangers associated with medicine abuse.

S. RES. 653

Whereas, on September 6, 2008, The Ohio State University football team, known as the ''Buckeyes,'' achieved its 800th win, becoming the 5th major college football program to reach this mark;

Whereas the Buckeyes have an all-time record of 800 wins, 304 losses, and 53 ties in their 119 seasons;

Whereas, in 1890, the Buckeyes played their first game, and since have become a symbol of pride and tradition for the past and present members of The Ohio State University community;

Whereas The Ohio State University has the largest self-supporting athletics program in the country;

Whereas The Ohio State University continues to strive for academic excellence in sports, ranking first in the Big Ten Academic All-Conference Team for the 2007–08 academic year;

Whereas, there are 1,877 Buckeye All-Americans in the history of the program;

Whereas the Ohio State athletic program strives to improve the academic quality of The Ohio State University by donating key funding to renovate Ohio State's academic facilities, including the recent donation to the William Oxley Thompson Memorial Library;

Whereas Ohio State strives for diversity at all levels and was commended nationally in 2007–08 for its National Collegiate Athletic Association academic progress rate, Overall Excellence in Diversity, and for ranking 2nd in the Degree Completion Program;

Whereas each year Ohio State student-athletes and coaches are involved in thousands of hours of community service;

Whereas each player, coach, and contributor to the team remained committed to ensuring that the Buckeyes achieved this historic accomplishment; and

Whereas all supporters of The Ohio State University are to be praised for their dedication to, and pride in, The Ohio State University football program: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates The Ohio State University football team for achieving 800 victories in its 119-year-history;

(2) recognizes The Ohio State University athletic program for its accomplishments in both sports and academics; and

(3) requests the Secretary of the Senate to prepare an official copy of this resolution for presentation to—

(A) The Ohio State University for appropriate display;

(B) the President of The Ohio State University, Dr. E. Gordon Gee; and

(C) the head coach of The Ohio State University football team, Mr. Jim Tressel.

S. RES. 644

Whereas millions of children and youth in the United States represent the hopes and future of the United States;

Whereas numerous individuals, charities benefitting children, and youth-serving organizations that work with children and youth collaborate to provide invaluable services to enrich and better the lives of children and youth throughout the United States;

Whereas raising awareness of and increasing support for organizations that provide access to healthcare, social services, education, the arts, sports, and other services will result in the development of character and the future success of children and youth;

Whereas the President issued a proclamation on May 30, 2008, proclaiming June 1, 2008 as ''National Child's Day'' to demonstrate a commitment to the youth of the United States;

Whereas September, as the school year begins, is a time when parents, families, teachers, school administrators, and communities increase their focus on children and youth throughout the United States;

Whereas September is a time for the people of the United States to highlight and be mindful of the needs of children and youth;

Whereas private corporations and businesses have joined with hundreds of national and local charitable organizations throughout the United States in support of a month-long focus on children and youth; and

Whereas designating September 2008 as ''National Child Awareness Month'' would recognize that a long-term commitment to children and youth is in the public interest, and will encourage widespread support for charities and organizations that seek to provide a better future for the children and youth of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate designates September 2008 as ''National Child Awareness Month''—

(1) to promote awareness of charities benefitting children and youth-serving organizations throughout the United States; and

(2) to recognize efforts made by such charities and organizations on behalf of children and youth as a positive investment in the future of the United States.

S. RES. 646

Whereas the prevalence of running away from home and homelessness among youths is staggering, with studies suggesting that between 1,600,000 and 2,800,000 youths live on the streets of the United States each year;

Whereas running away from home is widespread, and youths aged 12 to 17 are at a higher risk of becoming homeless than adults;

Whereas youths who run away from home most often have been expelled from their homes by their families, have been physically, sexually, or emotionally abused at home, have been discharged by State custodial systems without adequate transition

plans, or have been separated from their parents by death and divorce, are too poor to secure their own basic needs, and are ineligible or unable to access adequate medical or mental health resources;

Whereas effective programs that support runaway youths and assist youths and their families in preventing youths from running away succeed because of partnerships created among families, community-based human service agencies, law enforcement agencies, schools, faith-based organizations, and businesses;

Whereas preventing youths from running away from home and supporting youths in high-risk situations are priorities for families, communities, and the Nation;

Whereas the future well-being of the United States is dependent on the opportunities provided for youths and families to acquire the knowledge, skills, and abilities necessary for youths to develop into safe, healthy, and productive adults;

Whereas the National Network for Youth and its members advocate on behalf of runaway and homeless youths and provide an array of community-based support to address their critical needs;

Whereas the National Runaway Switchboard provides crisis intervention and referrals to reconnect runaway youths with their families and to link youths to local resources that provide positive alternatives to running away from home; and

Whereas the National Network for Youth and the National Runaway Switchboard are cosponsoring National Runaway Prevention Month in November 2008 to increase public awareness of the life circumstances of youths in high-risk situations, the need for safe, healthy, and productive alternatives to running away, and the resources and support available for youths, families, and communities: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate recognizes and supports the goals and ideals of National Runaway Prevention Month.

S. RES. 652

Whereas the number of elderly and disabled citizens of the United States is increasing dramatically;

Whereas assisted living is a long-term care service that fosters choice, dignity, independence, and autonomy in the elderly and disabled across the United States;

Whereas the National Center for Assisted Living created National Assisted Living Week;

Whereas the theme of National Assisted Living Week 2008 is ''Filling Life with Love''; and

Whereas this theme highlights the privilege, value, and responsibility of passing the legacies of the lives of the elderly and disabled of the United States down through the generations that care for and love them: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week beginning September 8, 2008, as ''National Assisted Living Week''; and

(2) urges all people of the United States—

(A) to visit friends and loved ones who reside at assisted living facilities; and

(B) to learn more about assisted living services, including how assisted living services benefit communities in the United States.

S. RES. 651

Whereas the National Aeronautics and Space Administration was established on July 29, 1958;

Whereas on May 5, 1961, NASA successfully launched America's first manned spacecraft, Freedom 7, piloted by Alan B. Shepard, Jr.;

Whereas on February 20, 1962, John Glenn became the first American astronaut to orbit the earth;

Whereas in July of 1969 President John Kennedy's vision of landing a man on the moon and returning him safely to Earth was realized with the Apollo 11 mission, commanded by Neil A. Armstrong, Lunar Module Pilot Edwin ''Buzz'' Aldrin, Jr., and Command Module Pilot Michael Collins;

Whereas on April 12, 1981, NASA began a new era of human space flight and exploration with the launch of the first Space Shuttle Columbia, commanded by John W. Young and piloted by Robert L. ''Bob'' Crippen;

Whereas on June 18, 1983, Dr. Sally Ride became the first American woman in space as a crewmember of Space Shuttle Challenger for STS–7;

Whereas NASA has greatly expanded our knowledge and understanding of our planet and solar system through various unmanned vehicles utilized on numerous missions;

Whereas, during the Cold War, NASA's achievements served as a source of national pride and captured the imagination of the world by demonstrating a peaceful use of our technological capabilities;

Whereas NASA now serves as a model for international cooperation and American leadership through the International Space Station and other scientific endeavors;

Whereas thanks to NASA and the far-reaching gaze of the Hubble Space Telescope, we have seen further into our universe than ever before;

Whereas NASA space probes have landed on or flown by eight of the planets in our solar system;

Whereas the aeronautics research by NASA has led to great discoveries and advances in aircraft design and aviation;

Whereas the work done by NASA has expanded the scope of human knowledge, created new technologies, and inspired young men and women to enter scientific and engineering careers;

Whereas in the last fifty years, NASA has positively impacted almost every facet of our lives; and

Whereas, thanks to the heroism, courage, and supreme sacrifice of our astronaut corps over the last five decades, we are now able to live and work in space for the benefit of all humankind: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, by the Senate That the Senate—

(1) honors the men and women of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration on the occasion of its 50th Anniversary;

(2) acknowledges the value of NASA's discoveries and accomplishments; and

(3) pledges to maintain America's position as the world leader in earth and space science, aeronautics and space exploration and technology.

H. CON. RES. 163

Whereas Dandy-Walker syndrome is the most common congenital malformation of the cerebellum and its causes are largely unknown;

Whereas between 10,000 and 40,000 people have Dandy-Walker syndrome in the United States;

Whereas the incidence of Dandy-Walker syndrome is at least 1 case per every 25,000 to 35,000 live births, however this is likely a significant underestimate because of difficulties diagnosing the syndrome;

Whereas the Metropolitan Atlanta Congenital Defects Program, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that Dandy-Walker syndrome may affect as many as 1 in 5000 live born infants;

Whereas approximately 70 to 90 percent of patients with Dandy-Walker syndrome have hydrocephalus;

Whereas Dandy-Walker syndrome accounts for approximately 1 to 4 percent of hydrocephalus cases;

Whereas patients with Dandy-Walker syndrome present with developmental delay, enlarged head circumference, or signs and symptoms of hydrocephalus;

Whereas Dandy-Walker syndrome affects males and females approximately equally;

Whereas seizures occur in 15 to 30 percent of patients with Dandy-Walker syndrome;

Whereas subnormal intelligence is manifested in 41 to 71 percent of patients with Dandy-Walker syndrome;

Whereas failure to diagnose Dandy-Walker syndrome with hydrocephalus in a Neonate or a child can cause serious neurologic complications;

Whereas Dandy-Walker syndrome is named after former University of New Mexico neurosurgeon and professor Arthur E. Walker (1907–1995) and Walter E. Dandy (1883–1941), who first described the disorder in 1914; and

Whereas there are 2 known researchers dedicated to Dandy-Walker Syndrome in the United States and additional investigators are needed: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That—

(1) Congress commends the Director of the National Institutes of Health for working with leading scientists and researchers to organize the first National Institutes of Health conference on hydrocephalus in September 2005 and the Inaugural ''Cerebellar Development: Bench to Bedside International Conference'' in November 2006; and

(2) it is the sense of Congress that—

(A) the Director of the National Institutes of Health should continue the current collaboration, with respect to Dandy-Walker syndrome, among the National Human Genome Research Institute, the National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering, the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, and the Office of Rare Diseases;

(B) further research into the epidemiology, diagnosis, pathophysiology, disease burden, and improved treatment of Dandy-Walker syndrome and hydrocephalus should be conducted and supported; and

(C) public awareness and professional education regarding Dandy-Walker research should increase through partnerships between the Federal Government and patient advocacy organizations, such as the Dandy-Walker Alliance and the Hydrocephalus Association.

S. RES. 648

Whereas the USS Nautilus (SSN 571), built and launched at Electric Boat in Groton, Connecticut, on January 21, 1954, was the first vessel in the world to be powered by nuclear power;

Whereas the USS Nautilus overcame extreme difficulties of navigation and maneuverability while submerged under the polar ice, and became the first vessel to cross the geographic North Pole on August 3, 1958;

Whereas the USS Nautilus continued on her voyage and became the first vessel to successfully navigate a course across the top of the world;

Whereas the USS Nautilus, having claimed this historic milestone and returned home to Naval Submarine Base New London, continued to establish a series of naval records in her distinguished 25-year career, including being the first submarine to journey ''20,000 leagues under the sea'';

Whereas the USS Nautilus completed these significant and laudable achievements during a critical phase of the Cold War, providing a source of inspiration for Americans and raising the hopes of the Free World;

Whereas the USS Nautilus was the first naval vessel in peacetime to receive the Presidential Unit Citation for its meritorious efforts in crossing the North Pole;

Whereas Commander William R. Anderson of the United States Navy was awarded the Legion of Merit for his role in commanding the USS Nautilus during its historic voyage;

Whereas the USS Nautilus and its contribution to world history was praised by a range of American Presidents, including President Harry Truman, President Dwight D. Eisenhower, President Lyndon B. Johnson, President Jimmy Carter, and President Bill Clinton; and

Whereas President Eisenhower described the voyage to the North Pole as a ''magnificent achievement'' from which ''the entire free world would benefit'': Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the historic significance of the journey to the North Pole undertaken by the USS Nautilus;

(2) commends the officers and crew of the USS Nautilus on the 50th anniversary of their magnificent achievement;

(3) recognizes the importance of the USS Nautilus' journey to the North Pole as not only a military and scientific accomplishment, but also in confirming America's longstanding interest in this vital region of the world;

(4) commends the role of the USS Nautilus and the United States Submarine Force in protecting the interests of the free world during the Cold War; and

(5) supports the continuing role of the United States Submarine Force in defending our Nation in the 21st century.

S. RES. 502

Whereas, on March 21, 1983, the United States Space Foundation was founded by a small group of pioneering individuals in Colorado Springs, Colorado;

Whereas 2008 marks the 25th year of excellence and service of the Space Foundation;

Whereas the mission of the Space Foundation is to advance space-related endeavors to inspire, enable, and propel humanity;

Whereas the Space Foundation has become the leading nonprofit organization advancing the exploration, development, and use of space and space education for the benefit of all humankind;

Whereas the Space Foundation embraces all aspects of space including commercial, civil, and national security;

Whereas the current national security environment requires extensive use and advancement of space-based assets;

Whereas the Space Foundation has contributed to space education programs in all 50 States and also in Europe and Asia;

Whereas the Space Foundation is regarded internationally as a leading space advocacy organization, and is a member of the United States Delegation to the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space; and

Whereas the Space Foundation hosts the National Space Symposium and Strategic Space and Defense, 2 of the top conferences for space professionals: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(a) recognizes the contributions made by the Space Foundation; and

(b) commemorates the Space Foundation's 25 years of excellence and support to the Nation.

S. CON. RES. 93

Whereas sudden cardiac arrest is a leading cause of death in the United States;

Whereas sudden cardiac arrest takes the lives of more than 250,000 people in the United States each year, according to the Heart Rhythm Society;

Whereas anyone can experience sudden cardiac arrest, including infants, high school athletes, and people in their 30s and 40s who have no sign of heart disease;

Whereas sudden cardiac arrest is extremely deadly, with the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute giving the disease a mortality rate of approximately 95 percent;

Whereas to have a chance of surviving an attack, the American Heart Association states that victims of sudden cardiac arrest must receive a lifesaving defibrillation within the first 4 to 6 minutes of an attack;

Whereas for every minute that passes without a shock from an automated external defibrillator, the chance of survival decreases by approximately 10 percent;

Whereas lifesaving treatments for sudden cardiac arrest are effective if administered in time;

Whereas according to joint research by the American College of Cardiology and the American Heart Association, implantable cardioverter defibrillators are 98 percent effective at protecting people at risk for sudden cardiac arrest;

Whereas according to the American Heart Association, cardiopulmonary resuscitation and early defibrillation with an automated external defibrillator more than double the chances that a victim will survive;

Whereas the Yale-New Haven Hospital and the New England Journal of Medicine state that women and African-Americans are at a higher risk than the general population for dying as a result of sudden cardiac arrest, yet this fact is not well known to people at risk;

Whereas there is a need for comprehensive educational efforts designed to increase awareness of sudden cardiac arrest and related therapies among medical professionals and the greater public in order to promote early detection and proper treatment of this disease and to improve quality of life; and

Whereas the Heart Rhythm Society and the Sudden Cardiac Arrest Coalition are preparing related public awareness and education campaigns on sudden cardiac arrest to be held each year during the month of October: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That Congress—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of ''National Sudden Cardiac Arrest Awareness Month'';

(2) supports efforts to educate people about sudden cardiac arrest and to raise awareness about the risk of sudden cardiac arrest, identifying warning signs, and the need to seek medical attention in a timely manner;

(3) acknowledges the critical importance of sudden cardiac arrest awareness to improving national cardiovascular health; and

(4) calls upon the people of the United States to observe this month with appropriate programs and activities.

H. CON. RES. 296

Whereas heat stroke is a medical emergency that can be fatal if not properly and promptly treated, and 50 percent of those with heat stroke die from it;

Whereas children absorb more heat from a hot environment because they have greater surface area-to-body mass ratio than adults;

Whereas the smaller the child, the faster he or she can overheat;

Whereas children and adolescents may have a reduced ability to dissipate heat through sweating;

Whereas children and adolescents frequently do not have the physiological drive to drink enough fluids to replenish sweat losses during prolonged exercise;

Whereas youth athletes may be more easily distracted by teammates and spectators when given the opportunity to rest and rehydrate;

Whereas a recent study found that 70 percent of afterschool athletes arrive on the playing field already dehydrated;

Whereas heat-induced illness is one of the most preventable sports ailments and parents, young athletes, and coaches need to understand the physiological factors that increase the risk for heat-related illness and take steps to prevent it;

Whereas 13-year-old Kendrick Fincher from Rogers, Arkansas, collapsed during an August pre-season football practice, was rushed to the hospital, and for the next 18 days his family waited anxiously for him to regain consciousness, tragically never regained consciousness, and died on August 25, 1995, from multi-system organ failure as a result of heat stroke;

Whereas Kendrick's parents, Rhonda and Mike Fincher, founded the Kendrick Fincher Memorial Foundation in honor of their son, with the aim to raise awareness of the potentially deadly consequences of dehydration for student athletes and to provide schools with the information and equipment needed to ensure other students do not suffer from heat stroke;

Whereas the Kendrick Fincher Memorial Foundation has distributed more than 130,000 water bottles and heat illness prevention pamphlets to children and athletes throughout the United States;

Whereas the Kendrick Fincher Memorial Foundation oversees consultation with school district athletic programs to ensure they have procedures in place to prevent heat illness and dehydration;

Whereas the Kendrick Fincher Memorial Foundation provides heat stroke awareness and steps for prevention at local health fairs, community events, and the Annual Youth Run through ''cool huts'', misting stations, and free ice water;

Whereas Gatorade Company joined forces with the National Football League to lead a nationwide ''Beat the Heat'' campaign aimed at educating parents and football coaches about the importance of hydration in order to keep athletes safe in the hot summer months; and

Whereas Gatorade Company and the National Football League held Gatorade Donation Days at training camps to raise money to raise awareness of the Kendrick Fincher Memorial Foundation: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That—

(1) it is the sense of Congress that—

(A) National Heat Stroke Awareness Month provides an opportunity to educate the people of the United States about heat stroke;

(B) the Kendrick Fincher Memorial Foundation should be applauded for its efforts in promoting awareness about heat stroke; and

(C) policymakers, parents, coaches, student athletes, not-for-profit organizations, and other members of the community should work to increase awareness and prevention of heat stroke; and

(2) Congress urges national and community organizations, businesses in the private sector, and the media, through National Heat Stroke Awareness Month to promote the awareness of heat stroke.

S. RES. 634

Whereas, on April 26, 1968, after viewing the CBS Emmy-award winning documentary ''Hunger in America,'' Senator George McGovern introduced a resolution to establish a Senate Select Committee on Nutrition and Human Needs;

Whereas the resolution establishing the Select Committee on Nutrition and Human Needs was enacted on July 30, 1968;

Whereas Senator George McGovern served as the Chairman of the Select Committee on

Nutrition and Human Needs from 1968 to 1977;

Whereas July 30, 2008, marks the 40th anniversary of the enactment of the resolution establishing the Select Committee on Nutrition and Human Needs, which later became the foundation of the current Subcommittee on Nutrition and Food Assistance, Sustainable and Organic Agriculture, and General Legislation Jurisdiction of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry;

Whereas Senator George McGovern was committed to exposing the failure of Federal food assistance programs to reach citizens lacking in adequate quantities and quality of food;

Whereas Senators George McGovern and Robert Dole worked tirelessly in their respective roles on the Select Committee on Nutrition and Human Needs to develop a bipartisan Federal response to hunger;

Whereas the Select Committee on Nutrition and Human Needs played a key role in educating Congress, the Federal Government, and the Nation at large about the magnitude of hunger in the United States;

Whereas the work of the Select Committee on Nutrition and Human Needs was vital to reforming the Federal food stamp program, culminating in the passage of the Food Stamp Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 2011 et seq.), which made the program more efficient and more accessible to those most in need by finally eliminating the requirement that Americans pay for a portion of their food stamps;

Whereas the work of the Select Committee on Nutrition and Human Needs was essential to expanding the school lunch program established under the National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1751 et seq.) and permanently establishing the school breakfast program under section 4 of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1773), the child and adult care food program under section 17 of the National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1766), and the summer food service program for children under section 13 of that Act (42 U.S.C. 1761);

Whereas the work of the Select Committee on Nutrition and Human Needs was instrumental in the establishment of the special supplemental nutrition program for women, infants, and children established by section 17 of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1786) (WIC);

Whereas the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry remains committed to continuing the important work begun by Senators George McGovern and Robert Dole of providing a Federal response to hunger;

Whereas the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry provided a record-level amount of nutrition funding in the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (Public Law 110–246; 122 Stat. 1651) to reform and strengthen Federal nutrition assistance programs;

Whereas, through the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (Public Law 110–246; 122 Stat. 1651), the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry made key improvements to the food stamp program, including—

(1) increasing the food purchasing ability of low-income households by accounting for food cost inflation;

(2) increasing the minimum benefit;

(3) encouraging retirement and education savings; and

(4) allowing families to account for child care costs in calculating food assistance;

Whereas, through the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (Public Law 110–246; 122 Stat. 1651), the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry helped to strengthen the domestic food assistance safety net by providing significant funding to increase commodity purchases for local area food banks;

Whereas, in 2008, more than 28,000,000 people in the United States participate in the food stamp program;

Whereas, in 2008, more than 17,500,000 low-income children receive free or reduced-price meals through the national school lunch program;

Whereas despite Federal food assistance programs, 35,500,000 people in the United States, including 12,600,000 children, continue to live in households considered to be food insecure;

Whereas children who live in households lacking access to sufficient food are more likely to be in poorer physical health than children from food secure households; and

Whereas children are particularly vulnerable to the effects of food insecurity because undernutrition can have adverse impacts on emotional health, behavior, school performance, and cognitive development: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes July 30, 2008, as the 40th anniversary of the enactment of the resolution establishing the Senate Select Committee on Nutrition and Human Needs;

(2) recognizes the substantial contributions the Select Committee on Nutrition and Human Needs made in ensuring that effective and efficient Federal food assistance programs were accessible to those most in need;

(3) recognizes that hunger continues to be an issue plaguing the United States; and

(4) supports the continued efforts of Federal, State, and local governments and private non-profit organizations to eradicate hunger in the United States.

S. RES. 657

Whereas celiac disease affects approximately 1 in every 130 people in the United States, for a total of 3,000,000 people;

Whereas the majority of people with celiac disease have yet to be diagnosed;

Whereas celiac disease is a chronic inflammatory disorder that is classified as both an autoimmune condition and a genetic condition;

Whereas celiac disease causes damage to the lining of the small intestine, which results in overall malnutrition;

Whereas, when a person with celiac disease consumes foods that contain certain protein fractions, that person suffers a cell-mediated immune response that damages the villi of the small intestine, interfering with the absorption of nutrients in food and the effectiveness of medications;

Whereas those problematic protein fractions are found in wheat, barley, rye, and oats, which are used to produce many foods, medications, and vitamins;

Whereas, because celiac disease is a genetic disease, there is an increased incidence of celiac disease in families with a known history of celiac disease;

Whereas celiac disease is underdiagnosed because the symptoms can be attributed to other conditions and are easily overlooked by doctors and patients;

Whereas, as recently as 2000, the average person with celiac disease waited 11 years for a correct diagnosis;

Whereas ½ of all people with celiac disease do not show symptoms of the disease;

Whereas celiac disease is diagnosed by tests that measure the blood for abnormally high levels of the antibodies of immunoglobulin A, anti-tissue transglutaminase, and IgA anti-endomysium antibodies;

Whereas celiac disease can be treated only by implementing a diet free of wheat, barley, rye, and oats, often called a ''gluten-free diet'';

Whereas a delay in the diagnosis of celiac disease can result in damage to the small intestine, which leads to an increased risk of malnutrition, anemia, lymphoma, adenocarcinoma, osteoporosis, miscarriage, congenital malformation, short stature, and disorders of the skin and other organs;

Whereas celiac disease is linked to many autoimmune disorders, including thyroid disease, systemic lupus erythematosus, type 1 diabetes, liver disease, collagen vascular disease, rheumatoid arthritis, and Sjogren's syndrome;

Whereas the connection between celiac disease and diet was first established by Dr. Samuel Gee, who wrote, ''if the patient can be cured at all, it must be by means of diet'';

Whereas Dr. Samuel Gee was born on September 13, 1839; and

Whereas, by designating September 13, 2008, as National Celiac Disease Awareness Day, the Senate can raise awareness of celiac disease in the general public and the medical community: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates September 13, 2008, as ''National Celiac Disease Awareness Day'';

(2) recognizes that all people in the United States should become more informed and aware of celiac disease;

(3) calls upon the people of the United States to observe the date with appropriate ceremonies and activities; and

(4) respectfully requests the Secretary of the Senate to transmit a copy of this resolution to the Celiac Sprue Association, the American Celiac Society, the Celiac Disease Foundation, the Gluten Intolerance Group of North America, and the Oklahoma Celiac Support Group No. 5 of the Celiac Sprue Association.

S. RES. 670

Whereas millions of Americans have benefitted from the courageous service of first responders across the United States;

Whereas the police, fire, emergency medical service, and public health personnel (commonly known as ''first responders'') work devotedly and selflessly on behalf of the people of the United States, regardless of the peril or hazard to themselves;

Whereas in emergency situations, first responders carry out the critical role of protecting and ensuring public safety;

Whereas the men and women who bravely serve as first responders have found themselves on the front lines of homeland defense in the war against terrorism;

Whereas first responders are called upon in the event of a natural disaster, such as the tornados in Florida and the blizzard in Colorado in December 2006, the flooding in the Northeast in April 2007, the flooding in the Midwest in June 2008, and the wildfires in the West in July 2008;

Whereas the critical role of first responders was witnessed in the aftermath of the mass shooting at the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, when the collaborative effort of police officers, firefighters, and emergency medical technicians to secure the campus, rescue students from danger, treat the injured, and transport victims to local hospitals undoubtedly saved the lives of many students and faculty;

Whereas 900,000 police officers, 1,100,000 firefighters, and 891,000 emergency medical technicians risk their lives every day to make our communities safe;

Whereas these 900,000 sworn police officers from Federal, State, tribal, city, and county law enforcement agencies protect lives and property, detect and prevent crimes, uphold the law, and ensure justice;

Whereas these 1,100,000 firefighters, both volunteer and career, provide fire suppression, emergency medical services, search and rescue, hazardous materials response, response to terrorism, and critical fire prevention and safety education;

Whereas the 891,000 emergency medical professionals in the United States respond to and treat a variety of life-threatening emergencies, from cardiac and respiratory arrest to traumatic injuries;

Whereas these 2,661,000 ''first responders'' make personal sacrifices to protect our communities, as was witnessed on September 11, 2001, and in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, and as is witnessed every day in cities and towns across the United States;

Whereas, according to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund, a total of 1,671 law enforcement officers died in the line of duty during the past 10 years, an average of 1 death every 53 hours or 167 per year, and 181 law enforcement officers were killed in 2007;

Whereas, according to the United States Fire Administration, from 1996 through 2005 over 1500 firefighters were killed in the line of duty, and tens of thousands were injured;

Whereas 4 in 5 medics are injured on the job, more than 1 in 2 (52 percent) have been assaulted by a patient and 1 in 2 (50 percent) have been exposed to an infectious disease, and emergency medical service personnel in the United States have an estimated fatality rate of 12.7 per 100,000 workers, more than twice the national average;

Whereas most emergency medical service personnel deaths in the line of duty occur in ambulance accidents;

Whereas thousands of first responders have made the ultimate sacrifice;

Whereas, in the aftermath of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, firefighters, law enforcement officers, and emergency medical workers in the United States were universally recognized for the sacrifices they made on that tragic day, and should be honored each year as these tragic events are remembered;

Whereas there currently exists no national day to honor the brave men and women of the first responder community, who give so much of themselves for the sake of others; and

Whereas these men and women by their patriotic service and their dedicated efforts have earned the gratitude of Congress: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate designates September 25, 2008, as ''National First Responder Appreciation Day'' to honor and celebrate the contributions and sacrifices made by all first responders in the United States.

S. RES. 671

Whereas the University of Maryland School of Medicine was established in 1807, making it the first public and the fifth oldest medical school in the United States;

Whereas, in 1823, the University of Maryland School of Medicine became the first teaching hospital in the Nation with the construction of the Baltimore Infirmary and became the first medical school in the United States to institute a residency training program;

Whereas the School of Medicine was the founding school of the University of Maryland and is an integral part of the 11-campus University System of Maryland;

Whereas, at the Baltimore campus of the University of Maryland, the School of Medicine serves as the foundation for a large academic health center that combines medical education, biomedical research, patient care, and community service;

Whereas the University of Maryland School of Medicine is dedicated to providing excellence in biomedical education, basic and clinical research, quality patient care, and service to improve the health of the people of Maryland and the United States;

Whereas the University of Maryland School of Medicine is committed to the education and training of M.D. and Ph.D. students in fields including physical therapy, rehabilitation science, and medical research technology;

Whereas the University of Maryland School of Medicine has played a crucial role in helping to meet the health care needs of the people of Maryland and continues to recruit and develop faculty to serve as exemplary role models for students; and

Whereas the University of Maryland School of Medicine has developed a legacy of academic excellence, outstanding patient care, and ground-breaking research: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates the University of Maryland School of Medicine on its 200th anniversary; and

(2) recognizes the achievements of the University of Maryland, Baltimore, and the School of Medicine in providing outstanding service to, and in training leaders for, the local community, the State of Maryland, and the world.

S. RES. 672

Whereas negative images, stories, and influences in the day-to-day lives of Americans can detrimentally affect their emotional well-being, interactions with others, and general demeanor;

Whereas a group of teenagers participating in a leadership forum at Harding University in Searcy, Arkansas, identified a lack of encouragement as one of the greatest problems facing young people today;

Whereas the youth of our Nation need guidance, inspiration, and reassurance to counteract this negativity and to develop the qualities of character essential for future leadership in our country;

Whereas a National Day of Encouragement would serve as a reminder to counterbalance and overcome negative influences, and would also provide much-needed encouragement and support to others;

Whereas, following the events of September 11, 2001, thousands of people of the United States made sacrifices in order to bring help and healing to the victims and their families, inspiring and encouraging the Nation; and

Whereas the renewed feelings of unity, hope, selflessness, and encouragement that began on September 12, 2001, are the same feelings that the National Day of Encouragement is meant to recapture and spread: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates September 12, 2008, as ''National Day of Encouragement'';

(2) acknowledges the importance of encouragement and positive influences in the lives of all people; and

(3) urges the people of the United States to encourage others, whether it be through an act of service, a thoughtful letter, or words of kindness and inspiration, and to thereby boost the morale of all.

S. RES. 673

Whereas comprehensive, culturally sensitive health promotion within the workplace is essential to maintain and improve the health of American workers;

Whereas employees who improve their health also reduce their probability of chronic health conditions, lower their out-of-pocket medical and pharmaceutical costs, reduce pain and suffering, have greater levels of energy and vitality, and experience increased satisfaction with their lives and jobs;

Whereas health care costs in the United States doubled from 1990 to 2001 and are expected to double again by 2012;

Whereas employee health benefits are the fastest growing labor cost component for employers, thus posing a serious and growing challenge to business in the United States;

Whereas business leaders are struggling to find strategies to help reduce the direct costs of employer-provided health care, as well as the indirect costs associated with higher rates of absenteeism, disability, and injury;

Whereas an effective strategy to address the primary driving force of soaring health care costs requires an investment in prevention;

Whereas some employers who invest in health promotion and disease prevention have achieved rates of return on investment ranging from $3 to $15 for each dollar invested, as well as a 28 percent average reduction in sick leave absenteeism, an average 26 percent reduction in health care costs, and a 30 percent average reduction in workers' compensation and disability management claims costs;

Whereas the Healthy People 2010 national objectives for the United States include the workplace health–related goal that at least ¾ of United States employers, regardless of size, will voluntarily offer a comprehensive employee health promotion program that includes—(1) health education and programming which focuses on skill development and lifestyle behavior change along with information dissemination and awareness building, preferably tailored to employees' interests and needs; (2) supportive social and physical environments, including an organization's expectations regarding healthy behaviors, and implementation of policies that promote health and reduce risk of disease; (3) integration of the worksite wellness programs into the organization's structure; (4) linkage to related programs like employee assistance programs (EAPs) and programs to help employees balance work and family; and (5) screening programs, ideally linked to medical care to ensure follow-up and appropriate treatment as necessary;

Whereas employers should be encouraged to invest in the health of employees by implementing comprehensive worksite health promotion programs that will help achieve our national Healthy People 2010 objectives;

Whereas business leaders that have made a healthy workforce a part of their core business strategy should be encouraged to share information and resources to educate their peers on the issue of employee health management through initiatives such as the Leading by Example CEO-to-CEO Roundtable on Workforce Health and the United States Workplace Wellness Alliance;

Whereas the employers that provide health care coverage for more than 177,000,000 Americans have the potential to exert transformative leadership on this issue by increasing the number, quality, and types of health promotion programs and policies at worksites across the Nation;

Whereas, for workplace wellness efforts to reach their full potential, chief executive officers of major corporations, company presidents of small enterprises, and State governors should be encouraged to make worksite health promotion a priority; and

Whereas Congress supports the National Worksite Health Promotion goal as stated in Healthy People 2010 and encourages public employers to increase their awareness of the value of corporate investments in employee health management to help our Nation achieve this goal: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate calls on private and public employers to support workplace wellness and implement voluntarily worksite health promotion programs to help

maximize employees' health and well being and lower health care costs.

S. RES. 674

Whereas older adults value their independence and a fall can significantly limit their ability to remain self-sufficient;

Whereas falls are the leading cause of death from unintentional injuries among older adults in the United States;

Whereas older adults are by far the population at greatest risk for falling unintentionally, with more than ⅓ of all people 65 years or older falling each year;

Whereas older adults who fall once are 2 to 3 times more likely than adults who have not fallen to fall again;

Whereas, in 2000, the Bureau of the Census reported that more than 34,800,000 adults older than the age of 65 live in the United States, and that number is expected to grow to almost 55,000,000 by 2020;

Whereas 20 to 30 percent of older adults who fall suffer moderate to severe injuries, such as bruising, hip fractures, and head traumas;

Whereas, in 2005, falls resulted in nearly 1,800,000 older adults being treated in emergency departments and more than 433,000 older adults being hospitalized;

Whereas, in 2005, nearly 16,000 people aged 65 and older died from injuries related to unintentional falls;

Whereas the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report that the mortality rate from falls among older adults increased 45 percent between 2000 and 2004;

Whereas the total in direct costs associated with both fatal and non-fatal falls is more than $19,000,000,000 annually for hospitalization, emergency department visits, and outpatient care;

Whereas the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimate that if the rate of increase in falls is not stemmed, annual direct treatment costs will reach $43,800,000,000 by 2020, with an annual cost under the Medicare program of $32,400,000,000;

Whereas evidence-based programs show promise in reducing falls and facilitating cost-effective interventions, such as comprehensive clinical assessments, exercise programs to improve balance and health, management of medications, correction of vision, and reduction of home hazards;

Whereas, on April 23, 2008, the Safety of Seniors Act of 2007 (Public Law 110–202) was enacted, amending the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 280b et seq.) to create a national education campaign aimed at older adults, their families, and healthcare providers, and injury prevention programs that focus on the reduction and prevention of falls among older adults; and

Whereas the Falls Free Coalition Advocacy Work Group, its numerous supporting organizations and all other supportive organizations, should be commended for their efforts to raise awareness and to promote greater understanding, research, and pilot programs to prevent falls among older adults: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates September 22, 2008, as ''National Falls Prevention Awareness Day'';

(2) commends the National Falls Free Coalition and all other supportive organizations for their efforts to promote awareness about preventing and reducing falls among older people in the United States;

(3) encourages the private sector, the public health community, healthcare providers, advocacy organizations, and Federal, State, and local governments to work together to increase education and awareness about the prevention of falls; and

(4) urges national and community organizations, businesses, individuals, and the media to use National Falls Prevention Awareness Day to promote awareness of this important public health problem in an effort to reduce the incidence of falls among older people in the United States.

S. RES. 675

Whereas there are approximately 510,000 children in the foster care system in the United States, approximately 129,000 of whom are waiting for families to adopt them;

Whereas 61 percent of the children in foster care are age 10 or younger;

Whereas the average length of time a child spends in foster care is over 3 years;

Whereas, for many foster children, the wait for a loving family in which they are nurtured, comforted, and protected seems endless;

Whereas the number of youth who ''age out'' of foster care by reaching adulthood without being placed in a permanent home has continued to increase since 1998, and more than 26,000 foster youth age out every year;

Whereas every day loving and nurturing families are strengthened and expanded when committed and dedicated individuals make an important difference in the life of a child through adoption;

Whereas a 2007 survey conducted by the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption demonstrated that though ''Americans overwhelmingly support the concept of adoption, and in particular foster care adoption . . . foster care adoptions have not increased significantly over the past five years'';

Whereas, while 4 in 10 Americans have considered adoption, a majority of Americans have misperceptions about the process of adopting children from foster care and the children who are eligible for adoption;

Whereas 71 percent of those who have considered adoption consider adopting children from foster care above other forms of adoption;

Whereas 45 percent of Americans believe that children enter the foster care system because of juvenile delinquency, when in reality the vast majority of children who have entered the foster care system were victims of neglect, abandonment, or abuse;

Whereas 46 percent of Americans believe that foster care adoption is expensive, when in reality there is no substantial cost for adopting from foster care and financial support is available to adoptive parents after the adoption is finalized;

Whereas both National Adoption Day and National Adoption Month occur in November;

Whereas National Adoption Day is a collective national effort to find permanent, loving families for children in the foster care system;

Whereas, since the first National Adoption Day in 2000, more than 20,000 children have joined forever families during National Adoption Day;

Whereas, in 2007, adoptions were finalized for over 4,200 children through more than 260 National Adoption Day events in all 50 States, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico; and

Whereas the President traditionally issues an annual proclamation to declare November as National Adoption Month, and National Adoption Day is on November 15, 2008: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of National Adoption Day and National Adoption Month;

(2) recognizes that every child should have a permanent and loving family; and

(3) encourages the citizens of the United States to consider adoption during the month of November and all throughout the year.

S. RES. 676

Whereas the Red Ribbon Campaign was established to commemorate the service of Enrique ''Kiki'' Camarena, an 11-year special agent of the Drug Enforcement Administration who was murdered in the line of duty in 1985 while engaged in the battle against illicit drugs;

Whereas the Red Ribbon Campaign has been sponsored by the National Family Partnership and nationally recognized since 1988 to preserve Special Agent Camarena's memory and further the cause for which he gave his life, and is now the oldest and largest drug prevention program in the Nation, reaching millions of young people each year during Red Ribbon Week;

Whereas the Drug Enforcement Administration, committed throughout its 35 years to aggressively targeting organizations involved in the growing, manufacturing, and distribution of controlled substances, has been a steadfast partner in commemorating Red Ribbon Week;

Whereas the Governors and Attorneys General of the States, the National Family Partnership, Parent Teacher Associations, Boys and Girls Clubs of America, the Drug Enforcement Administration, and more than 100 other organizations throughout the United States annually celebrate Red Ribbon Week during the period of October 23 through October 31;

Whereas the objective of Red Ribbon Week is to promote the creation of drug-free communities through drug prevention efforts, education, parental involvement, and community-wide support;

Whereas drug abuse is one of the major challenges that the Nation faces in securing a safe and healthy future for families in the United States;

Whereas drug abuse and alcohol abuse contribute to domestic violence and sexual assault and place the lives of children at risk;

Whereas, although public awareness of illicit drug use is increasing, emerging drug threats and growing epidemics demand attention, including the abuse of methamphetamines, inhalants, and prescription medications, the second most abused drug by young people in the United States;

Whereas, between 1996 and 2006, the percentages of admissions to substance abuse treatment programs as a result of the abuse of methamphetamines, prescription medications, and marijuana each significantly rose;

Whereas drug dealers specifically target children by marketing illicit drugs that mimic the appearance and names of well known brand-name candies and foods; and

Whereas parents, youths, schools, businesses, law enforcement agencies, religious institutions, service organizations, senior citizens, medical and military personnel, sports teams, and individuals throughout the United States will demonstrate their commitment to healthy, productive, and drug-free lifestyles by wearing and displaying red ribbons during this week-long celebration: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of Red Ribbon Week;

(2) encourages children and teens to choose to live drug-free lives; and

(3) encourages the people of the United States to promote the creation of drug-free communities and to participate in drug prevention activities to show support for healthy, productive, and drug-free lifestyles.

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE DAY ACT OF 2008

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 926, H.J. Res. 62; that the committee amendment be agreed to, the resolution be read the third time, passed, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senate proceeded to consider the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 62) to honor the achievements and contributions of Native Americans to the United States, and for other purposes, which had been reported from the Committee on Indian Affairs, with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Native American Heritage Day Act of 2008''.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds that—

(1) Native Americans are the descendants of the aboriginal, indigenous, native people who were the original inhabitants of the United States;

(2) Native Americans have volunteered to serve in the United States Armed Forces and have served with valor in all of the Nation's military actions from the Revolutionary War through the present day, and in most of those actions, more Native Americans per capita served in the Armed Forces than any other group of Americans;

(3) Native Americans have made distinct and significant contributions to the United States and the rest of the world in many fields, including agriculture, medicine, music, language, and art, and Native Americans have distinguished themselves as inventors, entrepreneurs, spiritual leaders, and scholars;

(4) Native Americans should be recognized for their contributions to the United States as local and national leaders, artists, athletes, and scholars;

(5) nationwide recognition of the contributions that Native Americans have made to the fabric of American society will afford an opportunity for all Americans to demonstrate their respect and admiration of Native Americans for their important contributions to the political, cultural, and economic life of the United States;

(6) nationwide recognition of the contributions that Native Americans have made to the Nation will encourage self-esteem, pride, and self-awareness in Native Americans of all ages;

(7) designation of the Friday following Thanksgiving of each year as Native American Heritage Day will underscore the government-to-government relationship between the United States and Native American governments; and

(8) designation of Native American Heritage Day will encourage public elementary and secondary schools in the United States to enhance understanding of Native Americans by providing curricula and classroom instruction focusing on the achievements and contributions of Native Americans to the Nation.

SEC. 3. IMPLEMENTATION OF NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE DAY.

Congress—

(1) designates Friday, November 28, 2008, as ''Native American Heritage Day''; and

(2) encourages the people of the United States, as well as Federal, State, and local governments, and interested groups and organizations to observe Native American Heritage Day with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities, including activities relating to—

(A) the historical status of Native American tribal governments as well as the present day status of Native Americans;

(B) the cultures, traditions, and languages of Native Americans; and

(C) the rich Native American cultural legacy that all Americans enjoy today.

The amendment was ordered to be engrossed and the joint resolution to be read a third time.

The joint resolution (H.J. Res. 62) was read the third time, and passed.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I rise today to applaud the passage of the resolution congratulating the University of Maryland School of Medicine on its 200th anniversary. I am proud to introduce this resolution that recognizes the outstanding contributions the University of Maryland School of Medicine has made in the last 200 years to the medical community, Maryland community, and entire world.

The University of Maryland School of Medicine is the first public medical school in the country and is the fifth oldest medical school. Since 1789, it has been a leader in medical education—the first medical school in the country to build a teaching hospital for clinical instruction, the first to establish a medical library, and the first school to offer courses in preventive medicine.

Today, the University of Maryland School of Medicine is home to 25 academic departments, 7 research centers, and treats over 1 million patients a year. I commend the contributions the school has made over the past 200 years. I know the University of Maryland School of Medicine will continue to blaze trails in the future as a leader in medical research, patient care, education, and community service.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I rise today in support of a resolution that commemorates the Annual Red Ribbon Campaign. I am honored to again seek the Senate's continuing support and recognition of Red Ribbon Week, which is October 23 through October 31.

In 1985, Special Agent Enrique ''Kiki'' Camarena of the Drug Enforcement Administration was kidnapped, tortured, and murdered in the line of duty by drug traffickers. Shortly after Agent Camarena's death, Congressman DUNCAN HUNTER and high school friend Henry Lozano launched ''Camarena Clubs'' in the Agent's hometown of Calexico, CA. In honor of Agent Camarena, hundreds of club members wore red ribbons and pledged to lead drug-free lives. The campaign quickly gained statewide and then national prominence. In 1988, what is now the National Family Partnership organized the first National Red Ribbon Week, an 8-day event proclaimed by the Congress and chaired by then President and Mrs. Reagan.

This campaign is now the oldest and largest drug prevention program in the Nation, reaching millions of youth through Red Ribbon Week events. Red Ribbon Week memorializes Agent Camarena, and all those who have lost their lives in the war on drugs, by educating young people about the dangers of drug abuse, promoting drug-free activities, and supporting everyone who has stood strong against illicit drugs. The Red Ribbon that we will wear during Red Ribbon Week is a symbol of zero tolerance for illegal drug use and our commitment to help people, especially children, make the right life-decisions.

In Alaska, Red Ribbon Week is a statewide celebration involving thousands of school children and other supporters. On October 27, the Alaska Red Ribbon Coalition, in conjunction with the municipality of Anchorage, will host a Red Ribbon Week kickoff. The Red Ribbon Coalition is comprised of the Anchorage School District, the Alaska State Troopers, the Anchorage Police Department, the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, and the U.S. Department of Justice. Forty-three Boys & Girls Clubs across Alaska will help other Alaskan communities celebrate Red Ribbon Week throughout the State.

In addition, this year, the Red Ribbon Coalition, the Alaska National Guard, and the Iditarod Trail Committee are sponsoring the first ever Anchorage School District Idol whereby every junior high and high school in Anchorage will hold local talent competitions and select one act to move to a final competition. The acts will be judged based, among other things, on their drug-free themes, and the final competition will be held as part of the Iditarod Sled Dog Race festivities in March 2009. The plan is to broadcast the event to the students in all 50 States and across the globe who participate in the Iditarod Education Program, thus extending the reach of the 2008 Red Ribbon Week into 2009, and sharing Anchorage's Red Ribbon Week antidrug message and celebrations with the Nation and the world.

As we stand together against drugs, I thank my colleagues for joining me in what hopefully will be a continuation of the tradition of congressional support and recognition of Red Ribbon Week.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Minnesota is recognized.

FINANCIAL CRISIS

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I stand here today to highlight my grave concerns about our financial system and the American economy—a disaster that has been building for months and, in fact, years and last week quickly hit the breaking point.

The latest crisis seemed to come so suddenly, it moved so fast, it spread so far, and went straight to the heart of the global financial system. There is no doubt we are seeing now the biggest financial challenge since the Great Depression, and we are also witnessing the most remarkable degree of Government involvement into our financial system since the 1930s.

It is truly remarkable. Consider the list: Bear Stearns, Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac, Lehman Brothers, Merrill Lynch,

and AIG. These names used to be confined to the business pages. Now they are at the top of the front pages.

I have strong feelings about what happened here. During the past 8 years, the financial and economic policies of this administration have been off course. They have not managed or led the economy in a responsible manner.

We have gone from a large budget surplus, left by the Clinton administration, to an even larger budget deficit. This administration has been reckless in how it managed Government's finances, and it has been reckless in how it managed its responsibility to ensure a strong, stable financial system.

This administration acted as if the rules don't apply anymore. With loopholes here and there, they don't use the regulations. It permitted the large financial institutions to run amok, to turn the economy into a gambling hall, playing with funny money. Finally, in the 11th hour, the house managers, Bernanke and Paulson, have been asked to step in to shut down the game.

It is hard to exaggerate the magnitude of what has happened. As financial journalist Steven Pearlstein observed last week:

> This is what a Category 4 financial crisis looks like. Giant blue-chip financial institutions swept away in a matter of days. Banks refusing to lend to other banks. Russia closing its stock market to stop the panicked selling. Gold soaring $70 in a single trading session. Developing countries' currencies in a free fall. Money-market funds warning they might not be able to return every dollar invested. Daily swings of three, four, five hundred points in the Dow Jones Industrial Average.
>
> It's a painful reminder that, when you strip away all the complexity and trappings from the magnificent new global infrastructure, finance is still a confidence game—and once the confidence goes, there's no telling when the selling will stop.

In some respects, it may look as if all the action is in New York or Washington or London or Tokyo. But we know the consequences are being felt everywhere. This is a broad-based financial crisis. Everyone is affected. If you are trying to buy or sell a home, you are affected. If you are trying to refinance your home, you are affected. If you are trying to get a student loan for tuition, you are affected. If you are a small business owner trying to extend your credit line, you are affected. If you are a farmer trying to buy a new tractor, you are affected. Maybe the only people in America not affected are those who kept their money in mattresses, and we know that is not the answer.

Look at what has happened to the middle class in the last 8 years: wages down an average of $2,000 a year. Expenses up $4,400 a year. That is a net loss of $6,400 a year. That doesn't include people with babies, and childcare, and afterschool care, and the added expenses for college—$6,400 a year. We need solutions and we need them now.

Secretary Paulson has presented his proposal, and I believe we need to change that proposal. I believe there is more we need to do.

First, I believe, in the long term, we need a comprehensive plan, including both a short-term rescue strategy and a long-term approach for economic recovery and rebuilding.

Secondly, we must minimize, as much as possible, the cost to American taxpayers. Private companies that get themselves into deep trouble should not get a free bailout on the backs of America's middle class.

Third, this plan can't be limited to helping Wall Street. We must help the middle class. We must save Main Street from the mistakes of Wall Street, and we must address head on the underlying issue of the housing market and foreclosure crisis. That means providing protection and support to struggling homeowners and restoring confidence in the residential real estate market.

Finally, if this plan proposes that the Federal Government come to the rescue of private financial institutions, then the Government must secure greater oversight of how these companies conduct their business going forward. For companies that receive assistance, there should be a limit placed on dividends. Key executives should have a look-back placed in their compensation package, and there should be a prohibiting of these golden parachutes. I cannot tell you how angry this makes me. Look at Lehman Brothers and their CEO, Richard Fuld. He earned about $45 million. This amounts to roughly $17,000 an hour—$17,000 an hour that he earned. Basically, their firm has been obliterated.

Last year, CEOs of large public companies averaged 340 more times the pay of the average workers. As Warren Buffet once said—and this is from an article by Nicholas Christopher in the New York Times:

> In judging whether corporate America is serious about reforming itself, CEO pay remains the acid test.

As he said in this article, it is a test that corporate America is failing.

People can make their money, I suppose, but once we start, as taxpayers in the U.S. Government, buying their assets and backing up their assets and bearing the risk, asking taxpayers to do that, then we have something to say about this executive compensation, and we must say it in any type of a rescue plan.

We also have to make sure going forward that the appropriate financial regulations are in place, that these loopholes are closed. There should be changes in corporate governments to improve the independence of corporate boards and reduce reckless behavior. There should be limits on speculative behavior.

I know everybody is focused a lot on Wall Street. But I have to tell you what is happening on Main Street. In my State of Minnesota, the unemployment rate is at its highest in 22 years. Minnesota's second quarter growth in personal income is only 1 percent—the 49th lowest in the country. Even that 1-percent increase is more than wiped out by inflation.

Home values in the Twin Cities area dropped nearly 14 percent in the second quarter of this year compared to last year. Heating costs this winter are expected to increase by double digits. The latest forecast shows that the cost of natural gas is expected to be 17 percent higher than it was last winter. Prices for fuel oil are expected to be 23 percent higher.

The American people still have faith in our Nation. They know our country and our economy still have great potential. We have the talent, the resources, the know-how, the entrepreneurial spirit, and a passion for innovation. The public is still bullish on America, even though Merrill Lynch may not be.

Although our immediate and urgent goal must be to stabilize the financial system and restore confidence, we also must spend this week asking those tough questions and making sure we have some answers and making sure the proposals that go through the Congress include those limits I talked about on executive pay. If we are going to be asking taxpayers in this country to bear any of this risk, they must include a long-term plan for better financial regulation of these companies. They must include a focus not just on Wall Street but also on Main Street.

Mr. President, I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. STABENOW). Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMENDING OLYMPIAN SHAWN JOHNSON

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, I am going to address two things today. First, I wish to address an Iowan I am very proud of, a person whom, if you watched the Olympics, you saw on television recently. So I am here today as a proud Iowan and American to tell other Americans just how proud I am of this Iowan.

Millions of Americans tuned in to the Olympics this past August and witnessed phenomenal performances by American athletes. I am proud of all the athletes who competed in the Olympics but especially the 11-member Team USA with Iowa ties who represented our country in Beijing.

One of those exceptional athletes was a fellow Iowan named Shawn Johnson. Shawn was a member of the U.S. women's gymnastics team who brought home the silver in the team competition. She went on to win individual honors too. She won the Silver Medal

both in all-around competition in the floor exercise, and she also received the Gold Medal for the balance beam. And that was her favorite event. All Americans were proud to see Shawn's success, but Iowans are overwhelmingly proud of the self-described—and these are not my words, but other people described her as the daredevil with a big smile.

At this year's Iowa State Fair, the famous butter sculpture, which has been a part of the State fair for the last 45 years—a sculpture made out of butter, usually a cow—this year featured a cow but also a sculpture of Shawn Johnson.

Shawn is the reigning women's world gymnastics All-Around Champion, but she is also a teenager from West Des Moines who presently attends Valley High School when she is not competing around the world. She attends football games and school dances and tries to live the life of a typical teen. She goes to class 5 hours each day and then trains at Chow's Gymnastics in her hometown. With all of this on her plate, she still manages to get straight As.

Her talent is anything but typical. As a baby, Shawn skipped the crawling and went right to walking. She climbed out of her crib before she was a year old. As a toddler, she would build a ladder out of toys, scale the entertainment center, and jump onto the couch.

After seeing their daughter's abundant energy and fearlessness, Shawn's parents Terri and Doug enrolled her in a tumbling class at age 3, and she showed promise early on. Her coach at Chows Gymnastics in West Des Moines, Liang Chow, noticed her talents and honed those talents. He even submitted a tape of Shawn to the U.S. women's gymnastics team coach Marta Karolyi because it is tough for a gymnast training in Iowa to get noticed by a national team.

Training as an elite athlete did not come cheap, though. Shawn's parents eventually mortgaged the family home three times so that their daughter could achieve her Olympic dream, and they managed to travel with Shawn to her international competitions.

In June of this year, the disastrous floods hit much of Iowa. Shawn was training with the national team, but her heart was with her fellow Iowans who were suffering, especially her coach. You see, Chow's Gymnastics, which is Shawn's second home, is located near the Raccoon River in West Des Moines, and the facility suffered a great deal of damage from the flood. Shawn, knowing what this sort of damage could mean for her coach continuing to run her business, wrote a $12,000 check from her endorsements to help get Chows Gymnastics back up and running.

Iowans have all known about Shawn and her extraordinary talent—and, of course, her big smile—for a few years now, and Iowa knew she would make them proud. But the world did not really get to know Shawn until these recent Olympics.

Despite losing the all-around competition to her U.S. teammate and close friend Nastia Luikin, Shawn handled herself with grace, poise, and genuine happiness. And when Shawn finally won the coveted Gold Medal on the incredibly difficult balance beam, her joy was written all over her face.

So I take this opportunity for my colleagues and everybody in this country to commend Shawn on her extraordinary performance in the Beijing Olympics, not only for medals that she won but for her hard work, her composure, and maturity. I compliment her. She did Iowa and America proud.

ILLEGAL DRUGS

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, I am going to now visit about an issue I often visit with my colleagues about, the issue of drugs, because I served with Senator BIDEN as cochairman of the drug caucus.

As a parent and now grandparent, I remain deeply concerned about the hazardous environment to which our children are exposed. Every day, we see more and more heartbreaking stories of a child being victimized in one way or another. Some of the most disturbing trends involve deadly drugs and our own kids. More specifically, there is an alarming number of kids who are being exposed to environments where illegal drugs are being manufactured and sold. Kids are also falling prey to unscrupulous drug dealers who are disguising highly addictive drugs to make them appear as if they were candy. I believe we have a moral obligation in this country to ensure our young people have every opportunity to grow up without being accosted by drug pushers at every turn, whether it is on TV in the home or on the way to school.

As a Senator representing a State that has been among the hardest hit by the scourge of methamphetamine abuse, I have witnessed firsthand how this horrible drug has devastated individual lives and families. I have seen the havoc wreaked on the environment as well as the child welfare system. I have listened to the horror stories of those caught in the grips of addiction. This is why I joined a number of my colleagues in passing the Combat Meth Act of 2005. This landmark legislation has shown dramatic results in decreasing the number of clandestine meth labs and increasing methamphetamine seizures.

While this is certainly welcome news, particularly for our first responders and local law enforcement community, meth labs in our communities are still a reality. For instance, in 2006, there were still over 6,400 clandestine meth lab incidents throughout the country. In my home State of Iowa, we have seen an 88-percent decrease in the number of meth lab incidents since 2004 when the Iowa Legislature passed a very important piece of legislation cutting down on the number of labs. Yet there were still 240 incidents of clandestine labs last year alone.

The Combat Meth Act has been particularly helpful in cutting down on mom-and-pop meth labs. However, our efforts have given rise to new and more disturbing instances of meth production, trafficking, and abuse that are becoming more prevalent throughout our country.

A case in point can be found in the State of Missouri, where police recently made seven meth-related arrests in just as many hours in the tiny quiet town of Ozark. The house where these arrests were made belonged to a 45-year-old grandmother, who was babysitting her infant grandson while his mother was away at school. Upon her arrest, she admitted using meth but denied that she was a dealer. However, while police searched the house, six more individuals were picked up on meth-related charges.

When it was all said and done, three children under the age of 3 watched as the police arrested their parent or grandparent for selling or possessing this terrible drug.

Sadly, this is not an unusual incident. We have here a picture of a baby. Scenes such as the one depicted on this chart are seen throughout the country. According to the Drug Enforcement Administration—DEA, as we call it around this town—more than 12,000 children throughout the country have been affected, injured, or killed at meth lab sites since 2002. Thousands more have been sent to foster homes or were victims of meth-related abuse in the home during the same period.

In my State of Iowa, the Department of Human Services reports that over 1,000 children over the past 4 years were classified as victims of abuse and that nearly half of child abuse cases have been meth-related. In 2006, there were 107 reported cases of child abuse where meth was manufactured in the presence of a minor.

Due to the shocking number of children who were being victimized by drugs in one form or another, I joined my colleagues in supporting a bill called the Drug Endangered Children Act of 2005.

This bipartisan legislation established a national grant program to support state Drug Endangered Children—DEC programs. These programs assist local law enforcement, medical services, and child welfare workers to ensure that victimized children receive proper attention and treatment after living in these terrible environments.

DEC programs greatly benefit local law enforcement by helping law enforcement coordinate in close cooperation with the Department of Human Services. This ensures a seamless coverage of child welfare and law enforcement joint operations. I am pleased to report that since this program was implemented a large number of communities throughout the Nation have

formed multi-disciplinary alliances for the benefit of drug-exposed children. There are 16 communities throughout Iowa that have set up DEC programs and more are in the process of setting up additional programs.

Unfortunately, the authorization for this grant program expired for fiscal year 2008. That is why Senator Feinstein and I introduced S. 1210, the Drug Endangered Children Act of 2007. This legislation would reauthorize this important grant program for an additional 2 years to assist States in coordinating law enforcement, medical services, and child welfare efforts to ensure children found in such environments receive appropriate attention and care. The Senate Judiciary Committee unanimously reported this bipartisan legislation to the floor. I urge my colleagues to join us in support of this important legislation and pass the Drug Endangered Children Act of 2007.

As cochairman of the Senate Caucus on International Narcotics Control, I can tell you that the most at-risk population for drug abuse is our young people. Research has shown time and again that if you keep children drug-free until they turn 20, chances are very slim that they will ever try or become addicted to drugs. Unfortunately, unscrupulous drug dealers are all too aware of statistics like these. They have developed new techniques and marketing gimmicks to lure in younger users. The DEA and the White House's Office of National Drug Control Policy have recently issued warnings about highly addictive and dangerous drugs being colored, packaged, and flavored in ways that appear to attract use by children.

These drug dealers are flavoring drugs with additives to make them taste like candy. For instance, some drugs that have been recovered by the DEA and local law enforcement have been flavored to taste like strawberry. I have two charts just to show you the seriousness of this problem. One of these charts is of the popular novelty candy ''Pop Rocks.'' The other is of some strawberry-flavored methamphetamine, which is known on the street as ''Strawberry Quick,'' that was seized by police during a traffic stop in Missouri. You can see how similar these two products appear. It would be very difficult for a child to distinguish between these two.

Other flavors, such as lemon, coconut, cinnamon and chocolate are clearly being used to make highly addictive and dangerous drugs seem less harmful and more appealing. These flavored drugs are also being marketed in smaller amounts, making it cheaper and more accessible to children. According to an article in USA Today, at least eight States have reported instances involving candy-flavored drugs, and many law enforcement officials are expecting these deadly substances to infiltrate their communities in the near future.

Meth is not the only drug that is being flavored or disguised by drug dealers. The DEA recently arrested three men in an undercover operation in California where candy flavored cocaine was being distributed. The DEA seized at least four different flavors of cocaine along with other dangerous substances. The estimated street value of the flavored cocaine seized in this operation was over $272,000.

The DEA also arrested 12 people in connection to a marijuana-laced candy operation in 2006. The marijuana-laced candy that was seized in this operation was packaged to look like well-known brand name candy bars. You can see in this chart, all the varieties of marijuana-laced candy that this operation produced. Once again, you can see how it would be difficult for a child to distinguish between these marijuana candies and the real product. These drug busts further illustrate the fact that drug dealers will stop at nothing to hook a new generation on these deadly drugs.

Due to the growing trend of these candy-flavored drugs, I joined Senator Feinstein in co-sponsoring S. 1211, the Saving Kids from Dangerous Drugs Act of 2008, a bill that ought to currently move forward. Currently, Federal law enhances the criminal penalties that apply when a person sells drugs to anyone under the age of 21. When this occurs, the Federal penalties are doubled—or tripled for a repeat offense—and a mandatory minimum of at least 1 year must also apply. However, this penalty applies only to someone who actually sells drugs to someone under 21.

The Saving Kids from Dangerous Drugs Act, as amended in the Judiciary Committee, would expand the circumstances under which these enhanced penalties apply to cover the entire operation. Under our bill, the enhanced penalties that already exist would also apply to anyone over 18 years of age who knowingly or intentionally manufactures, creates, distributes, dispenses or possesses a schedule I or II controlled substance that has been combined with a candy product, is marketed or packaged as if it were similar to a candy product, or has been modified by flavoring or coloring with the intent to distribute, or sell that controlled substance to a person under 21 years of age. The DEA busts are prime examples of why we need this bipartisan bill to keep drug dealers from pedaling their poison to our children.

The fight against deadly drugs is an ongoing struggle. We must continue to do all we can to protect the most vulnerable among us. We must send a clear message to those wishing to prey on our youth that you risk serious prison time when you target our future. The National Narcotics Officers Associations Coalition is strongly supporting this measure. This organization represents 69,000 law enforcement officers who encounter these terrible substances on a daily basis and work endlessly to keep our children and communities safe. I am pleased that my colleagues on the Judiciary Committee overwhelmingly voted in favor of reporting this important legislation to the floor. I urge all of my colleagues to join us in passing the Saving Kids from Dangerous Drugs Act of 2008.

I urge all my colleagues to join us—meaning myself and Senator FEINSTEIN, the main sponsors of the bill—in passing the Saving Kids From Dangerous Drugs Act of 2008.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. WHITEHOUSE). The Senator from Vermont is recognized.

FINANCIAL CRISIS

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, I wish to say a few words on the crisis about which everyone in America is talking. My phones, both in Vermont and here in Washington, have been bouncing off the hook with people who are outraged about the prospect of the middle class bailing out Wall Street. They are telling me: No way; we should not be doing that.

The current financial crisis facing our country should, in fact, put an end to almost any support for the extreme rightwing economic policies President Bush has been pursuing for the last 8 years and that, in fact, were pursued even before that.

These policies include, of course, huge tax breaks for the very rich under the guise that that money will trickle on down to ordinary people and create a prosperous nation. That certainly has not been the case.

Those policies include unfettered free trade, which says it is a good thing for corporate America to be able to throw American workers out on the street, move to China, and bring those products back into this country and run up what is now over a $600 billion-a-year trade deficit.

Last but not least, and pertinent to the great financial crisis we are facing right now—a crisis which many people believe is the most serious financial problem this country has had since the Great Depression of 1929—is the whole of deregulation, not only of financial services but of energy and many other sectors in our economy, under the guise that we should have great faith in large financial institutions, that they will do the right thing and that they will benefit the people of our country and, in fact, the world.

We have learned tax breaks for the rich do not filter down but make the rich richer. We have learned unfettered free trade costs us millions of good-paying jobs. We have learned that massive deregulation, allowing large financial institutions to do whatever they want to do under the radar screen, will only hurt our economy and maybe drive it to ruin.

In the midst of all this, it is important to understand what has been going on for ordinary people in this country. Since President Bush has been in office, nearly 6 million Americans have

slipped out of the middle class and into poverty all over this country. In Vermont, as I suspect in Rhode Island, working people are working two jobs; husbands and wives who were working are now reduced to going to emergency food shelves in order to buy groceries they need to take care of their families. Since George Bush has been President, the median family income for working Americans has declined by more than $2,000, a huge decrease in the income for the middle class. Since President Bush has been in office, more than 6 million Americans have lost their health insurance, over 4 million have lost their pensions, foreclosures are at an alltime high, consumer debt has more than doubled, and today we have a national debt which is almost $10 trillion, a debt we are going to be leaving to our kids and our grandchildren. That is what is happening to the middle class under these extreme rightwing economic policies.

But in terms of this debate about what we do with regard to the current financial crisis we are facing, it is also important to understand not only what is happening to the middle class and the decline of the middle class, it is also important to understand what is happening to the people on top, the wealthiest people in this country. The top one-tenth of 1 percent now earns more income than the bottom 50 percent of the American people: One-tenth of 1 percent, bottom 50 percent. The top 1 percent now owns more wealth than the bottom 90 percent. This country has the most unequal distribution of wealth and income than since just before the Great Depression in the 1920s.

Mr. President, the wealthiest 400 people in our country, since President Bush has been in office, have seen their wealth increase by $670 billion. Let me repeat that in case people are kind of scratching their heads because this is such an extraordinary number. The wealthiest 400 people—that is not a whole lot of people—in our country have seen their wealth increase by $670 billion since President Bush has been in office.

In the midst of all of that, while the rich become phenomenally richer, President Bush lowered taxes on the very wealthy so they are now paying lower income tax rates than teachers, nurses, policemen, firemen, than people in the middle class.

I raise that issue for a very simple reason. Secretary Paulson, representing the Bush administration, which year after year until a few months ago was telling us how robust and strong the economy was—I remember, as a member of the Budget Committee, having Secretary Paulson in front of us not very long ago telling us the economy was marvelous. Marvelous.

In late July of this year, President Bush himself said the foundations of the economy were strong. That was on July 31. So after having told us what most middle-class Americans knew instinctively to be wrong, having told us over and over again how strong the economy was, how robust the economy was, last week the Secretary of the Treasury basically said in so many words: I guess we made a slight mistake. The fundamentals are really not very strong. In fact, if we do not act on the largest bailout in the history of our country, and you in Congress can take a few days to respond, but if you do not act, there will be a financial meltdown not only in America but all over the world.

So year after year, until very recently, either because of incompetence and not understanding what was going on in the economy or perhaps dishonesty and not wanting to let the American people know what was going on in the economy, we were told everything was going well. Then they say: Oops, we made a slight mistake. Actually, we are on the verge of a major financial meltdown and we want Congress to accept a $700 billion bailout, and we do not want the Congress to discuss it very much. We do not want the Congress to change it very much. It has to act immediately because if it doesn't, terrible things will happen.

Well, when we talk about the reasons for the possible need of a bailout, we cannot minimize the incredible greed, the ugly greed we have seen among many of the wealthiest people in this country in the last few years, not least of all the people on Wall Street.

Let me give you some examples. In 2005, Henry Paulson, our now Secretary of the Treasury, was then the CEO of Goldman Sachs. He received, in 2005, a $38 million bonus. At that time, that was the largest bonus ever given to a Wall Street CEO.

In December of 2006, John Mack, the CEO of Morgan Stanley, broke Mr. Paulson's record by receiving a $40 million bonus—a bonus. This is on top of other forms of compensation.

Not to be outdone, Lloyd Blankfein, the new CEO of Goldman Sachs, received a $53 million bonus later that month. In 2007, 1 year ago, Mr. Blankfein, the CEO of Goldman Sachs shattered his own record by receiving a $68 million bonus.

In October of 2007, E. Stanley O'Neal, the former chief executive of Merrill Lynch—I think we all know what has happened to Merrill Lynch very recently—collected a severance package worth an estimated $161 million.

Angelo Mozilo, the former CEO of Countrywide—we know what happened to Countrywide—received a severance package of about $110 million. That was on top of $140 million in Countrywide stock that he sold off during 2006 and 2007. Mozilo was also paid $48 million in 2006.

In 2007, here is perhaps—when we talk about Wall Street greed and when we talk about Wall Street bonuses—the most outrageous fact out there, which is that in 2007 Wall Street's five biggest firms—Bear Stearns, Goldman Sachs, Lehman Brothers, Merrill Lynch, and Morgan Stanley—paid out $39 billion in bonuses to themselves.

Wall Street investment bank bonuses are larger, just their bonuses, than the gross domestic products of Sri Lanka, Lebanon, or Bulgaria, and the average bonus—average—of $219,000 is more than four times higher than the median U.S. household income.

Why do I raise those issues and give those facts? I do that for a very simple reason; that is, I regard it as an outrage for anyone to suggest the middle class of this country, whose standard of living is going down, should be forced to bail out Wall Street when people on Wall Street have made huge amounts of money in recent years and, in general, as a result of Bush's reckless and irresponsible economic policies.

The wealthiest people have also done extraordinarily well. What President Bush would have us do is to say to the middle class that is sinking, you pay for the bailout caused by Wall Street's irresponsibility, and we do not have to ask them to do anything. They pay no price at all.

I regard that as an absolutely unacceptable outrage, something we must not allow to happen. I am open to other ideas on this issue, but for me, the bottom line on this bailout is that the middle class should not be paying. There are a number of ways we can go forward to protect the middle class. I have suggested a 5-year, 10-percent tax on incomes over $1 million a year for couples, and $500,000 for single taxpayers. That would raise more than $300 billion in revenue.

That begins the process of saying to the wealthiest people who have benefitted from Bush's reckless policies: You have to step to the plate, and this is not going to be on the middle class to provide the money for the bailout—this money, by the way, which is $2,200 for every woman, man, and child in this country and, a family of four, close to $9,000.

In addition, we have to ensure that assets purchased from banks are realistically discounted so companies are not rewarded for their risky behavior and taxpayers can recover the amount they pay for them.

Thirdly, we must require that the taxpayers receive equity stakes in the bailed-out companies so the assumption of risk is rewarded when a company's stock goes up. We are going to buy this stuff, and as stocks go up we should benefit from that. In addition, at a time when the middle class has so many serious problems; when people in my State and in the State of the Senator from Rhode Island are worried about how they are going to be able to heat their homes this winter; when millions of middle-class families are worried about how they are going to be able to send their kids to college; at a time when our infrastructure is collapsing, and we have the potential to create millions of jobs rebuilding our bridges, our roads, our rail systems; at

a time when we must move from fossil fuels to energy efficiency and sustainable energy and create large numbers of jobs in that area as well; we need a major economic recovery program which puts millions of Americans to work dealing with the many unmet needs facing our country.

In addition, to my mind, any serious piece of legislation dealing with this bailout must include language which undoes the damage caused by excessive deregulation. That means reinstalling regulatory firewalls that were ripped down in 1999. And, lastly—not lastly because I think many other people have other good ideas as well, but the last point that I want to make tonight is a very important point.

We are where we are today because of the doctrine of ''too big to fail.'' The assumption is that if we allow these huge institutions to fail, they take down the entire economy and virtually all of our people suffer.

I would respond to that in the future by saying that if an institution is too big to fail, that institution is too big to exist. I should tell you that I have serious concerns right now about the Bank of America swallowing up Countrywide, swallowing up Merrill Lynch. If they were to be teetering, does anyone have any doubt that there would have to be a massive bailout for that bank? But it is not only the Bank of America. I think we have to take a very hard look at these huge institutions, which, if they fail, could impact the entire economy. I think we need to start doing something that was talked about in the early part of the 20th century about breaking up these huge institutions.

There is a lot of work that has to be done in the near future. But for me, the bottom line is that at a time when the wealthiest people made out like bandits under Bush's reckless economic policies, while at the same time the middle class declined, it would be absolutely grotesque to ask the middle class of this country to pay for this bailout.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

THE ECONOMY

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I know the country is focusing on and we are all concerned about the state of the economy and some of the proposals that are being raised to fix that, including the proposal from the Secretary of Treasury and the administration for a $700 billion expenditure. That is almost one-third of the entire governmental expenditure this year. It is more than the war in Iraq has cost, and it is an extraordinary thing.

I do not know the answer. I am not a master of the universe. I have used the phrase sometimes: Masters of the Universe. Understand that if this legislation, as was proposed, were to become law, we would have one single master of the universe, almost, the Secretary of Treasury.

I think this Congress has a responsibility here. I want to say that. I know now is not the time to go into a lot of detail, but I want to say this Congress has a responsibility, and we are not free to dust our hands and say: Mr. Secretary, you have all the power you want to buy and sell private corporations, to spend up to $700 billion, and we are all going to be happy about it. We think you can fix it, and we will go home and do our campaigning. I think we have a bigger responsibility than that.

I wish to say—and I have great respect for Secretary Paulson, I do—I would want to know more about the nature of the crisis we are facing. I know we have a serious crisis. I wish to know why we cannot slow down a little bit and think this thing through. That is the tradition of the Senate, the saucer that cools. But we are hearing: It is a crisis, and you politicians will mess it up. Go on and get out of the way and vote this thing out and we will take care of it. But that implicates the separation of powers to an extraordinary degree and may well be adverse in the long run. The proposal certainly was not greeted by Wall Street today as an indication of a solid fix. The market dropped again, and people apparently thought it would weaken the dollar and that is the reason oil prices increased. So this is a matter we need to think about.

I urge my colleagues on the relevant committees and the leadership on the Republican side in the Senate and the Democratic side: Let's not be stampeded here. Let's ask good questions. I am one who is not adverse to taking action, appropriate action, but I think we need to not be stampeded. It is a bit hubris to think one person can fix it all and somehow that person can stand in the middle of all of the market forces and rebalance them. Do we believe in the market or not?

One socialist is reported to have said when asked: What is socialism: It is the ability to control the commanding heights of the economy. Well, financial institutions are one commanding height of the economy. Who are we not giving control of that over to?

I think in a fundamental sense, the goals I believe we should have would be first to protect the interests of the taxpayers before we spend in a manner of days an amount of money equal to and in excess of the war in Iraq—almost one-third of our annual expenditures. Let's protect the taxpayers. How do we do that? We need to find out more about the problems. We are told there are grave problems, problems, problems, and we have to act, act, act. Exactly what are those problems that require us to act so fast?

Secondly, I think our action should be respectful of the marketplace, and let's try to do what would restore integrity in the marketplace. I don't think it is necessary that we need more regulation as much as we need better, more appropriate regulation. I would note that my colleague, Senator SHELBY, the ranking Republican on the Banking Committee and former chairman, has fought for years to have more control over Freddie and Fannie and their activities, as the Wall Street Journal noted recently.

I urge my colleagues: Let's take some time. We got into this in large part by some bad government policies and actions. I think we can all admit that. The government is going to have to take action. I recognize that. But I think it is important that when we act on a matter of this size and this importance, we take enough time to understand what is in it and do the right thing, not the political thing in this political season.

I thank the Chair for the opportunity to share those thoughts. I know there are some fine Members of this Senate worried right now who are wrestling with these issues. I, for one, believe that maybe a little slower action, a little more thought, may turn out to be better in the long run than a panicky response.

I thank the Chair and yield the floor, and I note the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, the decision has been made that we are going to try to work with Dr. COBURN tomorrow to see if we can get part of the 34 bills he has held up for long periods of time, to see if we can get some of those passed by unanimous consent. There is a possibility that we can get 8 or 10 of them done and if we could, that would be very nice. If we can't, we will wait until next year when we have more opportunity to do things such as this and less problems of people holding things up. So we are going to do the best we can.

40TH ANNIVERSARY OF MALDEF

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise to call the attention of the Senate to the 40th anniversary of the leading Latino litigation, advocacy, community education, and outreach organization in the United States. The Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund, MALDEF, celebrates 40 years of

protecting and promoting the civil rights of Latinos in the United States.

MALDEF'S service to the Latino community is exemplary; they utilize multiple strategies to foster sound public policies, laws, and programs that secure the civil rights of Latinos. Their work on employment, education, immigration, political access, language, and public resource equity issues is pivotal to the advancement and progress of the Latino community in the United States.

Over its rich 40-year history, MALDEF has been led by some of the best and brightest Hispanic leaders who paved the way for excellence in nonprofit leadership. Thanks to the fine leadership of Mario Obledo, MALDEF's first president and general counsel; Antonia Hernandez, who served MALDEF for 23 years; and John Trasviña, MALDEF's current president and general counsel, we have much to celebrate. MALDEF's leadership is heard throughout the nation from their headquarters in Los Angeles, to San Antonio, Chicago, Washington, DC, Houston, and Sacramento.

During these especially hard times for our Latino brothers and sisters, when the anti-immigrant sentiment is at its highest, MALDEF has been fighting to challenge breaches in voting rights, workplace discrimination, access to justice, and educational access. In 2006, MALDEF went before the U.S. Supreme Court and successfully challenged a congressional redistricting plan that discriminated against Latino voters in Texas. Most recently, MALDEF won a case that will require the Texas Education Agency to fix the State's English Language Learner, ELL, programs in secondary schools and restore educational equity for our Latino students.

I commend the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund for their 40-year commitment to the Hispanic community. Their record of legal representation, advocacy, and educational outreach has indisputably improved the quality of life and opportunities of all Latinos in the U.S. It is through the hard work of organizations like MALDEF that we will be able to overcome social and economic inequalities faced by Americans of different ethnic and racial backgrounds.

RETIREMENT OF CHARLES MICHAEL ''MIKE'' NANNINI, JR.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize my friend Charles Michael ''Mike'' Nannini, a dedicated public servant who retired last month after 16 years of service to Nevada as an Elko county commissioner.

Mr. Nannini was first elected in 1992 and has since completed four terms as county commissioner for District 1. When he retired in August, Mike was serving as the chair of the commission—a position he held numerous times throughout his tenure.

A long-time resident of Nevada and a graduate of the University of Nevada, Reno, Mike is a devoted and active member of his community. In addition to his time on the Elko County Commission, he has also served on the Elko County Planning Commission and was mayor of Wells, NV. He has contributed to Elko County as a 35-year business owner, a realtor, and a horse and cattle owner.

With an unyielding commitment to public safety, Mike served as the Sheriff Department's liaison, fought to bring a juvenile justice facility to Elko County, and served on the Central Dispatch Administrative Authority board. He has also given his time as a U.S. Forest Service and BLM Liaison, on the Metropolis Dam Rehabilitation board, and as a board member for the Heart Project, a tire recycling project.

Mike has also worked hard to bring the citizens of Elko County together—no matter how far-flung they may be. Good communication is essential in rural Nevada, and Mike made an effort to bridge gaps between larger communities and the outlying towns. As a part of this plan, he helped organize rural commission meetings so that the concerns of the unincorporated communities could be heard. Mike also served on the Elko County Fair Board, and established the annual Elko County Employee Picnic to recognize and thank county employees for their hard work to support Elko County.

Elko County has prospered under Mike's leadership, and although he is retiring, the benefits of his service will be felt for years to come. One of his long-held goals has been to see a new administration building for the county, and ground was recently broken on this project, which should be completed by 2011. Additionally, Mike continues to work on a project to restore the Bishop Creek Dam so that it may be used for recreational and agricultural needs in the county.

After many years of service, Mike will enjoy retirement with his wife Lois and their children and grandchildren. I am grateful for his service and proud to honor him and his achievements.

COMMENDING HONOR FLIGHT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I would like to speak briefly about a special group of Kentuckians who visited our Nation's capitol last month. In August, 39 World War II veterans from the Commonwealth visited the memorial which they inspired on the National Mall. These heroes were able to make this trip because of the Honor Flight Program, a nonprofit organization which transports surviving World War II veterans from around the country to see their memorial free of charge. Because Congress was out of session during their visit, I was back home in Kentucky. As a result, I was unable to participate in this Honor Flight event as I have in others before it. However, I hope to have the opportunity to meet more of these inspirational veterans on future Bluegrass Honor Flight trips.

The World War II Memorial was dedicated in 2004, nearly 60 years after our troops returned home. It sits, appropriately, between the Washington Monument and the Lincoln Memorial—reflecting the same principles of courage and valor that were embodied by these two great Presidents. The legacy of the World War II veterans who defended those principles from enemies of freedom is not only preserved by this memorial, but it is honored each day in the sacrifices of American troops who continue to do the same for our Nation in the war on terror.

As Americans, we are forever indebted to the brave men and women of the United States military who defend this great Nation. The veterans of World War II made tremendous sacrifices so that we could continue to live in prosperity and freedom and for that they are more than deserving of their title as the ''greatest generation.''

I would ask that my colleagues join me in honoring these Kentucky veterans:

WORLD WAR II VETERANS

Henry Alford; Salvator Amato; Fairel Bailey; Harlan Barton; Woodrow Bryant; Wilbur Cannon; Charles Carveth; Clarence Cox; Richard Dolan; Luther Drury; Francis Fleck; John Frantz; William Glye; Sam Goldstein; Eugene Haag; James Harrison; James Hunt; Paul Jones; James Lenihan; William Lippy.

Beverly Miller; Bobby Morgan; Ernest Morgan; James Nicholson; Lewis Perciful; James Plummer; Carl Rapson; Shirrelle Render; Harold Senior; Evan Shelby; Donald Stevens; Wayne Tabor; Willard Thomas; Ernest Wagner; Phillip Wells; James West, Jr.; Elmer Whitaker; Cecil Williams; Gilbert Yunt.

INTERNET SERVICES USAGE RULES AND POLICIES

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I wish to inform all Senators that on Friday, September 19, 2008, the Committee on Rules and Administration approved amendments to the U.S. Senate Internet Services Usage Rules and Policies. These regulations are effective immediately.

The regulations were amended to accommodate Senate offices interested in utilizing social networking sites. I wish to emphasize that all Senate Web sites must be located in the senate.gov host domain, except for the exceptions specified in A3 of the regulations.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have the amended regulations printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

U.S. SENATE INTERNET SERVICES USAGE RULES AND POLICISE

A. SCOPE AND RESPONSIBILITY

1. Senate Internet Services (''World Wide Web and electronic mail, blogs, podcasting, streaming media, etc.'') may only be used for official purposes. The use of Senate Internet Services for personal, promotional, commercial, or partisan political/campaign purposes is prohibited.

2. Members of the Senate, as well as Committee Chairmen and Officers of the Senate may post to the Internet Servers information files which contain matter relating to

their official business, activities, and duties. All other offices must request approval from the Committee on Rules and Administration before posting material on the Internet Information Servers.

3. Websites covered by this policy must be located in the Senate.gov host-domain.

a. Exceptions: A Member, Committee or Officer of the Senate (''Office'') may separately maintain websites or channels or otherwise post material on third-party websites that are available to the general public subject to Senate Rules, Regulations, Standing Orders and Statutes governing Senate operations, including the prohibition on using Senate internet resources for personal, promotional, commercial, or partisan political/campaign purposes.

To provide assistance and guidance to Offices, the Rules and Administration Committee may provide a non-exhaustive list of examples of third-party websites that, at the time they are reviewed by the Committee, agree:

a. to provide naming protocols or other methods that will enable the public to know when a site or channel is maintained by an office;

b. not to add personal, promotional, commercial or partisan political/campaign-related content or links to an Office-maintained website or channel; and

c. not to use data gathering tools on an Office-maintained website or channel that allow for collecting personal information on users and distributing it to outside parties.

b. If the use of a particular website is determined to pose a possible threat to the security of the Senate's computer network, the Committee on Rules and Administration reserves the right to direct offices to cease using these websites until the issue can be resolved.

c. The Rules Committee shall require the removal of a website or channel maintained by the Member on such third-party website or channel at the end of a Member's term.

4. It is the responsibility of each Senator, Committee Chairman (on behalf of the committee), Officer of the Senate, or office head to oversee the use of the Internet Services by his or her office and to ensure that the use of the services is consistent with the requirements established by this policy and applicable laws and regulations.

5. Official records may not be placed on the Internet Servers unless otherwise approved by the Secretary of the Senate and prepared in accordance with Section 501 of Title 44 of the United States Code. Such records include, but are not limited to: bills, public laws, committee reports, and other legislative materials.

B. POSTING OR LINKING TO THE FOLLOWING MATTER IS PROHIBITED

1. Political Matter

a. Matter which specifically solicits political support for the sender or any other person or political party, or a vote or financial assistance for any candidate for any political office is prohibited.

b. Matter which mentions a Senator or an employee of a Senator as a candidate for political office, or which constitutes electioneering, or which advocates the election or defeat of any individuals, or a political party is prohibited.

2. Personal Matter

a. Matter which by its nature is purely personal and is unrelated to the official business activities and duties of the sender is prohibited.

b. Matter which constitutes or includes any article, account, sketch, narration, or other text laudatory and complimentary of any Senator on a purely personal or political basis rather than on the basis of performance of official duties as a Senator is prohibited.

c. Reports of how or when a Senator, the Senator's spouse, or any other member of the Senator's family spends time other than in the performance of, or in connection with, the legislative, representative, and other official functions of such Senator is prohibited.

d. Any transmission expressing holiday greetings from a Senator is prohibited. This prohibition does not preclude an expression of holiday greetings at the commencement or conclusion of an otherwise proper transmission.

3. Promotional Matter

a. The solicitation of funds for any purpose is prohibited.

b. The placement of logos or links used for personal, promotional, commercial, or partisan political/campaign purposes is prohibited.

C. RESTRICTIONS ON THE USE OF INTERNET SERVICES

1. During the 60-day period immediately preceding the date of any primary or general election (whether regular, special, or runoff) for any national, state, or local office in which the Senator is a candidate, no Member may solicit constituent input or inquiries (such as online petitions or opinion polls or issue alerts) using a Senate Internet Server (''World Wide Web and electronic mail, blogs, podcasting, streaming media, etc.''), unless the candidacy of the Senator in such election is uncontested.

2. Electronic mail may not be transmitted by a Member during the 60-day period before the date of the Member's primary or general election unless it is in response to a direct inquiry. Exceptions to this moratorium include the following: press release distribution to press organizations and email to perform administrative communication. Direct inquiries do not include a request to be added to a mailing list, subscription list, or other request to receive future mailings. During the 60-day period, electronic news letters may not be sent out.

3. During the 60-day period immediately before the date of a biennial general Federal election, no Member may solicit constituent input or inquiries (such as online petitions or opinion polls, issue alerts or request to be added to newsletter mailing lists electronic or otherwise, on behalf of another Senator who is a candidate for election, unless the candidacy of the Senator in such election is uncontested.

4. An uncontested candidacy is established when the Rules Committee receives written certification from the appropriate state official that the Senator's candidacy may not be contested under state law. Since the candidacy of a Senator who is running for reelection from a state which permits write-in votes on elections day without prior registration or other advance qualification by the candidate may be contested, such a Member is subject to the above restrictions.

5. If a Member is under the restrictions as defined in subtitle C, paragraph (1), above, the following statement must appear on the homepage: (''Pursuant to Senate policy, newsletters, petitions, opinion polls and issue alerts and other electronic communications cannot be initiated by this office for the 60-day period immediately before the date of a primary or general election.''). The words ''Senate Policy'' must be hypertext linked to the Internet services policy on the Senate Home Page.

6. A Senator's homepage may not refer or be hypertext linked to another Member's site or electronic mail address without authorization from that Member.

7. Any Links to Information not located on a Senate Internet Server must be identified as a link to a non-Senate entity, subject to the exceptions noted in (A)(3).

D. MISCELLANEOUS

Domains and Names (URL)—Senate entities must reside exclusively on Senate.gov domains, subject to the exceptions noted in (A)(3). The URL name for an official Senate Website located in the Senate.gov domain must:

1. Member sites—contain the Senator's last name.

2. Committee sites—contain the name of the committee.

3. Officer sites—contain the name of the office.

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I want to take some time to remind our colleagues, and indeed all Americans, that yesterday, September 21, 2008, was the International Day of Peace. The United Nations and its member states unanimously established an International Day of Peace in 1981. However it was not until 2001 that September 21 was agreed to as the permanent date. According to the U.N. resolution, the International Day of Peace should be devoted to commemorating and strengthening the ideals of peace both within and among all nations and peoples. I applaud Governor Chet Culver for his proclamation affirming Iowa's observance of International Peace Day. And, at this time, I would like to do my own part to mark this day, especially on the behalf of the many Iowans who are committed to the ideals of peace.

Unfortunately, this may be International Peace Day, but sadly our leaders are faced with numerous challenges around the world that undermine the ideal of peace. The United States is in the sixth year of a devastating war in Iraq, a war of choice that was launched preemptively by the current U.S. administration. The Middle East is in turmoil. We have an ongoing genocide in Darfur. A dictator still clings to power in Zimbabwe by indefinitely postponing, without explanation, scheduled meetings to discuss the implementation of a power-sharing agreement, despite the fanfare surrounding its signing. Russia continues its illegal presence in Georgia. HIV/AIDS and malaria continue to ravage the continent of Africa. Millions of children are forced to work in abusive conditions—in many cases, as outright slaves—and are denied an education. Drought and rising food prices are causing even more hunger and famine in some of the world's poorest places.

But a true commitment to peace is not measured by a proclamation or by high-minded speeches on 1 day of the year. It takes more than good intentions and high ideals. What it takes is the hard work of diplomacy, people-to-people exchanges, and active, assertive peace movements in each country.

I agree whole-heartedly with recent remarks made by Secretary of Defense Robert Gates. He said our institutions of diplomacy and development have

been chronically undermanned and underfunded relative to our military expenditure. I came across a sobering statistic along these lines just the other day. In this country we have more musicians in military bands than we do members of the Foreign Service.

What are our priorities? We spend nearly $1 billion a year on military academies to train our best and brightest young people to make war. But we spend almost nothing to train our cadre of diplomats to use diplomacy to strengthen peace around the world.

Mr. President, I have long been committed to finding peaceful solutions to conflicts. That is why I was present at the creation of the U.S. Institute of Peace. Throughout our long history, America has been proud of its strong, well-led military. And this outstanding military leadership is no accident. It is possible because we maintain prestigious, world-class military academies that train some of the best and brightest minds in America in the art and science of war.

But Americans also have a long history as a peace-loving people. Time and again, we have brokered peace agreements between warring nations, and we have intervened to head off potential conflicts. The Institute of Peace draws on this proud tradition and today makes a vital intellectual investment in the art and science of peacemaking by engaging with the Iraqi people to build peace from the community level.

Addressing worldwide hunger is crucial for ensuring the health of people in developing countries and maintaining peace throughout the world. The U.S. is a major contributor to international food aid by providing, on average for the last 6 years, roughly 55 percent of annual total food aid provided to low-income and developing countries. I believe we can still do more. That is why I worked hard to strengthen food aid programs in the 2002 and 2008 farm bills and continue to support expansion of our food aid efforts.

During my tenure in the Senate, I have consistently championed food aid programs such as Public Law 480, title II, also known as the Food for Peace Program. Title II is extremely important in providing U.S. food developing countries meet humanitarian needs arising from emergencies or for use in development projects.

I am also a strong advocate and was a lead sponsor of the McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program established in the 2002 farm bill, which was reauthorized in the 2008 farm bill. The McGovern-Dole program encourages education and provides food to improve nutrition in developing countries for preschoolers and school-aged children and their families through the use of both in-school programs and take-home rations. I believe that it is essential to fully fund food aid programs which help to promote a safe and healthy diet for people in developing countries, and will ultimately make the world a safer place to live.

America is strongest when we lead not by force of arms but by our democratic and moral example. It takes a sustained effort to understand our adversaries and, if at all possible, to resolve our differences peacefully. The International Day of Peace allows people to think about redoubling our diplomatic efforts and reducing violence.

I look forward to a time, hopefully not too far in the future, that will truly be a day of peace. But let us remember that peace is not merely the cessation or absence of hostilities. The ideals of peace require us to practice understanding, tolerance, and honorable compromise. The ideals of peace require us to look upon our fellow human beings and to see them as our brothers and sisters. The ideals of peace require us to reject unprovoked aggression and violence as acceptable instruments of national policy.

So, Mr. President, on this day after the International Day of Peace, I salute the many good people in Iowa, across America, and around the world who devote themselves 365 days a year to the cause of peace and nonviolence. The world is a better place because of their activism and engagement.

IDAHOANS SPEAK OUT ON HIGH ENERGY PRICES

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, in mid-June, I asked Idahoans to share with me how high energy prices are affecting their lives, and they responded by the hundreds. The stories, numbering over 1,000, are heartbreaking and touching. To respect their efforts, I am submitting every e-mail sent to me through energy_prices@crapo.senate.gov to the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. This is not an issue that will be easily resolved, but it is one that deserves immediate and serious attention, and Idahoans deserve to be heard. Their stories not only detail their struggles to meet everyday expenses, but also have suggestions and recommendations as to what Congress can do now to tackle this problem and find solutions that last beyond today. I ask that today's letters be printed in the RECORD.

You asked for comments on how the fuel costs have affected me. It has been good for my health. The high fuel prices have gotten me back on my bicycle, and I am enjoying it very much. I put baskets on my bike to carry supplies and groceries, and it works very well. When I see people driving three or four blocks to get coffee or ice cream or beer or whatever, and then listen to them complain about how much fuel costs them, I have a hard time with that. I drive a lot less than I used to, and am hoping the rest of the country will follow suite. I turned my thermostat down this past winter, and my bills went down even with rising costs. Putting a sweater on is easy. As people comment when they see my baskets full of groceries, most of them say they should do that. I am wondering why they are not. Instead they go to the gym and burn gas getting there and back to get a workout. Why not walk or ride a bike? Hopefully, folks will start thinking about how far away their job is and try to live within a short commute or bike ride away. There are lots of things people can do to consume less. More public transportation is a must and would be a lot cheaper in more ways than one, than more nuclear power plants. More bike-friendly places and bike paths would get people riding. The communities/cities of Idaho would be a much better place to live that have walk/bike friendly road/ shoulders. So this is how high fuel prices have affected me in Idaho. We all need to get out of our cars and enjoy the scenery!

Thanks,

LYNN, *Rathdrum.*

I am an owner/operator truck driver. It is getting real hard to make a living out here on the road. The price of fuel is almost to the point of shutting this country down. I have just a few more payments left on my truck . At this point, I cannot make a full payment on my truck each month. So it is going to take even longer to get the job done. When I get the truck paid off, I am afraid, like many others, I will have to park my truck. I cannot haul freight for nothing. I do not enjoy it that much. I use to stay out 4–6 weeks at a time; now, I have to stay out 2 months or longer and still cannot keep the payments caught up. But I am so exhausted that I have to take a few days off. This only makes me farther behind. Thanks for the help!

DANNY.

Almost half our state of Idaho is rural, and much is in BLM Land. So, to get to Idaho cities requires driving long stretches of highway or two-lane roads. I have to drive to Garden Valley every weekend from Boise, and sometimes I have to go there two or three times per week. At 60 miles one way and 120 miles roundtrip, we have seen our gasoline bill nearly double. Next to our mortgage payment, gasoline expense has become our second highest cost in our household. I get raises very infrequently, so this has shot our budget. We do not shop as much and we have stopped going out to eat or go to any entertainment. This, in turn, has hurt our economy.

I listened to the Governor of Montana say he has enough coal and oil along with the major oil finds in the Dakotas to virtually replace the dependence we are placing on foreign energy, but our own red tape has hamstrung our domestic energy companies from developing these resources. Why? It is past time to drill in ANWR. Let us get that rolling now—we have better technology to minimize the environmental impact than any other nation on earth. The time is ripe to even consider re-introducing the 55 MPH speed limit again. I am ready to vote for nationalizing oil, natural gas, and electricity. These three resources have got to be stabilized for our nation to stay in good economic health. By not stabilizing these three resources, we are headed for economic ruin.

Right now, corn is up so high for the ethanol that farmers are producing that they are not selling corn for food. Cattle are not getting enough feed to eat, so ranchers are planning to mass sell off their herds, which will temporarily glut the marketplace then beef will soar in cost. Our airplane and automotive situation has nosedived, and the vacation industry is failing. Private truckers are parking their rigs and even selling them to Russia, so when gas and diesel prices come down, the trucking industry will not recover. Of course, the housing market is dying with the subprime mortgage mess, and banks do not have the necessary reserves on hand to even lend more money though the Fed has lowered the interest rates to 2%.

Frankly, unless some or all of the oil and natural gas industry is immediately nationalized, I fear we are economically doomed

and will lead the whole world into an economic recession/depression. Please kill any legislation regarding carbon capping. There is no way there is enough CO_2 in the world to cause global warming. With CO_2 only comprising .05% of the atmosphere, even doubling, tripling, its concentration will not cause global warming, but sunspot flare activity surely can and does cause global warming. Over 21,000 scientists now agree this is true versus 2,500 who disagree. We have got to wake up and take action together. Thanks for asking for our opinion.

HERMAN.

If the U.S. government reduced some of the huge amounts of oil held in reserve, the price of oil would immediately fall. I just cannot understand why such action has not been taken and can only conclude that [partisan or illegal actions may be behind the price fixing.]

Regards,

BILL.

As a single father and college student, I pay over $500 per month in child support. I am barely making it and I depend on student loans to even survive. I cannot afford to be paying outrageous prices for gas. I have errands to run everyday. If this continues, I do not know what I can do to keep a roof over my head and feed my children when I have them. Please, we cannot ignore this price gouging.

DOUG.

Thanks, Senator Crapo, for this opportunity to share my opinions and stories about the high cost of fuels and how it is affecting my immediate family.

Two weeks ago, my husband finally broke down and called our fuel oil dealer to order 100 gallons of stove oil. It has been a cool spring. We have been wearing extra sweaters and jackets to be warm inside our home! The price for that was $450, and that did not fill up our tank. This is the end of winter; what is stove oil going to cost in the fall, next winter? Not so long ago stove oil was pennies on the dollar. We used to burn wood, but it also takes gas for the chainsaw and truck to haul it home. You also have to buy a permit to gather the wood. It is no longer free! My Social Security check is $515 a month. I live 16 miles to our nearest town, 42 miles to Couer d' Alene, our county seat where we conduct a lot of our business. There is no public transportation to anywhere I live.

People in the East have no concept of the distance to places in the West!!! Back there you can visit several states and we are still on our way to Boise when they have come and gone to their state capitol and perhaps 5 or six bordering states. Boise is 400 miles south on what is referred to as the ''Goat Trail''. It is about an eight-hour trip by car. Folks, it is no freeway. North Idaho's freeway is I-90 & it is 75 miles wide. That is the width of the panhandle there.

We have driven the most economical car possible since 1985 when Chevrolet came out with the Chevy Sprint that consistently gives about 45 miles to the gallon. It is a 3-cylinder car that is great for commuting, but it is no luxury car. Our second car is a 1996 Subaru Legacy Outback. It carries a month's worth of groceries and other supplies. It also brings us to the top of the hill we live on when there is lots of snow on the ground.

Chevrolet first came out with the Sprint, then the Geo and now the Aveno (?I believe it is called). Each model the gas mileage has decreased significantly. In our area, doctors and dentists are driving them for the gas mileage, not for their luxury. You see, it is affecting the professionals too!

I feel that the car companies and oil companies are in cahoots to keep the gas flowing when they can and have designed fuel efficient vehicles for the modern day public. Take the time to view the DVD, ''Who Killed the Electric Car?'' It tells what happened to the electric car. It is available in the Kootenai/Shoshone public library system.

General Motors developed an electric car in the late '90's, 2000's that was leased to drivers in California. Each driver loved their car. Had fun with it and it was economical to drive with rechargeable batteries. Some models even recharged as they were driven. They did not even need to be parked to be recharged. They were economical, easy to maintain and sensible to drive. What happened to them? They were taken away from the drivers/leasee & destroyed/crushed!!!! And that under much protest!

Some of these things we've done to ourselves, but other things the American public does not have many choices when it comes to what we drive. I will tell you this all these SUV's on the highway are a disgrace to economy. And legislation was giving a tax break if you went out and purchased one a few years ago. Tell me, what kind of economic sense does that make??? They're just a pack of gas guzzlers!!!

Thanks again for the opportunity to sound off a bit!

TIFFANY, *St. Maries.*

I am 63-years-old and last year, right before the prices went out of control, already had purchased an electric bike to use to get to work. Fortunately, I only live a little over a mile away and can use this bike that goes 15 miles an hour. My determination to ride this bike increased as the hot days turned into colder ones and I was able to ride my bike through November so I would not have to fill the pick-up with gas too much. Government wants us to recycle to help the environment and I am all for it, but when we try to do our part, we do not get any help in return. If you do get an electric car which no one can afford but the wealthy.

I see my single parent daughter trying to commute and make ends meet and it gets increasingly difficult because with gas prices she goes with less food for family, etc.

I think it is outrageous for our country and politicians to allow these price increases when we have the means to take care of this country. Twenty years ago they spoke of getting alternatives and did not push this issue and had they done so much more could have been done. I am afraid that before long we will see violence in this country mainly because our jobs are gone, price increases in every area of products, but no one ever increases the wages to meet the demands of other increase. What is the matter with people in government and businesses?

I do not like to see government control but because our business people will not use common sense to see what happens when the jobs go there is not sufficient jobs to go and buy the products. What is wrong with this picture? We need to start taxing products from overseas that come here so businesses will come back to the states and put our people back to work. How sad our government has deserted their own people.

I am hoping with all my heart that someone will step up to the plate and really try to make a difference. We have to do something as everything is getting out of control and it is sad because of what our forefathers have tried to do before us to make it a great country. I am angry and I do not like politics, but when I see people trying to do well for their families and that means is taken away from them, someone needs to speak up.

DEVERA, *Nampa.*

I appreciate the help trying to keep energy prices at a manageable level. As a lifelong Idahoan, I have grown accustomed to the Idaho way of life. I travel to the same hunting and fishing grounds that my father and my grandfather have previously shown me, teaching my kids to enjoy what our state has to offer. I am a married father of three kids, hoping for a couple more. I work as an accountant and, for the last two-and-a-half half years, my wife has stayed home to raise our kids. It was a giant leap of faith for us to go from two incomes down to one. We sacrificed a lot of the little luxuries but have been blessed by being able to teach our kids. As a result, my eldest daughter, who is in second grade, has excelled in school. She and her siblings love to learn. As the general costs of living have increased, I made the decision to pick up a paper route to help build our savings. I spent many years in college before finally graduating from BSU in 2005. Our savings was depleted. Just as we thought we were going to get ahead, the gas prices started going up. The speed at which they increased has not allowed wages to follow. I still throw papers, but the amount of money I can earn is much lower. My route requires me driving over 40 miles each day. This is on top of my 17-mile each way commute to work. There is little to no public transportation here, and my commute is a bit longer than a bike ride. Cost of living has risen dramatically requiring me to use the money earned from newspaper delivery to help supplement our budget to pay bills. Travel plans this spring and summer have been canceled due to the price of fuel. The number of trips I will be able to take to get in some fly fishing will be cut as well. What I would like to see is a short term help but long term solution. While an increase in domestic supply will begin to stabilize prices, it will not be a long term solution due to the volatile OPEC. We need alternative energy solutions and an increase in public transportation. I hope that our countries leaders can keep an open eye to all sources of power. INL has long been a great source for nuclear power but it seems that too many people are scared to work with. The Integral Fast Reactor was shut down during the Clinton era and years of technology was lost. We must find a better solution.

JOE, *Boise.*

I work in Hailey, which is a commute of 150 miles each work day. It now costs me in excess of one hour of my wages to make the drive. My gasoline costs are around $800 per month. We heat our house with oil and it now costs us right at $1,000 to fill our 250-gallon barrel. We cannot afford to take a vacation because of the fuel, motel, and food prices. My wife and I find this quite disheartening.

I would really like to see the United States become energy self-sufficient. I know the technology is available to help us get their let us offer entrepreneurs incentives to accomplish this. If Congress would make all cars sold in the U.S. flex fuel cars, this would drive the alternative fuel market into production. If Congress would require that all new cars meet the fuel economy requirements that are scheduled for 2020 become a requirement by 2010, this would also help. If Congress would take control over fuel and energy futures trading, this would also help. Thank Congress for taking away the incentives to the fuel producers.

We put a man on the moon in less that a decade, so I truly believe we can become self sufficient if we put our minds and hearts toward this goal.

Sincerely,

WALT, *Kimberly.*

I live ten miles from town. I moved to this location for solitude several years ago. Because of the greed of the petroleum industry, I am to the point that I cannot take my handicapped wife for a weekend drive. My

propane heating bill has doubled since last year. If this greed continues, I will have to make a choice of what I can buy with the income that I have. Do I buy fuel so I can take my wife to her doctors, some of which are located in Lewiston, 55 miles from our house, or drive the ten miles to town to get her much-needed medicine, get groceries, which we cannot buy like we used to, or pay the ever-increasing heating bill from this past winter?

There are reason why the cost of fuel are on a continuing on this outragest rise. Refineries are not at capacity; there are no new refineries; the environmentalists, with the help of their liberal judges, stop any new drilling for oil; pure greed by the petroleum industry. Whenever there is a new development to increase fuel mileage, the petroleum industry buys up the patents and kills them.

WENDELL, *Orofino*.

I cannot understand why Congress cannot see the need to allow the United States to access more of our own energy sources. Yes, we need new alternative fuels, but we also need to become more realistic about our solutions to the energy crisis. We need to combine research AND start making use of our own current oil supplies. We need to start drilling in the locations where oil has already been discovered. Why has Congress ridiculed President Bush when he asked the Saudis to produce more oil when Congress refused to do the same right in our own country? He did ask Congress first. I would also like to see the Congressmen invite the scientists who do not agree with man-made global warming to testify and bring their facts forward. Forming an energy policy on an unproven crisis does not make much sense.

GLORIA.

I drive 80 miles a day round trip to work in the Sun Valley area from Fairfield. ''Real'' people cannot afford to live within 30 miles of the Hailey/Sun Valley area due to exorbitant house prices, so the local economy is dependent on those who will drive from outlying areas. The high gas prices are crippling my family's ability to stay in South Central Idaho.

RANDY.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

HONORING JAMES KETELSEN

• Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, today I commend James Ketelsen for his vision and commitment to transforming the hopes of tens of thousands of students and families across the country through Project GRAD, an education reform program that he started when he was chairman and CEO of Tenneco in Houston, TX. Project GRAD has helped these students realize their academic potential and many of them have completed their college education with the assistance of Project GRAD scholarships and mentoring support from Project GRAD staff.

Project GRAD evolved from a scholarship program that began under Mr. Ketelsen's leadership at Tenneco. In 1988, the company began to fund a 4-year scholarship program for eligible graduates of Davis High School, at the time Houston's lowest-performing high school. By 1992, the number of Davis graduates entering college had more than quadrupled. Still, high school graduation rates and college matriculation rates continued to fall short of Mr. Ketelsen's expectations. He believed that Davis students—and all students from economically disadvantaged communities—were capable of much more if given the right investments and the right commitment. ''It's not the kids!'' he insisted. Armed with that belief, Mr. Ketelsen has dedicated the last two decades to making an enormous difference for America's highest needs students.

Today, Project GRAD has expanded to 13 communities and reaches more than 120,000 students and families from California to New York, Alaska to Georgia. In the longest-served group of schools, GRAD scholars are completing college at a rate 92 percent above the national average for students from similar demographic backgrounds. A statistically significant sample of GRAD scholarship recipients who have completed college shows that the proportion who graduated with majors in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics—concentrations of dire need for the national economy and national security—exceeded the national average for minority students by 71 percent. In the coming academic year, more than 7,500 students will attend college, funded by a Project GRAD scholarship. GRAD has already sent high school graduates to more than 100 institutions of higher education, including many of the most highly selective colleges and universities in the Nation. At the beginning of high school, many Project GRAD students would never have dreamed of attending Rice, the University of Texas, Texas A & M, Harvard, Yale, MIT, Cornell, Emory, Georgetown, or the University of Virginia. Yet, Mr. Ketelsen's Texas-sized vision, determination, and remarkable leadership of Project GRAD have transformed those expectations.

I am grateful for the energy and enthusiasm with which Mr Ketelsen has served America's children and families. Recently, Mr. Ketelsen announced his decision to step down from his post as chairman of the board of directors for Project GRAD USA. Although he is retiring from Project GRAD USA, he plans to remain active with the Houston chapter of Project GRAD. I join with my colleagues in saluting James Ketelsen for his efforts to improve education and career opportunities for children in inner-city schools. The return on his investment in education will continue for generations to come.•

A-H-S-T COMMUNITY EDUCATION

• Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, in Iowa and across the United States, a new school year has begun. As you know, Iowa public schools have an excellent reputation nationwide, and Iowa students' test scores are among the highest in the Nation.

I would like to take just a few minutes, today, to salute the dedicated teachers, administrators, and school board members in the A-H-S-T Community School District, and to report on their participation in a unique Federal partnership to repair and modernize school facilities.

This fall marks the 10th year of the Iowa Demonstration Construction Grant Program. That is its formal name, but it is better known among educators in Iowa as the program of Harkin grants for Iowa public schools. Since 1998, I have been fortunate to secure a total of $121 million for the State government in Iowa, which selects worthy school districts to receive these grants for a range of renovation and repair effort—everything from updating fire safety systems to building new schools or renovating existing facilities. In many cases, this Federal funding is used to leverage public and/or private local funding, so it often has a tremendous multiplier effect in a local school district.

The A-H-S-T Community School District received a 2005 Harkin grant totaling $500,000 which it used to help build a new elementary school. This school is a modern, state-of-the-art facility that befits the educational ambitions and excellence of this school district. Indeed, it is the kind of school facility that every child in America deserves.

Excellent schools do not just pop up like mushrooms after a rain. They are the product of vision, leadership, persistence, and a tremendous amount of collaboration among local officials and concerned citizens. I salute the entire staff, administration, and governance in the A-H-S-T Community School District, which serves the towns of Avoca, Hancock, Shelby and Tenant. In particular, I would like to recognize the leadership of the board of education—Greg Becker, Monte Reisgard, Allen Cordes, and Lauri Fell and former members John Pattee, Mark Schroder, Sondra Dea, Gene McCool and Darlene McMartin. I would also like to recognize superintendent Mike Alexander, former superintendent Chuck Scott and business manager Nancy Collins.

As we mark the 10th anniversary of the Harkin school grant program in Iowa, I am obliged to point out that many thousands of school buildings and facilities across the United States are in dire need of renovation or replacement. In my State of Iowa alone, according to a recent study, some 79 percent of public schools need to be upgraded or repaired. The harsh reality is that the average age of school buildings in the United States is nearly 50 years.

Too often, our children visit ultramodern shopping malls and gleaming sports arenas on weekends, but during the week go to school in rundown or antiquated facilities. This sends exactly the wrong message to our young people about our priorities. We have to do better.

That is why I am deeply grateful to the professionals and parents in the A-

H-S-T Community School District. There is no question that a quality public education for every child is a top priority in their communities. I salute them, and wish them a very successful new school year.●

ALBIA COMMUNITY EDUCATION

● Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, in Iowa and across the United States, a new school year has begun. As you know, Iowa public schools have an excellent reputation nationwide, and Iowa students' test scores are among the highest in the Nation.

I would like to take just a few minutes, today, to salute the dedicated teachers, administrators, and school board members in the Albia Community School District, and to report on their participation in a unique Federal partnership to repair and modernize school facilities.

This fall marks the 10th year of the Iowa Demonstration Construction Grant Program. That is its formal name, but it is better known among educators in Iowa as the program of Harkin grants for Iowa public schools. Since 1998, I have been fortunate to secure a total of $121 million for the State government in Iowa, which selects worthy school districts to receive these grants for a range of renovation and repair efforts—everything from updating fire safety systems to building new schools or renovating existing facilities. In many cases, this Federal funding is used to leverage public and/or private local funding, so it often has a tremendous multiplier effect in a local school district.

The Albia Community School District received four Harkin fire safety grants totaling $435,000 to make improvements throughout the school district. The district was able to make repairs to the ceiling and walls in the practice gymnasium at the high school, replace windows at Kendall Elementary School, upgrade electrical systems in several buildings and make other safety improvements throughout the district. The Federal grants have made it possible for the district to provide quality and safe schools for their students.

Excellent schools do not just pop up like mushrooms after a rain. They are the product of vision, leadership, persistence, and a tremendous amount of collaboration among local officials and concerned citizens. I salute the entire staff, administration, and governance in the Albia Community School District. In particular, I would like to recognize the leadership of the board of education—president Robin Haselhuhn, vice-president Dr. John Scieszinski, Mary Wynn, Jeff Liston, Mike Stocker, Donna Whisler and Denny Amoss and former board members Kim Sawatzky, Bob Beary, Darrell Radeuchel, Bob Fluegge and Mick Brock. I would also like to recognize superintendent Kevin Crall, former superintendent Dave Sextro, high school principal Linda Hoskins, elementary school principal Nancy Foust, board secretary Nancy Foust and buildings and grounds supervisor Sam Kirby.

As we mark the 10th anniversary of the Harkin school grant program in Iowa, I am obliged to point out that many thousands of school buildings and facilities across the United States are in dire need of renovation or replacement. In my State of Iowa alone, according to a recent study, some 79 percent of public schools need to be upgraded or repaired. The harsh reality is that the average age of school buildings in the United States is nearly 50 years.

Too often, our children visit ultramodern shopping malls and gleaming sports arenas on weekends, but during the week go to school in rundown or antiquated facilities. This sends exactly the wrong message to our young people about our priorities. We have to do better.

That is why I am deeply grateful to the professionals and parents in the Albia Community School District. There is no question that a quality public education for every child is a top priority in that community. I salute them, and wish them a very successful new school year.●

CENTRAL LYON COMMUNITY EDUCATION

● Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, in Iowa and across the United States, a new school year has begun. As you know, Iowa public schools have an excellent reputation nationwide, and Iowa students' test scores are among the highest in the Nation.

I would like to take just a few minutes, today, to salute the dedicated teachers, administrators, and school board members in the Central Lyon Community School District, and to report on their participation in a unique Federal partnership to repair and modernize school facilities.

This fall marks the 10th year of the Iowa Demonstration Construction Grant Program. That is its formal name, but it is better known among educators in Iowa as the program of Harkin grants for Iowa public schools. Since 1998, I have been fortunate to secure a total of $121 million for the State government in Iowa, which selects worthy school districts to receive these grants for a range of renovation and repair—efforts everything from updating fire safety systems to building new schools or renovating existing facilities. In many cases, this Federal funding is used to leverage public and/or private local funding, so it often has a tremendous multiplier effect in a local school district.

The Central Lyon Community School District received a 2002 Harkin grant totaling $623,711 which it used to help make improvements including disability access and to build a community room and fitness center. This facility is used not only to promote wellness, but as a morning alternative school for the local community. The district also received three fire safety grants totaling $31,765 which it used to install emergency lighting and stairs and to update smoke and heat detectors and alarms in the elementary school. The Federal grants have made it possible for the district to provide quality and safe schools for their students.

Excellent schools do not just pop up like mushrooms after a rain. They are the product of vision, leadership, persistence, and a tremendous amount of collaboration among local officials and concerned citizens. I salute the entire staff, administration, and governance in the Central Lyon Community School District. In particular, I would like to recognize the leadership of the board of education—president Steve Sieperda, Dr. Chet DeJong, Pat McCarty, Judy Gacke and Gail Van Berkum and former board members president Bruce Vogel, Marilyn Mammenga and Tom Wall. I would also like to recognize superintendent David Ackerman, former superintendent Bill Hutchinson, business manager Jackie Wells and former board business manager Robin Kilgore.

As we mark the 10th anniversary of the Harkin school grant program in Iowa, I am obliged to point out that many thousands of school buildings and facilities across the United States are in dire need of renovation or replacement. In my State of Iowa alone, according to a recent study, some 79 percent of public schools need to be upgraded or repaired. The harsh reality is that the average age of school buildings in the United States is nearly 50 years.

Too often, our children visit ultramodern shopping malls and gleaming sports arenas on weekends, but during the week go to school in rundown or antiquated facilities. This sends exactly the wrong message to our young people about our priorities. We have to do better.

That is why I am deeply grateful to the professionals and parents in the Central Lyon Community School District. There is no question that a quality public education for every child is a top priority in that community. I salute them, and wish them a very successful new school year.●

COLLEGE COMMUNITY EDUCATION

● Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, in Iowa and across the United States, a new school year has begun. As you know, Iowa public schools have an excellent reputation nationwide, and Iowa students' test scores are among the highest in the Nation.

I would like to take just a few minutes, today, to salute the dedicated teachers, administrators, and school board members in the College Community School District, and to report on their participation in a unique Federal partnership to repair and modernize school facilities.

This fall marks the 10th year of the Iowa Demonstration Construction Grant Program. That is its formal name, but it is better known among educators in Iowa as the program of Harkin grants for Iowa public schools. Since 1998, I have been fortunate to secure a total of $121 million for the State government in Iowa, which selects worthy school districts to receive these grants for a range of renovation and repair efforts—everything from updating fire safety systems to building new schools or renovating existing facilities. In many cases, this Federal funding is used to leverage public and/or private local funding, so it often has a tremendous multiplier effect in a local school district.

The College Community School District received a 2000 Harkin grant totaling $500,000 which it used to help build a new elementary school—the first new school the district had built in 30 years. This school is a modern, state-of-the-art facility that befits the educational ambitions and excellence of this school district. Indeed, it is the kind of school facility that every child in America deserves.

Excellent schools do not just pop up like mushrooms after a rain. They are the product of vision, leadership, persistence, and a tremendous amount of collaboration among local officials and concerned citizens. I salute the entire staff, administration, and governance in the College Community School District. In particular, I would like to recognize the leadership of the board of education—president Randy Bauer, vice president Greg Kelsey, Norm Zahradnik, Dawn Tucker, John Titler, Lauri Hughes, Dot Pospischil and board secretary Jim Rotter as well as former board President Sandy Flatgard and former secretary Jim Steffen. I would also like to recognize superintendent Richard Whitehead and former superintendent Mick Starcevich.

As we mark the 10th anniversary of the Harkin school grant program in Iowa, I am obliged to point out that many thousands of school buildings and facilities across the United States are in dire need of renovation or replacement. In my State of Iowa alone, according to a recent study, some 79 percent of public schools need to be upgraded or repaired. The harsh reality is that the average age of school buildings in the United States is nearly 50 years.

Too often, our children visit ultra modern shopping malls and gleaming sports arenas on weekends, but during the week go to school in rundown or antiquated facilities. This sends exactly the wrong message to our young people about our priorities. We have to do better.

That is why I am deeply grateful to the professionals and parents in the College Community School District. There is no question that a quality public education for every child is a top priority in that community. I salute them, and wish them a very successful new school year.●

GEORGE-LITTLE ROCK COMMUNITY EDUCATION

● Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, in Iowa and across the United States, a new school year has begun. As you know, Iowa public schools have an excellent reputation nationwide, and Iowa students' test scores are among the highest in the Nation.

I would like to take just a few minutes, today, to salute the dedicated teachers, administrators, and school board members in the George-Little Rock Community School District, and to report on their participation in a unique Federal partnership to repair and modernize school facilities.

This fall marks the 10th year of the Iowa Demonstration Construction Grant Program. That is its formal name, but it is better known among educators in Iowa as the program of Harkin grants for Iowa public schools. Since 1998, I have been fortunate to secure a total of $121 million for the State government in Iowa, which selects worthy school districts to receive these grants for a range of renovation and repair efforts everything from updating fire safety systems to building new schools or renovating existing facilities. In many cases, this Federal funding is used to leverage public and/or private local funding, so it often has a tremendous multiplier effect in a local school district.

The George-Little Rock Community School District received a 2005 Harkin grant totaling $500,000 which it used to help renovate an old gymnasium into a fine arts center and two accessible special education classrooms. This addition is a modern, state-of-the-art facility that befits the educational ambitions and excellence of this school district. Indeed, it is the kind of facility that every child in America deserves. The district also received two fire safety grants totaling $44,900 which it used to install smoke and heat detectors and update fire alarm notification systems throughout the district.

Excellent schools do not just pop up like mushrooms after a rain. They are the product of vision, leadership, persistence, and a tremendous amount of collaboration among local officials and concerned citizens. I salute the entire staff, administration, and governance in the George-Little Rock Community School District. In particular, I would like to recognize the leadership of the board of education president—Warren Tiedeman, Terrence Clark, Donell Nagel, Amy Jurrens, Doug Krull and board secretary Delinda Kruger as well as former board members Roger Jurrens and Kory Hayenga. I would also like to recognize superintendent David Ackerman; former superintendent Joanne Smith; elementary and middle school principal Janel Guse; the teaching and custodial staff of George-Little Rock; the team of architects at Neumann, Monson and Wictor; Hoogendoorn Construction; the membership of the project steering committee; and the staff of the Little Rock Freelance and the Lyon County News.

As we mark the 10th anniversary of the Harkin school grant program in Iowa, I am obliged to point out that many thousands of school buildings and facilities across the United States are in dire need of renovation or replacement. In my State of Iowa alone, according to a recent study, some 79 percent of public schools need to be upgraded or repaired. The harsh reality is that the average age of school buildings in the United States is nearly 50 years.

Too often, our children visit ultra-modern shopping malls and gleaming sports arenas on weekends, but during the week go to school in rundown or antiquated facilities. This sends exactly the wrong message to our young people about our priorities. We have to do better.

That is why I am deeply grateful to the professionals and parents in the George-Little Rock Community School District. There is no question that a quality public education for every child is a top priority in their communities. I salute them, and wish them a very successful new school year.●

LINN-MAR COMMUNITY EDUCATION

● Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, in Iowa and across the United States, a new school year has begun. As you know, Iowa public schools have an excellent reputation nationwide, and Iowa students' test scores are among the highest in the Nation.

I would like to take just a few minutes, today, to salute the dedicated teachers, administrators, and school board members in the Linn-Mar Community School District, and to report on their participation in a unique Federal partnership to repair and modernize school facilities.

This fall marks the 10th year of the Iowa Demonstration Construction Grant Program. That is its formal name, but it is better known among educators in Iowa as the program of Harkin grants for Iowa public schools. Since 1998, I have been fortunate to secure a total of $121 million for the State government in Iowa, which selects worthy school districts to receive these grants for a range of renovation and repair efforts—everything from updating fire safety systems to building new schools or renovating existing facilities. In many cases, this Federal funding is used to leverage public and/or private local funding, so it often has a tremendous multiplier effect in a local school district.

The Linn-Mar Community School District received five Harkin grants totaling $1,625,000. A 2000 construction grant for $500,000 was used to help renovate Bowman Woods Elementary

School to provide space for a media center, a 2002 construction grant for $200,000 was used to provide classrooms for the Little Lions preschool at a new K–8 school and a 2005 construction grant for $500,000 was used to help build Linn Grove Elementary School. These schools are the modern, state-of-the-art facilities that befit the educational ambitions and excellence of this school district. Indeed, they are the kind of schools that every child in America deserves. The district also received two fire safety grants totaling $425,000 to install sprinkler systems at Excelsior Middle School and Linn-Mar High School.

Excellent schools do not just pop up like mushrooms after a rain. They are the product of vision, leadership, persistence, and a tremendous amount of collaboration among local officials and concerned citizens. I salute the entire staff, administration, and governance in the Linn-Mar Community School District. In particular, I would like to recognize the leadership of the board of education—president Robert Crawford, vice president Ann Stark, Barry Buchholz, Bob Gilchrist, David Nicholson, Jim Green, Erik Miles and Helen Romanowsky and former board members Swati Dandekar, Mark Klopfenstein, Tom Manor, David Meyer, Tom Miller, Lorna Richards and Steve Colton. I would also like to recognize superintendent Dr. Kathleen Mulholland, former superintendent Dr. Joe Pacha, business administrator Dave Nicholson, former business administrator Dave DeWall, and principals Dona Miller, Kent Stock, Dan Ludwig, Shannon Bisgard, Dr. Marc McCoy and Jerry VanDyke.

As we mark the 10th anniversary of the Harkin school grant program in Iowa, I am obliged to point out that many thousands of school buildings and facilities across the United States are in dire need of renovation or replacement. In my State of Iowa alone, according to a recent study, some 79 percent of public schools need to be upgraded or repaired. The harsh reality is that the average age of school buildings in the United States is nearly 50 years.

Too often, our children visit ultramodern shopping malls and gleaming sports arenas on weekends, but during the week go to school in rundown or antiquated facilities. This sends exactly the wrong message to our young people about our priorities. We have to do better.

That is why I am deeply grateful to the professionals and parents in the Linn-Mar Community School District. There is no question that a quality public education for every child is a top priority in that community. I salute them, and wish them a very successful new school year.●

MAQUOKETA COMMUNITY EDUCATION

● Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, in Iowa and across the United States, a new school year has begun. As you know, Iowa public schools have an excellent reputation nationwide, and Iowa students' test scores are among the highest in the Nation.

I would like to take just a few minutes, today, to salute the dedicated teachers, administrators, and school board members in the Maquoketa Community School District, and to report on their participation in a unique Federal partnership to repair and modernize school facilities.

This fall marks the 10th year of the Iowa Demonstration Construction Grant Program. That is its formal name, but it is better known among educators in Iowa as the program of Harkin grants for Iowa public schools. Since 1998, I have been fortunate to secure a total of $121 million for the State government in Iowa, which selects worthy school districts to receive these grants for a range of renovation and repair efforts everything from updating fire safety systems to building new schools or renovating existing facilities. In many cases, this Federal funding is used to leverage public and/or private local funding, so it often has a tremendous multiplier effect in a local school district.

The Maquoketa Community School District received a 2002 Harkin grant totaling $228,750 and a 2003 Harkin grant totaling $240,000. The 2002 grant was used to help build four new classrooms and a restroom at Cardinal Elementary. These new classrooms allowed the district to expand their preschool program and dedicate part of the space for special needs students. The 2003 grant was used to relocate the middle school office from the second floor to the first floor main entryway, resulting in a safer and more secure environment. The district also received two fire life safety grants totaling $35,000 for updating fire alarm systems, fire doors, and fire walls. The Federal grants have made it possible for the district to provide quality and safe schools for their students.

Excellent schools do not just pop up like mushrooms after a rain. They are the product of vision, leadership, persistence, and a tremendous amount of collaboration among local officials and concerned citizens. I salute the entire staff, administration, and governance in the Maquoketa Community School District. In particular, I would like to recognize the leadership of the board of education—president Anne Hawks, vice-president Brian Tabor, Marty Hudrlik, Mark Pape, and Bill Schwenker, and former members, Mary Bartels, Leslie Lawson, Troy Thede. I would also like to recognize the leadership of curriculum director and school improvement coordinator Sherri Marceau, as well as school improvement coordinator Helen Snell, school board secretary Barb McKeon and superintendent Kim Huckstadt.

As we mark the 10th anniversary of the Harkin school grant program in Iowa, I am obliged to point out that many thousands of school buildings and facilities across the United States are in dire need of renovation or replacement. In my State of Iowa alone, according to a recent study, some 79 percent of public schools need to be upgraded or repaired. The harsh reality is that the average age of school buildings in the United States is nearly 50 years.

Too often, our children visit ultramodern shopping malls and gleaming sports arenas on weekends but during the week go to school in rundown or antiquated facilities. This sends exactly the wrong message to our young people about our priorities. We have to do better.

That is why I am deeply grateful to the professionals and parents in the Maquoketa Community School District. There is no question that a quality public education for every child is a top priority in that community. I salute them and wish them a very successful new school year.●

NASHUA-PLAINFIELD COMMUNITY EDUCATION

● Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, in Iowa and across the United States, a new school year has begun. As you know, Iowa public schools have an excellent reputation nationwide, and Iowa students' test scores are among the highest in the Nation.

I would like to take just a few minutes, today, to salute the dedicated teachers, administrators, and school board members in the Nashua-Plainfield Community School District, and to report on their participation in a unique Federal partnership to repair and modernize school facilities.

This fall marks the tenth year of the Iowa Demonstration Construction Grant Program. That is its formal name, but it is better known among educators in Iowa as the program of Harkin grants for Iowa public schools. Since 1998, I have been fortunate to secure a total of $121 million for the State government in Iowa, which selects worthy school districts to receive these grants for a range of renovation and repair efforts everything from updating fire safety systems to building new schools or renovating existing facilities. In many cases, this Federal funding is used to leverage public and/or private local funding, so it often has a tremendous multiplier effect in a local school district.

The Nashua-Plainfield Community School District received a 2002 Harkin grant totaling $104,200 which it used to help replace windows at the school in Plainfield. The Federal grant has made it possible for the district to provide quality and safe schools for their students.

Excellent schools do not just pop up like mushrooms after a rain. They are the product of vision, leadership, persistence, and a tremendous amount of collaboration among local officials and concerned citizens. I salute the entire

staff, administration, and governance in the Nashua-Plainfield Community School District. In particular, I would like to recognize the leadership of the current board of education, Brian Bierschenk, Lisa Franzen, Dawn Koob, Michael Mahoney and Gail Zwanziger. I would also like to recognize superintendent Paul Bisgard, former superintendent Linda Johanningmeier, middle school principal Ron Reusche, head custodian Dave Fordyce and custodian Richard Lindloff.

As we mark the 10th anniversary of the Harkin school grant program in Iowa, I am obliged to point out that many thousands of school buildings and facilities across the United States are in dire need of renovation or replacement. In my State of Iowa alone, according to a recent study, some 79 percent of public schools need to be upgraded or repaired. The harsh reality is that the average age of school buildings in the United States is nearly 50 years.

Too often, our children visit ultramodern shopping malls and gleaming sports arenas on weekends, but during the week go to school in rundown or antiquated facilities. This sends exactly the wrong message to our young people about our priorities. We have to do better.

That is why I am deeply grateful to the professionals and parents in the Nashua-Plainfield Community School District. There is no question that a quality public education for every child is a top priority in that community. I salute them, and wish them a very successful new school year.●

OLIN CONSOLIDATED EDUCATION

● Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, in Iowa and across the United States, a new school year has begun. As you know, Iowa public schools have an excellent reputation nationwide, and Iowa students' test scores are among the highest in the Nation.

I would like to take just a few minutes, today, to salute the dedicated teachers, administrators, and school board members in the Olin Consolidated School District, and to report on their participation in a unique Federal partnership to repair and modernize school facilities.

This fall marks the 10th year of the Iowa Demonstration Construction Grant Program. That is its formal name, but it is better known among educators in Iowa as the program of Harkin grants for Iowa public schools. Since 1998, I have been fortunate to secure a total of $121 million for the State government in Iowa, which selects worthy school districts to receive these grants for a range of renovation and repair efforts everything from updating fire safety systems to building new schools or renovating existing facilities. In many cases, this Federal funding is used to leverage public and/or private local funding, so it often has a tremendous multiplier effect in a local school district.

The Olin School District received a 2002 Harkin grant totaling $575,000 which it used to help build an addition to the school. The project is a collaboration with the Olin library board and the addition houses the town's library, the district's Iowa Communications Network classroom and access for community activities. The additional space made it possible to convert the former school library into classrooms for prekindergarten, kindergarten and music. The district also received a fire safety grant totaling $20,325 to make safety improvements. The Federal grants have made it possible for the district to provide quality and safe schools for their students.

Excellent schools do not just pop up like mushrooms after a rain. They are the product of vision, leadership, persistence, and a tremendous amount of collaboration among local officials and concerned citizens. I salute the entire staff, administration, and governance in the Olin Community School District. In particular, I would like to recognize the leadership of the board of education—Mike Hansen, Randy Cress, Margo Ahrendsen, Marty Francksen and Rob Strawn and former board members Brian Bean and Ned Rohwedder as well as superintendent Charles Liston, former superintendent Juanita Suhr and board secretary/treasurer Carrie Fortin. I would also like to recognize the members of the Olin Public Library board—Carrie Fortin, Margaret Kistler, Deanna Butterworth, Dianne Tenley and Jan Dierks and former board members Jean Rickels, Sandy Hansen-Heggebo, and Sandy Weirather as well as librarian Dolores Wood and former librarian Sheri Ulrich

As we mark the 10th anniversary of the Harkin school grant program in Iowa, I am obliged to point out that many thousands of school buildings and facilities across the United States are in dire need of renovation or replacement. In my State of Iowa alone, according to a recent study, some 79 percent of public schools need to be upgraded or repaired. The harsh reality is that the average age of school buildings in the United States is nearly 50 years.

Too often, our children visit ultramodern shopping malls and gleaming sports arenas on weekends, but during the week go to school in rundown or antiquated facilities. This sends exactly the wrong message to our young people about our priorities. We have to do better.

That is why I am deeply grateful to the professionals and parents in the Olin Consolidated School District. There is no question that a quality public education for every child is a top priority in that community. I salute them, and wish them a very successful new school year.●

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 3:13 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Zapata, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 998. An act to direct the Librarian of Congress and the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution to carry out a joint project at the Library of Congress and the National Museum of African American History and Culture to collect video and audio recordings of personal histories and testimonials of individuals who participated in the Civil Rights movement, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2352. An act to enhance the safety of elementary schools, secondary schools, and institutions of higher education.

H.R. 2535. An act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study on the feasibility and suitability of constructing a storage reservoir, outlet works, and a delivery system for the Tule River Indian Tribe of California to provide a water supply for domestic, municipal, industrial, and agricultural purposes, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3036. An act to reauthorize and enhance the National Environmental Education Act, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3437. An act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to carry out the Jackson Gulch rehabilitation project in the State of Colorado.

H.R. 5293. An act to approve the settlement of the water rights claims of the Shoshone Paiute Tribes of the Duck Valley Reservation in Nevada, to require the Secretary of the Interior to carry out the settlement, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5350. An act to authorize the Secretary of Commerce to sell or exchange certain National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration property located in Norfolk, Virginia, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5611. An act to reform the National Association of Registered Agents and Brokers, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5736. An act to designate the Department of Veterans Affairs outpatient clinic in Gadsden, Alabama, as the Colonel Ola Lee Mize Veterans Clinic.

H.R. 6229. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2523 7th Avenue East in North Saint Paul, Minnesota, as the ''Mayor William 'Bill' Sandberg Post Office Building''.

H.R. 6338. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4233 West Hillsboro Boulevard in Coconut Creek, Florida, as the ''Army SPC Daniel Agami Post Office Building''.

H.R. 6460. An act to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to provide for the remediation of sediment contamination in areas of concern, and for other purposes.

H.R. 6503. An act to amend the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 to reauthorize the Missing Alzheimer's Disease Patient Alert Program.

H.R. 6604. An act to amend the Commodity Exchange Act to bring greater transparency and accountability to commodity markets, and for other purposes.

H.R. 6625. An act to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to permit facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs to be designated as voter registration agencies, and for other purposes.

H.R. 6681. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 300 Vine Street in New Lenox, Illinois, as the ''Jacob M. Lowell Post Office Building''.

H.R. 6772. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1717 Orange Avenue in Fort Pierce, Florida, as the ''CeeCee Ross Lyles Post Office Building''.

H.R. 6855. An act to extend the authority for the United States Supreme Court Police

to protect court officials off the Supreme Court grounds, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolutions, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 61. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of the Congress that the United States flag flown over the United States Capitol should be lowered to half-mast one day each month in honor of the brave men and women from the United States who have lost their lives in military conflicts.

H. Con. Res. 388. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that the Department of Defense and the Federal Voting Assistance Program should take certain additional and timely measures to ensure that members of the Armed Forces and their dependents and citizens living overseas are provided with reasonable information on how to register to vote and vote in the 2008 general elections.

H. Con. Res. 408. Concurrent resolution recognizing North Platte, Nebraska, as ''Rail Town USA''.

H. Con. Res. 410. Concurrent resolution recognizing the FBI on their 100th anniversary.

H. Con. Res. 415. Concurrent resolution celebrating 75 years of effective State-based alcohol regulation and recognizing State lawmakers, regulators, law enforcement officers, the public health community and industry members for creating a workable, legal, and successful system of alcoholic beverage regulation, distribution, and sale.

The message further announced that the House has passed the following bill and joint resolution, without amendment:

S. 171. An act a bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 301 Commerce Street in Commerce, Oklahoma, as the ''Mickey Mantle Post Office Building''.

S.J. Res. 35. Joint resolution to amend Public Law 108–331 to provide for the construction and related activities in support of the Very Energetic Radiation Imaging Telescope Array System (VERITAS) project in Arizona.

The message also announced that the House agrees to the amendment of the Senate to be bill (H.R. 3986) to amend the John F. Kennedy Center Act to authorize appropriations for the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, and for other purposes.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

The message further announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

H.R. 2608. An act to amend section 402 of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 to provide, in fiscal years 2009 through 2011, extensions of supplemental security income for refugees, asylees, and certain other humanitarian immigrants, and to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to collect unemployment compensation debts resulting from fraud.

H.R. 5551. An act to amend title 11, District of Columbia Official Code, to implement the increase provided under the District of Columbia Appropriations Act, 2008, in the amount of funds made available for the compensation of attorneys representing indigent defendants in the District of Columbia courts, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5893. An act to reauthorize the sound recording and film preservation programs of the Library of Congress, and for other purposes.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

At 3:54 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Zapata, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

S. 996. An act to amend title 49, United States Code, to expand passenger facility fee eligibility for certain noise compatibility projects.

S. 2339. An act to designate the Department of Veterans Affairs clinic in Alpena, Michigan, as the ''Lieutenant Colonel Clement C. Van Wagoner Department of Veterans Affairs Clinic''.

S. 3406. An act to restore the intent and protections of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

At 3:58 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Zapata, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 6890. An act to extend the waiver authority for the Secretary of Education under section 105 of subtitle A of title IV of division B of Public Law 109–148, relating to elementary and secondary education hurricane recovery relief, and for other purposes.

MEASURES DISCHARGED

The following measure was discharged from the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

S. 3507. A bill to provide for additional emergency unemployment compensation; to the Committee on Finance.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

S. 3535. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to index certain assets for purposes of determining gain or loss.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC–7672. A communication from the Deputy Chief of Legislative Affairs, Department of the Navy, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Department's decision to conduct a streamlined A-76 competition of information assurance functions; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–7673. A communication from the Principal Deputy, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting the report of an officer authorized to wear the insignia of the grade of brigadier general in accordance with title 10, United States Code, section 777; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–7674. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13224 of September 23, 2001, with respect to persons who commit, threaten to commit, or support terrorism; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–7675. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to persons undermining democratic processes or institutions in Zimbabwe that was declared in Executive Order 13288 of March 6, 2003; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–7676. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Iran as declared in Executive Order 12957 of March 15, 1995; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–7677. A communication from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''2,4-D, Bensulide, Chlorpyrifos, DCPA, Desmedipham, Dimethoate, Fenamiphos, Metolachlor, Phorate, Sethoxydim, Terbufos, Tetrachlorvinphos, and Triallate; Tolerance Actions'' (FRL No. 8375-2) received on September 12, 2008; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–7678. A communication from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Texas; Control of Air Pollution by Permits for New Construction or Modification'' (FRL No. 8715-7) received on September 12, 2008; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–7679. A communication from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Ethoprop; Pesticide Tolerances'' (FRL No. 8382-6) received on September 12, 2008; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–7680. A communication from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Inert Ingredient: Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance for amylopectin, acid-hydrolyzed, 1-octenylbutanedioate and for amylopectin, hydrogen 1-octadecenylbutanedioate'' (FRL No. 8374-1) received on September 12, 2008; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–7681. A communication from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Withdrawal of Federal Antidegradation Policy for All Waters of the United States within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania'' (FRL No. 8716-2) received on September 12, 2008; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–7682. A communication from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Outer Continental Shelf Air Regulations Consistency Update for Massachusetts'' (FRL No. 8709-4) received on September 12, 2008; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–7683. A communication from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Underground Storage Tank Program: Approved State Program for Hawaii'' (FRL No.

8716-3) received on September 12, 2008; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–7684. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''A Study on the Feasibility and Advisability of Providing for Contracting with Prescription Drug Program Sponsors and Medicare Advantage Organizations on a Multi-Year Basis''; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–7685. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Unified Rule for Loss of Subsidiary Stock'' ((RIN1545-BB61)(TD 9424)) received on September 12, 2008; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–7686. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Coordinated Issue: False Claims Act Settlements with Department of Justice (DOJ)'' (LMSB-4-0908-045) received on September 12, 2008; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–7687. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Transition Guidance for New Funding Rules and Funding-Related Benefit Limitations under PPA ''06'' (Notice 2008-73) received on September 12, 2008; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–7688. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Section 6707A and the Failure to Include on any Return or Statement any Information Required to be Disclosed under Section 6011 with Respect to a Reportable Transaction'' ((RIN1545-BF62)(TD 9425)) received on September 12, 2008; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–7689. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Tier II Industry Director's Directive on the Planning and Examination of Gift Card/Certificate Issues in the Retail and Food & Beverage Industries #2'' (LMSB-04-0808-042) received on September 12, 2008; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–7690. A communication from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Supplemental Applications Proposing Labeling Changes for Approved Drugs, Biologics, and Medical Devices'' ((RIN0910-ZA32)(Docket No. FDA-2008-N-0032)) received on September 8, 2008; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–7691. A communication from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Irradiation in the Production, Processing and Handling of Food'' (Docket No. FDA-1999-F-2405) received on September 8, 2008; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–7692. A communication from the Inspector General, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the commercial and inherently governmental activities for fiscal year 2008; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–7693. A communication from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 17-497, ''Clean and Affordable Energy Act of 2008'' received on September 9, 2008; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–7694. A communication from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 17-473, ''Street and Alley Closing and Acquisition Procedures Amendment Act of 2008'' received on September 9, 2008; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–7695. A communication from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 17-496, ''Health-Care Decisions for Persons with Developmental Disabilities Amendment Act of 2008'' received on September 9, 2008; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–7696. A communication from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 17-501, ''Income Tax Secured Bond Authorization Act of 2008'' received on September 9, 2008; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–7697. A communication from the Deputy White House Liaison, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a vacancy and designation of an acting officer for the position of U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Michigan, received on September 8, 2008; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC–7698. A communication from the Acting Administrator, Small Business Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a vacancy and designation of an acting officer for the position of Inspector General, received on September 8, 2008; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

EC–7699. A communication from the Associate Administrator, Government Contracting and Business Development, Small Business Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''Report to the U.S. Congress on Minority Small Business and Capital Ownership Development''; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

EC–7700. A communication from the Secretary of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the disability-related complaints that U.S. and foreign passenger air carriers operating to and from the U.S. received during the calendar year 2007; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7701. A communication from the Secretary of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, an annual report relative to the Maritime Administration for fiscal year 2007; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7702. A communication from the Inspector General, Federal Trade Commission, informing Congress that they have begun the audit of financial statements for fiscal year 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7703. A communication from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations; Dilley and Cotulla, Texas'' ((MB Docket No. 07-183)(DA 08-1714)) received on August 26, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7704. A communication from the Division Chief, Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Commercial Mobile Alert System, Third Report and Order'' (FCC 08-184) received on August 26, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7705. A communication from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations; Arlington and Boardman, Oregon; Boise, Caldwell, Grangeville, Hazelton, Iona, Jerome, McCall, Melba, Salmon, and Sun Valley, Idaho; Elko and Owyhee, Nevada; Finley, Pasco, and Walla Walla, Washington; and West Yellowstone, Montana'' (MB Docket No. 06–72) received on August 26, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7706. A communication from the Acting Assistant Administrator, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''International Fisheries; Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; International Trade Permit Program; Bluefin Tuna Catch Documentation Program'' (RIN0648–AU88) received on August 18, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7707. A communication from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Closure of the Nantucket Lightship Scallop Access Area to Scallop Vessels'' (RIN0648–XJ51) received on August 18, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7708. A communication from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Greenland Turbot in the Bering Sea Subarea of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area'' (RIN0648–XJ58) received on August 18, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7709. A communication from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Summer Flounder Fishery; Commercial Quota Harvested for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts'' (RIN0648–XJ37) received on August 18, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7710. A communication from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries Off West Coast States; Coastal Pelagic Species Fisheries; Closure'' (RIN0648–XJ27) received on August 18, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7711. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries Off West Coast States; Modifications of the West Coast Commercial and Recreational Salmon Fisheries; Inseason Actions #5 and #6'' (RIN0648–XJ22) received on August 19, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7712. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Scup Fishery; Adjustment to the 2008 Winter II Quota'' (RIN0648–XJ34) received on August 19, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7713. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, Office of Sustainable Fisheries,

Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Atlantic Mackerel, Squid, and Butterfish Fisheries; Amendment 9; Correction'' (RIN0648–AP60) received on August 19, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7714. A communication from the Secretary, Federal Trade Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Identity Theft Red Flags and Address Discrepancies Under the Fair and Accurate Credit Transactions Act of 2003'' (RIN3084–AA94) received on August 19, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7715. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Proposed Establishment of Class E Airspace; Huntsville, AR'' ((Docket No. FAA–2008–0004)(Airspace Docket No. 08–ASW–2)) received on August 20, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7716. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Revision of Class E Airspace; Bettles, AK'' ((Docket No. FAA–2007–0342)(Airspace Docket No. 07–AAL–20)) received on August 20, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7717. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Removal of Class E Airspace; Hawesville, KY'' ((Docket No. FAA–2008–0334)(Airspace Docket No. 08–ASO–11)) received on August 20, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7718. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Modification of Class E Airspace; Phillipsburg, KS'' ((Docket No. FAA–2006–25943)(Airspace Docket No. 06–ACE–13)) received on August 20, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7719. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Modification of Class E Airspace; Phillipsburg, KS; Confirmation of Effective Date'' ((Docket No. FAA–2006–25943)(Airspace Docket No. 06–ACE–13)) received on August 20, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7720. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Modification of Class E Airspace; Wilkes-Barre, PA; Confirmation of Effective Date'' ((Docket No. FAA–2008–0130)(Airspace Docket No. 08–AEA–11)) received on August 20, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7721. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Modification of Class E Airspace; Wilkes-Barre, PA; Confirmation of Effective Date; Correction'' ((Docket No. FAA–2008–0130)(Airspace Docket No. 08–AEA–11)) received on August 20, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7722. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Modification of Class E Airspace; Staunton, VA'' ((Docket No. FAA–2008–0170)(Airspace Docket No. 08–AEA–16)) received on August 20, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7723. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendment of Class E Airspace; State College, PA'' ((Docket No. FAA–2007–29375)(Airspace Docket No. 07–AEA–06)) received on August 20, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7724. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendment of Class E Airspace; Scottsboro, AL'' ((Docket No. FAA–2007–28591)(Airspace Docket No. 07–ASO–16)) received on August 20, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7725. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendment of Class E Airspace; Waynesburg, PA'' ((Docket No. FAA–2007–0022)(Airspace Docket No. 07–AEA–07)) received on August 20, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7726. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendment of Class E Airspace; Danville, KY; Confirmation of Effective Date'' ((Docket No. FAA–2007–0246)(Airspace Docket No. 07–ASO–26)) received on August 20, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7727. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendment of Class E Airspace; Gettysburg, PA; Confirmation of Effective Date'' ((Docket No. FAA–2007–0309)(Airspace Docket No. 07–AEA–20)) received on August 20, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7728. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendment of Class E Airspace; Black River Falls, WI; Withdrawal'' ((Docket No. FAA–2008–0024)(Airspace Docket No. 08–AGL–4)) received on August 20, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7729. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Revision of Class E Airspace; New Stuyahok, AK'' ((Docket No. FAA–2007–29008)(Airspace Docket No. 07–AAL–11)) received on August 20, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7730. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Revision of Class E Airspace; Deadhorse, AK'' ((Docket No. FAA–2008–0171)(Airspace Docket No. 08–AAL–5)) received on August 20, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7731. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Revision of Class E Airspace; Allakaket, AK'' ((Docket No. FAA–2008–0141)(Docket No. 08–AAL–4)) received on August 20, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7732. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Revision of Class E Airspace; St. Mary's, AK'' ((Docket No. FAA–2008–0134)(Airspace Docket No. 08–AAL–3)) received on August 20, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7733. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Modification of Class D Airspace; Brunswick, ME; Withdrawal'' ((Docket No. FAA–2008–0203)(Airspace Docket No. 08–ANE–99)) received on August 20, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7734. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Establishment of Class D Airspace; Georgetown, Texas'' ((Docket No. FAA–2007–29373)(Airspace Docket No. 07–ASW–10)) received on August 20, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7735. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Establishment of Low Altitude Area Navigation Route (T–Route); Southwest Oregon'' ((Docket No. FAA–2008–0038)(Airspace Docket No. 07–ANM–16)) received on August 20, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. BAUCUS, from the Committee on Finance, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute and an amendment to the title:

S. 1577. A bill to amend titles XVIII and XIX of the Social Security Act to require screening, including national criminal history background checks, of direct patient access employees of skilled nursing facilities, nursing facilities, and other long-term care facilities and providers, and to provide for nationwide expansion of the pilot program for national and State background checks on direct patient access employees of long-term care facilities or providers (Rept. No. 110–474).

By Mrs. BOXER, from the Committee on Environment and Public Works, without amendment:

S. 1933. A bill to amend the Safe Drinking Water Act to provide grants to small public drinking water systems (Rept. No. 110–475).

S. 199. A bill to amend the Safe Drinking Water Amendments of 1996 to modify the grant program to improve sanitation in rural and Native villages in the State of Alaska (Rept. No. 110–476).

By Mrs. BOXER, from the Committee on Environment and Public Works, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 906. A bill to prohibit the sale, distribution, transfer, and export of elemental mercury, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 110–477) .

By Mrs. BOXER, from the Committee on Environment and Public Works, without amendment:

S. 3109. A bill to amend the Solid Waste Disposal Act to direct the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to establish a hazardous waste electronic manifest system (Rept. No. 110–478).

By Mr. LIEBERMAN, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, with amendments:

S. 3175. A bill to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to reauthorize the predisaster hazard mitigation program, to make technical corrections to that Act, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 110–479).

By Mr. DORGAN, from the Committee on Indian Affairs, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute and an amendment to the title:

S. 3192. A bill to amend the Act of August 9, 1955, to authorize the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians, the Coquille Indian Tribe, and the Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Indians of Oregon to obtain 99-year lease authority for trust land (Rept. No. 110–480).

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mrs. LINCOLN, Ms. SNOWE, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. DOLE, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. VOINOVICH, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. PRYOR, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Mr. OBAMA, and Mrs. BOXER):

S. 3528. A bill to authorize the Administrator of General Services to convey a parcel of real property in the District of Columbia; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. LUGAR (for himself and Mr. CASEY):

S. 3529. A bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2010 through 2014 to provide assistance to foreign countries to promote food security, to stimulate rural economies, and to improve emergency response to food crises, to amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. BROWN:

S. 3530. A bill to establish the Stephanie Tubbs Jones Gift of Life Medal for organ donors and the family or organ donors; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. LUGAR (for himself, Mr. BIDEN, and Mr. HAGEL):

S. 3531. A bill to authorize assistance for Afghanistan, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. ENSIGN, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. FEINGOLD, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. SUNUNU, Mr. LEAHY, Mrs. DOLE, Mr. SMITH, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. DODD, Mrs. LINCOLN, Mr. BAYH, Mr. KERRY, Mr. HARKIN, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. OBAMA, Mrs. CLINTON, Ms. STABENOW, and Mr. BIDEN):

S. 3532. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow the Secretary of the Treasury to establish the standard mileage rate for use of a passenger automobile for purposes of the charitable contributions deduction and to exclude charitable mileage reimbursements from gross income; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. SCHUMER (for himself and Mrs. CLINTON):

S. 3533. A bill to establish the Daniel Webster Congressional Clerkship Program; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. DODD (for himself and Mr. VOINOVICH):

S. 3534. A bill to provide for the expansion of Federal programs to prevent and manage vision loss, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. DEMINT:

S. 3535. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to index certain assets for purposes of determining gain or loss; read the first time.

By Mr. CARPER:

S. 3536. A bill to amend section 5402 of title 39, United States Code, to modify the authority relating to United States Postal Service air transportation contracts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. BOND:

S. 3537. A bill to establish the World War I Centennial Commission to ensure a suitable observance of the centennial of World War I, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. MARTINEZ (for himself, Mr. NELSON of Florida, and Mr. SALAZAR):

S. Res. 669. A resolution recognizing the efforts and contributions of outstanding Hispanic scientists in the United States; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. ALLARD (for himself, Mr. CASEY, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. BROWN, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. COLEMAN, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. ENZI, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. KENNEDY, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. PRYOR, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHUMER, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. VOINOVICH, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WICKER, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. BARRASSO, and Mr. MENENDEZ):

S. Res. 670. A resolution designating September 25, 2008, as ''National First Responder Appreciation Day''; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. MIKULSKI (for herself and Mr. CARDIN):

S. Res. 671. A resolution congratulating the University of Maryland School of Medicine on its 200th anniversary; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. PRYOR (for himself and Mrs. LINCOLN):

S. Res. 672. A resolution designating September 12, 2008, as ''National Day of Encouragement''; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. HARKIN (for himself and Mr. SMITH):

S. Res. 673. A resolution recognizing the importance of workplace wellness as a strategy to help maximize employees' health and well being; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. MIKULSKI (for herself, Mr. ENZI, Mr. BURR, and Mr. HATCH):

S. Res. 674. A resolution designating September 22, 2008, as ''National Falls Prevention Awareness Day'' to raise awareness and encourage the prevention of falls among older adults; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. LANDRIEU (for herself, Mr. COLEMAN, Mrs. LINCOLN, Mr. MARTINEZ, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. CASEY, Mr. BAYH, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. INHOFE, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. BURR, Mr. BUNNING, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. SMITH, Mr. DEMINT, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. SPECTER, Mr. BROWNBACK, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. OBAMA, Mr. ENZI, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. VITTER, Mr. KERRY, Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. THUNE, Mrs. DOLE, Mr. COBURN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. INOUYE, Mr. SALAZAR, Mrs. HUTCHISON, and Mr. MENENDEZ):

S. Res. 675. A resolution expressing support for the goals of National Adoption Day and National Adoption Month by promoting national awareness of adoption and the children awaiting families, celebrating children and families involved in adoption, and encouraging Americans to secure safety, permanency, and well-being for all children; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself, Mr. BAYH, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. CASEY, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. COCHRAN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CRAPO, Mrs. DOLE, Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. INOUYE, Mr. KERRY, Mr. MARTINEZ, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. PRYOR, Mr. SCHUMER, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. SPECTER, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. SALAZAR, and Mrs. CLINTON):

S. Res. 676. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of Red Ribbon Week; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. REID (for himself and Mr. MCCONNELL):

S. Res. 677. A resolution to authorize testimony and legal representation in Ramsey, et al. v. Wilson, et al.; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. BYRD:

S. Con. Res. 100. A concurrent resolution authorizing the last surviving United States veteran of the First World War to lie in honor in the rotunda of the Capitol upon his death; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 368

At the request of Mr. BIDEN, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 368, a bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to enhance the COPS ON THE BEAT grant program, and for other purposes.

S. 382

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mrs. LINCOLN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 382, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to establish a State family support grant program to end the practice of parents giving legal custody of their seriously emotionally disturbed children to State agencies for the purpose of obtaining mental health services for those children.

S. 400

At the request of Mr. SUNUNU, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. COLEMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 400, a bill to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that dependent students who take a medically necessary leave of absence do not lose health insurance coverage, and for other purposes.

S. 960

At the request of Mrs. CLINTON, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 960, a bill to establish

the United States Public Service Academy.

S. 1070

At the request of Mrs. LINCOLN, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1070, a bill to amend the Social Security Act to enhance the social security of the Nation by ensuring adequate public-private infrastructure and to resolve to prevent, detect, treat, intervene in, and prosecute elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation, and for other purposes.

S. 1232

At the request of Mr. DODD, the names of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) and the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH) were added as cosponsors of S. 1232, a bill to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services, in consultation with the Secretary of Education, to develop a voluntary policy for managing the risk of food allergy and anaphylaxis in schools, to establish school-based food allergy management grants, and for other purposes.

S. 1255

At the request of Mr. DORGAN, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1255, a bill to protect Indian arts and crafts through the improvement of applicable criminal proceedings, and for other purposes.

S. 1410

At the request of Mr. COLEMAN, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAIG) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1410, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a credit against income tax for the purchase of hearing aids.

S. 1661

At the request of Mr. DORGAN, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. LUGAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1661, a bill to communicate United States travel policies and improve marketing and other activities designed to increase travel in the United States from abroad.

S. 1738

At the request of Mr. BIDEN, the names of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. SMITH), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WEBB) and the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) were added as cosponsors of S. 1738, a bill to establish a Special Counsel for Child Exploitation Prevention and Interdiction within the Office of the Deputy Attorney General, to improve the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force, to increase resources for regional computer forensic labs, and to make other improvements to increase the ability of law enforcement agencies to investigate and prosecute predators.

S. 1782

At the request of Mr. FEINGOLD, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1782, a bill to amend chapter 1 of title 9 of United States Code with respect to arbitration.

S. 2263

At the request of Mr. WEBB, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2263, a bill to require the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology to establish an initiative to promote the research, development, and demonstration of miner tracking and communications systems and to promote the establishment of standards and other measurement services regarding underground communications to protect miners in the United States.

S. 2851

At the request of Mr. BUNNING, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. BINGAMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2851, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the penalty on the understatement of taxpayer's liability by tax return preparers.

S. 3021

At the request of Mr. LAUTENBERG, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3021, a bill to amend title 49, United States Code, with respect to length and weight limitations for buses, trucks, and other large vehicles on Federal highways, and for other purposes.

S. 3246

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3246, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow the Secretary of the Treasury to set the standard mileage rate for use of a passenger automobile for purposes of the charitable contributions deduction.

S. 3308

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. MCCASKILL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3308, a bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to permit facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs to be designated as voter registration agencies, and for other purposes.

S. 3344

At the request of Mr. COBURN, the names of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) were added as cosponsors of S. 3344, a bill to defend against child exploitation and child pornography through improved Internet Crimes Against Children task forces and enhanced tools to block illegal images, and to eliminate the unwarranted release of convicted sex offenders.

S. 3356

At the request of Mr. ISAKSON, the names of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON), the Senator from Arkansas (Mrs. LINCOLN) and the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. MCCASKILL) were added as cosponsors of S. 3356, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the legacy of the United States Army Infantry and the establishment of the National Infantry Museum and Soldier Center.

S. 3367

At the request of Mr. SMITH, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3367, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to revise the timeframe for recognition of certain designations in certifying rural health clinics under the Medicare program.

S. 3426

At the request of Mr. KERRY, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. HAGEL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3426, a bill to amend the Foreign Service Act of 1980 to extend comparability pay adjustments to members of the Foreign Service assigned to posts abroad, and to amend the provision relating to the death gratuity payable to surviving dependents on Foreign Service employees who die as a result of injuries sustained in the performance of duty abroad.

S. 3429

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mrs. LINCOLN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3429, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code to provide for an increased mileage rate for charitable deductions.

S. 3446

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUYE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3446, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to defer the tax on the gain on the sale of certain telecommunications and media businesses, and for other purposes.

S. 3484

At the request of Mr. SPECTER, the names of the Senator from North Carolina (Mrs. DOLE) and the Senator from Colorado (Mr. SALAZAR) were added as cosponsors of S. 3484, a bill to provide for a delay in the phase out of the hospice budget neutrality adjustment factor under title XVIII of the Social Security Act.

S. 3487

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, his name and the names of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY), the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. COLEMAN), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. SMITH) and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) were added as cosponsors of S. 3487, a bill to amend the National and Community Service Act of 1990 to expand and improve opportunities for service, and for other purposes.

S. 3491

At the request of Mr. STEVENS, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mrs. HUTCHISON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3491, a bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to improve the effectiveness of rural health care support under section 254(h) of that Act.

S. 3498

At the request of Mr. VOINOVICH, the names of the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL), the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY), the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) and the Senator from Arkansas (Mrs. LINCOLN) were added as cosponsors of S. 3498, a bill to amend title 46, United States Code, to extend the exemption from the fire-retardant materials construction requirement for vessels operating within the Boundary Line.

S. 3509

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. BINGAMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3509, a bill to address the ongoing humanitarian crisis in Iraq and potential security breakdown resulting from the mass displacement of Iraqis inside Iraq and as refugees into neighboring countries.

S. 3521

At the request of Mr. COCHRAN, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3521, a bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 95 Dogwood Street in Cary, Mississippi, as the ''Spencer Byrd Powers Jr. Post Office''.

S. 3526

At the request of Mr. BIDEN, the names of the Senator from Florida (Mr. MARTINEZ) and the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) were added as cosponsors of S. 3526, a bill to enhance drug trafficking interdiction by creating a Federal felony relating to operating or embarking in a submersible or semi-submersible vessel without nationality and on an international voyage.

S. RES. 616

At the request of Mrs. LINCOLN, the names of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. SALAZAR), the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER), the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 616, a resolution reducing maternal mortality both at home and abroad.

S. RES. 660

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Florida, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 660, a resolution condemning ongoing sales of arms to belligerents in Sudan, including the Government of Sudan, and calling for both a cessation of such sales and an expansion of the United Nations embargo on arms sales to Sudan.

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mr. SUNUNU), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VOINOVICH), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS), the Senator from Nevada (Mr. ENSIGN) and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. SMITH) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 660, supra.

S. RES. 661

At the request of Mr. DODD, the names of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BAYH) and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 661, a resolution supporting the goals and ideals of National Spina Bifida Awareness Month.

S. RES. 666

At the request of Mr. ROBERTS, the names of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BOND), the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. KOHL), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAIG) and the Senator from Montana (Mr. BAUCUS) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 666, a resolution recognizing and honoring the 50th anniversary of the founding of AARP.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. LUGAR (for himself and Mr. CASEY):

S. 3529. A bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2010 through 2014 to provide assistance to foreign countries to promote food security, to stimulate rural economies, and to improve emergency response to food crises, to amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, I am pleased today to announce the introduction of the Global Food Security Act of 2008. I would like to thank my friend Senator CASEY for lending his ideas and support to this bipartisan effort. I also thank USAID Administrator Henrietta Fore, who took an early interest in potential legislation. Her leadership is very much appreciated. Finally, I want to thank the members of USAID's informal food security team, who advised us on problems and possible legislative solutions.

As we know, food prices started a steep climb in the fall of 2007 and continued to increase during the spring of this year. The crisis has abated somewhat, largely due to the drop in energy prices. Nonetheless, this episode demonstrated that there are significant structural challenges to attaining global food security. The system is vulnerable to periodic disruptions that both expose and exacerbate deeper problems.

We live in a world where nearly 1 billion people suffer from chronic food insecurity. When droughts occur, hurricanes hit, or other disruptions arise, transitory food insecurity can put as many as 100 million people at a time in grave danger. In fact, the World Food Program reports that 25,000 people die each day from malnutrition-related causes. Health experts advise us that a diverse and secure food supply has major health benefits, including increasing child survival, improving cognitive and physical development of children, and increasing immune system function including resistance to HIV/AIDS.

Food insecurity is a global tragedy, but it is also an opportunity for the U.S. The U.S. is the indisputable world leader in agricultural production and technology. A more focused effort on our part to join with other nations to increase yields, improve food distribution, and broaden agricultural knowledge could begin a new era in U.S. diplomacy. Such an effort could solidify relationships with nations where, up to now, we have had few positive contacts. It could improve our broader trade relations and serve as a model for similar endeavors in the areas of energy and scientific cooperation. Achieving food security for all people also would have profound implications for peace and U.S. national security. Hungry people are desperate people, and desperation often sows the seeds of conflict and extremism.

The U.S. has always stood for big ideas—from the founding of the Republic on the basis of freedom to President Kennedy's vow to put a man on the moon. One of today's big ideas should be the eradication of hunger. We can bring America's dedication to science, innovation, technology, and education together to lead an effort devoted to overcoming the obstacles to food security.

The Global Food Security Act of 2008, is a 5-year authorization that seeks to provide solutions that will have the greatest effect. First, it creates a Special Coordinator for Global Food Security and puts that person in charge of developing a food security strategy. We call on the development of that strategy to take a whole-of-government approach and to work with other international donors, the NGO community, and the private sector.

Second, the bill authorizes additional resources for agricultural productivity and rural development. U.S. foreign assistance for agriculture has declined by nearly 70 percent since the 1980s. Globally, only four percent of official development assistance from all donors is allocated for agriculture. This amounts to neglect of what should be considered one of the most vital sectors in the alleviation of poverty. Food shortages are likely to recur frequently if the U.S. and the global community fail to invest in agricultural productivity in the developing world.

World leaders must understand that over the long term, satisfying global demand for more and better food can be achieved only by increasing yields per acre. In the 1930s, my father, Marvin Lugar, produced corn yields of approximately 40 to 50 bushels per acre. Today, the Lugar farm yields about 150 bushels per acre on the same land in Marion County, IN. The Green Revolution, from 1965 to 1985, saw the introduction of high yield seeds and improved agricultural techniques that resulted in a near doubling of cereal grain production per acre over 20 years. But yields may have to be doubled or tripled again.

Increasing acreage under production will not satisfy the growth in food demand, and these steps come with serious environmental and national security costs. We need a second green revolution that will benefit developed and developing nations alike.

Recent studies have demonstrated that funds spent in agriculture can be

up to four times more beneficial to economic growth than spending in other areas. It seems, therefore, that our overall foreign aid strategy would benefit from restoring agriculture programs to their former prominence. The bill increases funding for these programs in the first year by $750 million. The increase would reach $2.5 billion in year 5. Because those who subsist on less than one dollar a day spend at least half their incomes on food, according to the International Food Policy Research Institute, the bill highlights the need to focus on those living in extreme poverty.

In thinking about how to approach agricultural productivity, we tried to draw from the experience of U.S. land grant colleges and the contributions they have made to U.S. agriculture. The bill creates a new program that would strengthen institutions of higher education in the areas of agriculture sciences, research and extension programs. Investments in human capital and institutional capacity are important to developing a robust agricultural sector.

Universities and research centers can play an important role in achieving technological advances that are appropriate to local conditions. As such, the bill calls for increasing collaborative research on the full range of biotechnological advances including genetically modified technologies.

Third, the bill improves the U.S. emergency response to food crises by creating a separate Emergency Food Assistance Fund that can make local and regional purchases of food, where appropriate. Funds can be used for emergency food and agricultural assistance. The Government Accountability Office reports that it can often take 4 to 6 months from the time a crisis occurs until U.S. food shipments arrive. Our intention is to provide USAID with the flexibility to respond to emergencies more quickly, without supplanting other food programs such as P.L. 480.

I hope that our bill will begin a productive dialogue on how our government can be a more effective partner with NGO and private actors in promoting food security. There is no good reason why nearly a billion people should be food insecure or that the world should have to endure the social upheaval and risks of conflict that this insecurity causes.

I look forward to working with colleagues to improve the U.S. and global efforts to alleviate food insecurity and advance agricultural knowledge and technology worldwide.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 3529

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the ''Global Food Security Act of 2008''.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
Sec. 2. Findings.
Sec. 3. Definitions.

TITLE I—POLICY OBJECTIVES, PLANNING AND COORDINATION

Sec. 101. Statement of policy.
Sec. 102. Comprehensive food security strategy.
Sec. 103. Reports.

TITLE II—BILATERAL PROGRAMS

Sec. 201. Agriculture, rural development, and nutrition.
Sec. 202. Agricultural research.
Sec. 203. Higher education collaboration for technology, agriculture, research and extension.

TITLE III—EMERGENCY RESPONSE TO FOOD CRISES

Sec. 301. Emergency food assistance account.
Sec. 302. Authorization of appropriations.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress makes the following findings:

(1) Nearly 1,000,000,000 people worldwide suffer from food insecurity, defined as a lack of access to sufficient food to meet dietary needs for an active and healthy life.

(2) The number of food insecure increased from 849,000,000 in 2006 to 982,000,000 in 2007.

(3) The World Food Programme reports that 25,000 people die each day from malnutrition-related causes.

(4) The food security situation of lower income countries is projected to continue to deteriorate over the next decade.

(5) Nearly half of the world's food insecure live in Sub-Saharan Africa.

(6) The agricultural sector comprises large portions of the total labor force in many developing countries, as high as 70 to 80 percent in Sub-Saharan Africa, where it also contributes about 35 percent of the total gross national product (GDP).

(7) Agriculture has been shown to be an efficient engine of economic growth in developing countries.

(8) A diverse and secure food supply has health benefits, including increasing child survival, improving cognitive and physical development of children, and increasing immune system function including resistance to HIV/AIDS.

(9) Rapid increases in global food costs since 2007 threaten to significantly undermine gains achieved in poverty reduction and health programs.

(10) The poor in developing countries spend as much as 50 to 70 percent of their incomes on food.

(11) Three out of five of those suffering from hunger are rural small-scale agricultural families. One out of five is a rural landless laborer, and another one-fifth are urban poor, according to the United Nations Hunger Task Force.

(12) A comprehensive approach to food security should encompass improvements in nutrition, education, agricultural infrastructure and productivity, finance and markets, safety net programs, household incomes, and emergency preparedness.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term ''Administrator'' means the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development.

(2) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term ''appropriate congressional committees'' means—

(A) the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

(3) CHRONIC FOOD INSECURITY.—The term ''chronic food insecurity'' means ongoing and persistent lack of access to sufficient food to meet dietary needs for an active and healthy life.

(4) EXTREME POVERTY.—The term ''extreme poverty'' means income of less than half of the poverty level as defined by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development for the relevant year.

(5) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The term ''institution of higher education'' means educational institutions providing post-secondary education and training.

TITLE I—POLICY OBJECTIVES, PLANNING AND COORDINATION

SEC. 101. STATEMENT OF POLICY.

It is the policy of the United States to promote global food security, to improve agricultural productivity, to support the development of institutions of higher learning that will enhance human capacity, a knowledge economy, agricultural research and technology, and the dissemination of farming techniques to all levels of the agriculture sector, and to support sustainable farming methods.

SEC. 102. COMPREHENSIVE FOOD SECURITY STRATEGY.

(a) SPECIAL COORDINATOR.—The President shall designate an individual to serve in the Executive Office of the President as the Special Coordinator for Food Security. The coordinator shall advise and assist the President by—

(1) advising the President on international food security issues;

(2) taking such actions as are necessary to ensure the coordination of the food security efforts and programs of the United States, including the activities of Federal agencies, and

(3) overseeing the development and implementation of the strategy described in subsection (b).

(b) CONTENT OF STRATEGY.—The strategy referred to in subsection (a)(3) is a comprehensive food security strategy that—

(1) includes specific and measurable goals, benchmarks and time frames, and a plan of action to achieve the objectives described in section 101;

(2) seeks to encourage and leverage, to the greatest extent possible—

(A) private sector participation, including through the Global Development Alliances of the United States Agency for International Development and other measures; and

(B) the coordination of United States food security efforts with similar efforts of international organizations, international financial institutions, the governments of developing and developed countries, and United States and international nongovernmental organizations;

(3) provides appropriate linkages with United States international health programs, such as the President's Emergency Plan for HIV/AIDS Relief;

(4) reflects a whole-of-government approach that incorporates and encompasses the programs of relevant Federal departments and agencies that engage in some aspect of food security, including the Department of State, the United States Agency for International Development, the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Defense, the Millennium Challenge Corporation, the Department of the Treasury, the Office of the United States Trade Representative, and the Department of Health and Human Services; and

(5) provides annual monitoring and evaluation of the program addressing progress toward access to food, availability of food, utilization of food, and risk factors associated with food insecure populations.

(c) IMPLEMENTATION.—The United States Agency for International Development shall be the lead agency in implementing the strategy described in subsection (b).

SEC. 103. REPORTS.

(a) ANNUAL REPORTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and not later than December 31 of each year thereafter through 2014, the President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on the implementation of the strategy described in section 102(b).

(2) CONTENT.—The report required under paragraph (1) shall include—

(A) a copy of the strategy and an indication of any changes made in the strategy during the preceding calendar year;

(B) an assessment of progress made during the preceding calendar year toward meeting the objectives described in section 101 and the specific goals, benchmarks, and time frames specified in the strategy described in section 102(b);

(C) a description of United States Government programs contributing to the achievement of the objectives described in section 101, including the amounts expended on such programs during the preceding fiscal year; and

(D) an assessment of United States efforts to encourage and leverage private sector participation in United States food security programs and to coordinate such programs with similar efforts of international organizations, international financial institutions, the governments of developing and developed countries, and United States and international nongovernmental organizations.

(3) GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE REPORT.—Not later than 270 days after the submission of each report under paragraph (1), the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report that contains—

(A) a review of, and comments addressing, the report submitted under paragraph (1); and

(B) recommendations relating to any additional actions the Comptroller General determines to be necessary to improve a global food security strategy and its implementation.

(b) PROGRAM REVIEW.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 4 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report containing—

(A) an assessment of progress made during the preceding four years toward meeting the objectives described in section 101 and the specific goals, benchmarks, and time frames specified in the strategy described in section 102(b); and

(B) an evaluation of the impact during the preceding four years of United States food security programs on food security, health, and economic growth in countries suffering from chronic food insecurity.

(2) BASIS FOR REPORT.—The report required under paragraph (1) shall be based on assessments and impact evaluations utilizing sound quantitative and qualitative methodologies and techniques for the behavioral sciences.

TITLE II—BILATERAL PROGRAMS

SEC. 201. AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, AND NUTRITION.

(a) AUTHORITY.—Section 103(a)(1) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2151a(a)(1)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (B), by striking ''; and'' and inserting a semicolon;

(2) in subparagraph (C), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

''(D) to expand the economic participation of people living in extreme poverty and those who lack access to agriculturally productive land, including through productive safety net programs and health and nutrition programs, and to integrate those living in extreme poverty into the economy.''.

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the President to provide assistance under section 103 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2151a) for the purpose of carrying out activities under this section, in addition to funds otherwise available for such purpose—

(1) $750,000,000 for fiscal year 2010;

(2) $1,000,000,000 for fiscal year 2011;

(3) $1,500,000,000 for fiscal year 2012;

(4) $2,000,000,000 for fiscal year 2013; and

(5) $2,500,000,000 for fiscal year 2014.

(c) COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH SUPPORT PROGRAM.—Of the amounts appropriated pursuant to the authorization of appropriations under subsection (b), up to $35,000,000 may be made available annually for the Collaborative Research Support Program for fiscal years 2011 through 2014.

(d) CONSULTATIVE GROUP ON INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH.—Of the amounts appropriated pursuant to the authorization of appropriations under subsection (b), up to $45,000,000 may be made available annually for core long-term research for the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research for fiscal years 2011 through 2014.

SEC. 202. AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH.

Section 103A of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2151a–1) is amended in the first sentence—

(1) by striking '', and (3) make'' and inserting '', (3) make''; and

(2) by striking the period at the end and inserting '', and (4) include research on biotechnological advances appropriate to local ecological conditions, including genetically modified technology.''.

SEC. 203. HIGHER EDUCATION COLLABORATION FOR TECHNOLOGY, AGRICULTURE, RESEARCH AND EXTENSION.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) Institutions of higher education can promote a robust agriculture sector through investments in human capital, research and technology, and extension services.

(2) Enrollment levels in higher education are 5 percent in Africa, 10 percent in South Asia, 19 percent in East Asia, and 23 percent in North Africa and the Middle East.

(3) Universities in the United States have a history of serving as engines of development.

(4) Many universities in the United States have experience in partnering with foreign universities on faculty and student exchanges, curriculum development, and joint research projects.

(5) According to a World Bank study, higher education contributes to national productivity, raises living standards, and improves a country's ability to compete globally.

(6) United States foreign assistance support for higher education has declined from the 1990s.

(b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this section is to provide United States assistance for the development of higher educational capacity in the field of agriculture in a manner that promotes economic growth in rural areas, the alleviation of poverty and malnutrition, nutritional diversity, and good governance.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ASSISTANCE PLAN.—The term ''assistance plan'' means a multi-year plan developed by the United States Agency for International Development in coordination with a foreign government addressing assistance for agricultural education programs.

(2) BOARD.—The term ''Board'' means the Board for Higher Education Collaboration for Technology, Agriculture, Research, and Extension.

(3) EDUCATION CENTER OF EXCELLENCE.—The term ''education center of excellence'' means an institution of higher education that is designated as the lead educational institution for purposes of the assistance plan.

(4) ELIGIBLE COUNTRY.—The term ''eligible country'' means a country that meets the requirements of subsection (h).

(d) ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall establish a program to be known as the Higher Education Collaboration for Technology, Agriculture, Research, and Extension (in this section referred to as the ''Program'' or ''HECTARE'') for the purpose of providing assistance in support of policies and programs in eligible countries that advance agricultural productivity and hunger alleviation through partnerships with institutions of higher education.

(e) FORM OF ASSISTANCE.—Assistance may be provided under this section in the form of grants, cooperative agreements, or contracts to or with eligible entities described in subsection (i) and shall be provided pursuant to assistance plans as described in subsection (g). Assistance may not be provided under this section in the form of loans.

(f) USE OF FUNDS.—Assistance provided under this section may be used to provide support to education centers of excellence in eligible countries for the following purposes:

(1) Academic exchange programs for students, faculty members, and school administrators with other education of centers of excellence and with universities in the United States.

(2) Strengthening agriculture sciences curricula.

(3) Increasing research capacity.

(4) Improving the dissemination of appropriate information and technology to farmers.

(g) ASSISTANCE PLANS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall provide assistance under this section pursuant to an assistance plan developed in coordination with an eligible country that establishes a multi-year plan for significantly improving agricultural productivity and investing in rural economies through the strengthening of agricultural programs at institutions of higher learning.

(2) ELEMENTS.—An assistance plan should—

(A) take into account the national development strategy of the eligible country;

(B) identify an education center of excellence devoted to agricultural sciences (in this paragraph referred to as a ''center'');

(C) identify the partnerships between the center and other institutions of higher learning, including schools or research institutions in the United States and foreign countries, government agencies, including local and regional governments, private sector entities, and civil society;

(D) identify appropriate channels for dissemination of farming techniques to the field; and

(E) identify the center's plans for—

(i) conducting agricultural research and technology;

(ii) strengthening the teaching of agriculture science, including programs aimed at curriculum, faculty, and students;

(iii) providing rural outreach services (extension); and

(iv) improving university administration.

(3) COORDINATION.—The Administrator, as appropriate, shall coordinate the development of assistance plans with the Global AIDS/HIV Coordinator of the Department of State to ensure coordination of such plans with education programs provided for in section 204(c) of the United States Leadership Against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria Act of 2003 (22 U.S.C. 7623(c)).

(h) ELIGIBLE COUNTRIES.—

(1) CRITERIA.—The Administrator shall identify eligible countries for purposes of this section. Such determination shall be based, to the maximum extent possible, upon objective and quantifiable indicators of a country's demonstrated commitment to the following:

(A) Investments in, and support for, rural economies, including the protection of private property rights, the promotion of private sector growth and sustainable management of natural resources, the rights of women, and the well-being of women and children.

(B) Raising agricultural productivity of small- and medium-sized farms.

(C) Alleviating poverty and hunger among the entire population.

(D) Strengthening the system of higher education institutions with regard to agriculture science, research, and technology.

(E) The wide dissemination of farming techniques.

(F) Working with other international partners, such as universities in the United States, other foreign universities, civil society, and private business and research institutions.

(G) Good governance, transparency, and anti-corruption policies.

(2) ADDITIONAL FACTORS.—The Administrator, in selecting eligible countries, shall consider—

(A) the extent to which the country clearly meets or exceeds the eligibility criteria;

(B) the opportunity to increase agricultural productivity, enhance human and institutional capacity, and reduce hunger in the country;

(C) the availability of funds to carry out this section; and

(D) the percentage of the country's population that faces chronic food insecurity.

(i) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—Entities eligible for assistance under this section are the following:

(1) Universities in the United States working in partnership with institutions of higher education in eligible countries.

(2) Education centers of excellence and other institutions of higher education in eligible countries.

(3) National governments of eligible countries.

(4) Regional or local governmental units of eligible countries.

(5) Nongovernmental organizations and private entities.

(j) BOARD FOR GLOBAL AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Administrator shall establish a permanent Board for Global Agricultural Education (in this section referred to as the ''Board'') for purposes of assisting in the administration of the programs authorized under this section.

(2) MEMBERSHIP.—The Board shall consist of 7 members, of whom—

(A) not less than 4 shall be selected from universities in the United States; and

(B) not less than 3 shall be selected from representatives of nongovernmental organizations devoted to agricultural research and education.

(3) DUTIES.—The duties of the Board shall include the following:

(A) Responsibility for advising the Administrator on issues related to the planning, implementation, and monitoring of activities described in this section.

(B) Advising the Administrator in the formulation of basic policy, program design, procedures, and criteria for the Program.

(C) Advising the Administrator on the qualifications of interested institutions of higher learning based on—

(i) their ability to work collaboratively to improve agricultural production, scientific research, and the dissemination of sound agricultural technologies;

(ii) their commitment to expanding and applying their academic, teaching, research, and outreach capacities; and

(iii) their commitment to partner with private organizations, civil society, and government entities.

(D) Advising the Administrator on which developing nations could benefit from programs carried out under this section and have an interest in establishing or developing agricultural institutions that engage in teaching, research, or extension services.

(4) TERM.—Terms of members shall be set by the Administrator at the time of appointment.

(5) REIMBURSEMENT OF EXPENSES.—Members of the Board shall be entitled to such reimbursement of expenses incurred in the performance of their duties (including per diem in lieu of subsistence while away from their homes or regular place of business) as the Administrator deems appropriate on a case-by-case basis.

(k) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the President for the purpose of carrying out activities under this section—

(1) $100,000,000 for fiscal year 2010;

(2) $200,000,000 for fiscal year 2011;

(3) $300,000,000 for fiscal year 2012;

(4) $400,000,000 for fiscal year 2013; and

(5) $500,000,000 for fiscal year 2014.

(l) DISCLOSURE OF FUNDING RECEIVED BY UNITED STATES UNIVERSITIES.—The Administrator shall prescribe regulations providing for the utilization by universities in the United States of alternative sources of public and private funding to carry out the purposes of this section and requiring the disclosure, not less than annually, of all such alternative funding, both prospective and received.

(m) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than October 1, 2009, and annually thereafter, the President shall submit to Congress a report detailing the activities carried out under this section during the preceding fiscal year and containing a projection of programs and activities to be conducted in the following year.

TITLE III—EMERGENCY RESPONSE TO FOOD CRISES

SEC. 301. EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE ACCOUNT.

(a) AUTHORITY.—Whenever the President determines it to be important to the national interest, the President may furnish on such terms and conditions as he may determine appropriate assistance under this Act or the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2151 et seq.) for the purpose of meeting unexpected urgent food assistance needs, notwithstanding any provision of law which restricts assistance to foreign countries.

(b) ESTABLISHMENT OF ACCOUNT.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established a United States Emergency Food Assistance Fund to carry out the purposes of this section (in this section referred to as the ''Fund'').

(2) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the President from time to time such sums as may be necessary for the Fund to carry out the purposes of this section, except that no amount of funds may be appropriated which, when added to amounts previously appropriated but not yet obligated for such purpose, would cause the total of such appropriated amounts to exceed $500,000,000.

(3) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—Amounts appropriated pursuant to this section shall remain available until expended.

(c) USE OF FUNDS.—Assistance provided under this section may include the local and regional purchase and distribution of food, and the provision of emergency non-food assistance.

(d) LIMITED DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY.—The authority under subsection (a) may be delegated to the Administrator, provided that not more than $100,000,000 may be made available in any fiscal year pursuant to determinations made by the Administrator pursuant to the delegation of such authority.

(e) REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—The Administration shall submit a report to the appropriate congressional committees not later than 5 days before providing assistance pursuant to a determination made under this section. The report shall indicate the unexpected urgent food needs to be addressed by the assistance and the amount of assistance to be provided.

SEC. 302. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There is authorized to be appropriated $500,000,000 for fiscal year 2010 for the purpose of carrying out this title.

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. ENSIGN, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. FEINGOLD, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. SUNUNU, Mr. LEAHY, Mrs. DOLE, Mr. SMITH, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. DODD, Mrs. LINCOLN, Mr. BAYH, Mr. KERRY, Mr. HARKIN, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. OBAMA, Mrs. CLINTON, Ms. STABENOW, and Mr. BIDEN):

S. 3532. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow the Secretary of the Treasury to establish the standard mileage rate for use of a passenger automobile for purposes of the charitable contributions deduction and to exclude charitable mileage reimbursements from gross income; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce a bill, the Giving Incentives to Volunteers Everywhere Act. In today's economic climate, Americans need relief from sky-rocketing oil and gas prices. This applies to everyone, including people who engage in much-needed volunteer work. In July, I introduced a similar bill to help volunteers. It gave the Internal Revenue Service authority to change the mileage rate—currently set by statute at 14 cents per mile—for calculating the deductible cost of operating a vehicle for charitable purposes. We can't let an out-of-date mileage rate exacerbate the pinch at the pump for volunteers who selflessly provide so many vital goods and services in every community across America. After working with Congressman LEWIS and Congressman RAMSTAD on compromise language we have improved the original bill. This compromise legislation will provide immediate relief for volunteers serving our elderly, poor, frail, and at-risk Americans. I am pleased that the

senior Senator from Maine, Senator SNOWE, and my other colleagues, the senior Senator from New York, Senator SCHUMER, the junior Senator from Nevada, Senator ENSIGN, the senior Senator from Maryland, Senator MIKULSKI, and the senior Senator from Iowa, Senator GRASSLEY, and the junior Senator from Wisconsin, Senator FEINGOLD, are original cosponsors of this bill and I thank all of them for their support.

The Internal Revenue Code does not fix a rate for individuals who are required to use their own vehicle for work, or for individuals taking a mileage deduction for moving purposes. The IRS is able to increase the deduction amount for these purposes to reflect the current economic climate and dramatically higher fuel prices. This is exactly what the IRS recently did.

As of July 1st, the IRS modified the standard mileage rates for computing the deductible costs of operating an automobile for business, medical, or moving expenses. The revised standard mileage rate for business purposes increased from 50.5 cents per mile to 58.5 cents. For medical and moving expenses, the IRS increased the rate from 19 cents per mile to 27 cents per mile. I think the Nation's volunteers who travel on behalf of charitable organizations deserve an increase in their mileage rate, too.

My bill gives the IRS flexibility in setting the rate so that volunteers for charitable organizations could be given the same tax benefit accruing for moving, medical, and business expenses. It also provides a floor for volunteers, not allowing their rate to be set lower than moving and medical rate. In today's climate of increasing food and fuel prices, this bill will help relieve some of the pressure on charitable organizations and their volunteers. Additionally, this bill will allow the organization to reimburse the volunteer up to the business rate without any tax impact to volunteers.

Take Meals on Wheels, for example. This organization delivers nutritious meals and other nutrition services to men and women who are elderly, homebound, disabled, frail, or otherwise at-risk. The services Meals on Wheels provides significantly improve the recipients' quality of life and health, and often help to postpone institutionalization.

Over the past year, there has been nearly a 20 percent increase in fuel and food prices, coupled with reduced Government funding and fewer donations across the country. Nearly 60 percent of the estimated 5,000 programs that operate under the auspices of the Meals on Wheels Association of America have lost volunteers, in large part because it is too expensive for the volunteers to drive back and forth. Nearly half the programs have eliminated routes or consolidated meal services. About 38 percent of the programs have switched to delivering frozen meals, and about 30 percent are cutting personal visits from 5 days a week to one.

In Maryland, the Central Maryland Meals on Wheels has experienced an increase of 7 percent in food costs and suppliers are charging higher delivery fees. The cost to fill up the vans with gas has increased. Fuel costs averaged $72,538.70 in fiscal year 2007; this year, the costs have jumped to $86,790.63. This is an organization with volunteers serving over 3,100 elderly, disabled, frail and at-risk Marylanders. Its volunteers deserve relief from high gas prices just as much as people who use their car for work or for medical purposes or for moving.

Throughout the U.S., Meals on Wheels served over 3 million people and more than 250 million meals in fiscal year 2006. This is just one of thousands of charitable organizations. We need to encourage and support the Meals on Wheels volunteers and all other volunteers who need their cars to help their neighbors and communities. The Giving Incentives to Volunteers Everywhere bill will do just that, and I hope my colleagues will support it.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 3532

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Giving Incentives to Volunteers Everywhere Act of 2008'' or the ''GIVE Act of 2008''.

SEC. 2. DETERMINATION OF STANDARD MILEAGE RATE FOR CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS DEDUCTION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (i) of section 170 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (relating to standard mileage rate for use of passenger automobile) is amended to read as follows:

''(i) STANDARD MILEAGE RATE FOR USE OF PASSENGER AUTOMOBILE.—For purposes of computing the deduction under this section for use of a passenger automobile, the standard mileage rate shall be the rate determined by the Secretary, which rate shall not be less than the standard mileage rate used for purposes of section 213.''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this section shall apply to miles traveled after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 3. EXCLUSION FROM GROSS INCOME FOR CHARITABLE MILEAGE REIMBURSEMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Part III of subchapter B of chapter 1 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (relating to items specifically excluded from gross income) is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

''SEC. 139C. CHARITABLE MILEAGE REIMBURSEMENT.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—In the case of an individual, gross income shall not include amounts received from an organization described in section 170(c)(2) as reimbursement of operating expenses with respect to the use of a passenger automobile for the benefit of such organization.

''(b) LIMITATION.—The amount excluded from gross income under subsection (a) shall not exceed the product of the standard mileage rate used for purposes of section 162 multiplied by the number of miles traveled for which such reimbursement is made.

''(c) APPLICATION TO VOLUNTEER SERVICES ONLY.—Subsection (a) shall not apply with respect to any expenses relating to the performance of services for compensation.

''(d) NO DOUBLE BENEFIT.—A taxpayer may not claim a deduction or credit under any other provision of this title with respect to reimbursements excluded from income under subsection (a).

''(e) EXEMPTION FROM REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—Section 6041 shall not apply with respect to reimbursements excluded from income under subsection (a).

''(f) MAINTENANCE OF RECORDS.—For purposes of this section, no exclusion shall be allowed under subsection (a) for any reimbursement unless with respect to such reimbursement the taxpayer meets substantiation requirements similar to the requirements of section 274(d).''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for part III of subchapter B of chapter 1 of such Code is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

''Sec. 139C. Charitable mileage reimbursement.''.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to miles traveled after the date of the enactment of this Act.

By Mr. DODD (for himself and Mr. VOINOVICH):

S. 3534. A bill to provide for the expansion of Federal programs to prevent and manage vision loss, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce the Vision Preservation Act of 2008 with my colleague Sen. GEORGE VOINOVICH. The goal of this legislation is to help Americans avoid the personal tragedy of unnecessary, preventable vision loss. This important legislation is supported by Prevent Blindness America, the American Foundation for the Blind, the American Academy of Ophthalmology, and the American Optometric Association

Right now there are an estimated 80 million Americans suffering from potentially blinding eye disease. Three million more Americans struggle with low vision. 1.1 million more are legally blind. Glaucoma, diabetic retinopathy, cataract and age-related macular degeneration, AMD, and other vision problems are costing tens of thousands of people in the United States their ability to see each year. With the aging baby boom generation moving toward retirement age, these numbers are expected to grow considerably. It is estimated that by 2030, the number of blind and visually impaired people will double if nothing is done.

Unsurprisingly, ''The Economic Impact of Vision Problems: The Toll of Major Adult Eye Disorders, Visual Impairment, and Blindness on the U.S. Economy,'' a study conducted by Prevent Blindness America, reveals that vision loss carries significant cost to individuals, private insurers, health care providers, and the Federal government. The study indicates that the direct and indirect costs of vision loss among adults are $51.4 billion. And over a lifetime, the cost for just one

person dealing with this terrible condition is $566,000. The lifetime costs associated with just those Americans born with vision loss in 2000 is $2.5 billion.

But what makes vision loss even more tragic is that half of all blindness is preventable if action is taken soon enough. There are many health and financial challenges our nation is facing that we may just have to weather. But here is one we can do something about—and we should. That is why Sen. VOINOVICH and I are introducing the Vision Preservation Act. This legislation would improve and strengthen important public health programs at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the National Institutes of Health, and the Health Resources and Services Administration, HRSA. Specifically, it would expand existing public education and awareness efforts to empower Americans to do what is necessary to protect their own vision. This legislation would also incorporate vision screening, prevention, and rehabilitation into the Maternal and Child Health Block Grants and the Community Health Centers so low income Americans who are most likely to go without needed prevention and screening can be alerted to the early warning signs of vision loss. It would improve the training and education of health professionals so that they are better prepared to help their patients identify and deal with conditions that could lead to vision loss.

These are simple steps that we in the Senate can take to help make sure that millions of Americans can live without fear of losing their sight. I urge my colleagues to join us in supporting this legislation.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill and a letter of support be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 3534

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Vision Preservation Act of 2008''.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS; SENSE OF CONGRESS.

(a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds as follows:

(1) An estimated 80 million Americans have a potentially blinding eye disease, and more than 19.1 million Americans report trouble seeing, even with eye glasses or contacts. At least 1.1 million Americans are legally blind, and 200,000 Americans experience profound vision loss. Refractive errors affect approximately one third of persons 40 years or older in the United States. Visual impairment is one of the 10 more frequent causes of disability in the United States.

(2) While it is believed that half of all blindness can be prevented, the number of Americans who are blind or visually impaired is expected to double by 2030.

(3) Vision loss can, especially without appropriate rehabilitation and skills training, significantly impact an individual's ability to conduct activities of daily living, as well as developmental learning, communicating, working, health, and quality of life.

(4) One in twenty preschoolers experience visual impairment which, if unaddressed, can affect learning ability, personality, and adjustment in school.

(5) It is estimated that blindness and visual impairment cost the Federal Government more than $4 billion annually in benefits and lost taxable income, and cost the United States economy approximately $51.4 billion annually in direct medical costs, direct non medical costs, and indirect costs such as lost productivity and wages.

(6) Vision rehabilitation helps people with vision loss to live safely and independently at home and in the community, reduce medication errors, cook and perform other daily activities reliably, and avoid accidents which may lead to injury or even the onset of additional disabilities, especially among older persons living with vision loss.

(7) Recognizing that the Nation requires a public health approach to visual impairment, the Department of Health and Human Services dedicated a portion of its Healthy People 2010 initiative to vision. The initiative set out as a goal the improvement of the Nation's visual health through prevention, early detection, treatment, and rehabilitation.

(8) Greater efforts must be made at the Federal, State, and local levels to increase awareness of vision loss and its causes, its impact, the importance of early diagnosis, treatment, and rehabilitation, and effective prevention strategies.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of the Congress that the Nation must have a full-scale integrated public health strategy to comprehensively address vision loss and its causes that, at a minimum, includes the following:

(1) Communication and education.

(2) Surveillance, epidemiology, and prevention research.

(3) Programs, policies, and systems change.

SEC. 3. VISION LOSS PREVENTION.

Part B of title III of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 243 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 317S the following:

''SEC. 317T. PREVENTIVE HEALTH MEASURES WITH RESPECT TO VISION LOSS.

''(a) COMMUNICATION AND EDUCATION.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Health Resources and Services Administration, and the National Institutes of Health, shall expand and intensify programs to increase awareness of vision problems, including awareness of—

''(A) the impact of vision problems; and

''(B) the importance of early diagnosis, management, and effective prevention and rehabilitation strategies.

''(2) ACTIVITIES.—In carrying out this subsection, the Secretary may—

''(A) conduct public service announcements and education campaigns;

''(B) enter into partnerships with eye-health professional organizations and other vision-related organizations;

''(C) conduct community disease prevention campaigns;

''(D) conduct testing, evaluation, and model training for vision screeners based on scientific studies; and

''(E) evaluate strategies to reduce barriers to access to treatment by optometrists and ophthalmologists.

''(3) EVALUATION.—In carrying out this subsection, the Secretary shall—

''(A) establish appropriate measurements for public awareness of vision problems;

''(B) establish appropriate measurements to determine the effectiveness of existing campaigns to increase awareness of vision problems;

''(C) establish quantitative benchmarks for determining the effectiveness of activities carried out under this subsection; and

''(D) not later than 12 months after the date of the enactment of this section, submit a report to the Congress on the results achieved through such activities.

''(b) SURVEILLANCE, EPIDEMIOLOGY, AND HEALTH SERVICES RESEARCH.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall expand and intensify activities to establish a solid scientific base of knowledge on the prevention, control, and rehabilitation of vision problems and related disabilities.

''(2) ACTIVITIES.—In carrying out this subsection, the Secretary may—

''(A) create a national ongoing surveillance system;

''(B) identify and test screening modalities;

''(C) evaluate strategies to reduce barriers to access to treatment by optometrists, ophthalmologists, and other vision rehabilitation professionals;

''(D) evaluate the efficacy and cost-effectiveness of current and future interventions and community strategies;

''(E) update and improve knowledge about the true costs of vision problems and related disabilities; and

''(F) require the Surgeon General to assess the state of vision care and vision rehabilitation in the United States.

''(c) PROGRAMS, POLICIES, AND SYSTEMS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall expand and intensify research within the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on the prevention and management of vision loss.

''(2) ACTIVITIES.—In carrying out this subsection, the Secretary may—

''(A) build partnerships with voluntary health organizations, nonprofit vision rehabilitation agencies, Federal, State, and local public health agencies, eye health professional organizations, and organizations with an interest in vision issues;

''(B) work with health care systems to better address vision problems and associated disabilities; and

''(C) award grants for community outreach regarding vision loss to health care institutions and national vision organizations with broad community presence.''.

SEC. 4. EXPANSION OF VISION PROGRAMS UNDER THE MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH SERVICE BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM.

Section 501(a)(3) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 701(a)(3)) is amended—

(1) by striking ''and'' at the end of subparagraph (E);

(2) by striking the period at the end of subparagraph (F) and inserting '', and''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

''(G) introduce core performance measures on eye health by incorporating vision screening and examination standards into State programs under this title, based on scientific studies.''.

SEC. 5. PREVENTION AND TREATMENT FOR UNDERSERVED, MINORITY, AND OTHER POPULATIONS.

(a) EXPANSION AND INTENSIFICATION OF VISION PROGRAMS.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services (in this section referred to as the ''Secretary'') shall expand and intensify programs targeted to prevent vision loss, treat eye and vision conditions, and rehabilitate people of all ages who are blind or partially sighted in underserved and minority communities, including the following:

(1) Vision care services at community health centers receiving assistance under section 330 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254b).

(2) Vision rehabilitation programs at vision rehabilitation agencies, eye clinics, and hospitals.

(b) VOLUNTARY GUIDELINES FOR VISION SCREENING.—The Secretary, in consultation with eye-health professional organizations and other vision-related organizations, shall develop voluntary guidelines to ensure the quality of vision screening and appropriate referral for comprehensive eye examinations and subsequent vision rehabilitation services.

SEC. 6. VISION REHABILITATION PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT GRANTS.

(a) AUTHORITY.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services (in this section referred to as the ''Secretary'') may make grants to eligible institutions of higher education or nonprofit organizations for the purpose of activities described in subsection (b) relating to vision rehabilitation professional development.

(b) USE OF FUNDS.—The Secretary may not make a grant to an institution of higher education or a nonprofit organization under this section unless the institution or organization agrees to use the grant for the following:

(1) Developing and offering preparatory and continuing education training opportunities (incorporating state-of-the-art approaches, technologies, and therapies to meet the unique needs of older adults with vision loss) in—

(A) geriatrics among vision rehabilitation professionals, including professionals in the vision rehabilitation therapy, orientation and mobility, and low vision therapy fields; and

(B) vision rehabilitation among occupational therapists and others in related rehabilitation and health disciplines.

(2) Conducting, and disseminating the findings and conclusions of, research on the effectiveness of preparatory and continuing education training under paragraph (1).

(3) Developing and disseminating interdisciplinary course curricula for use in the preparation of new professionals in vision rehabilitation, occupational therapy, and related rehabilitation and health disciplines.

(4) Educating physicians, nurses, and other health care providers about the value of vision rehabilitation, to increase appropriate referral by such professionals for the full range of vision rehabilitation services available to older individuals with vision loss.

(c) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible to receive a grant under this section, an entity shall be a university, academic medical center, national or regional nonprofit organization, community rehabilitation provider, or allied health education program, or a consortium of such entities, that—

(1) offers or coordinates education or training activities among professionals described in subsection (b)(1); or

(2) agrees to use the grant to expand its capacity to coordinate such activities.

(d) DISTRIBUTION OF GRANTS.—In awarding grants under this section, the Secretary shall ensure that grantees offer or coordinate training for current and emerging professionals—

(1) from a variety of geographic regions and a range of different types and sizes of settings and facilities, including settings and facilities located in rural, urban, and suburban areas; and

(2) serving a variety of populations of older individuals with vision loss, including racial and ethnic minorities, low-income individuals, and other underserved populations.

(e) APPLICATION.—To seek a grant under this section, an entity shall submit to the Secretary an application at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require.

AMERICAN OPTOMETRIC ASSOCIATION,
Alexandria, VA, September 19, 2008.

Hon. CHRIS DODD,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR DODD: The American Optometric Association (AOA), representing over 36,000 doctors of optometry who are the frontline providers of eye and vision care, optometric researchers, educators and optometry students, deeply appreciates your continued outstanding leadership on priority eye and vision care issues before Congress.

With that in mind, it is my pleasure to inform you that the AOA wholly endorses and will be working to pass the Vision Preservation Act of 2008, legislation you have crafted to strengthen federal vision programs designed to prevent and manage vision loss.

Vision impairments are a growing problem in the US—particularly with the aging of the babyboomer generation. Approximately 80 million Americans have a potentially blinding eye disease such as diabetic retinopathy, glaucoma, cataract, and age-related macular degeneration. If we fail to take decisive action, the number of blind and visually impaired Americans will double in the next 25 years, even though half of all blindness is preventable.

By introducing the Vision Preservation Act, you are providing important leadership on vision-related programs and policies at the federal level. This bill's focus on increasing public awareness about vision problems, bolstering research at the National Eye Institute, and improving access to vision care at Federally-Qualified Health Centers, the Maternal and Child Health Bureau, and under the Medicaid program are key components that optometry and others in the vision community are completely united behind.

As the Vision Preservation Act of 2008 is considered, be assured that we will continue to work with you and your colleagues in Congress to place maximum emphasis on early identification of those individuals at risk for vision loss and need access to quality care.

If we can be of any assistance on this legislation, or any other vision related questions, please contact Alicia Kerry Jones.

Sincerely,

MICHELE HARANIN, O.D.,
Chair, AOA Federal Relations Committee.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 669—RECOGNIZING THE EFFORTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF OUTSTANDING HISPANIC SCIENTISTS IN THE UNITED STATES

Mr. MARTINEZ (for himself, Mr. NELSON of Florida, and Mr. SALAZAR) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:

S. RES. 669

Whereas the purpose of the National Hispanic Scientist of the Year Award is to recognize outstanding Hispanic scientists in the United States who promote a greater public understanding of science and motivate Hispanic youth to develop an interest in science;

Whereas the 8th annual National Hispanic Scientist of the Year Gala will be held at the Museum of Science and Industry in Tampa, Florida, on Saturday, October 11, 2008;

Whereas proceeds from the National Hispanic Scientist of the Year Gala support scholarships for Hispanic boys and girls to participate in the Youth Enriched by Science Program of the Museum of Science and Industry, known as the ''YES! Team'';

Whereas a need to acknowledge the work and effort of outstanding Hispanic scientists in the United States has led to the selection of Dr. Lydia Villa-Komaroff as the honoree of the 8th annual National Hispanic Scientist of the Year Award;

Whereas Dr. Villa-Komaroff is an internationally recognized molecular biologist who is deeply committed to the recruitment and retention of minorities in science;

Whereas Dr. Villa-Komaroff currently serves as Chief Executive Officer of Cytonome, Inc., a company building the first optical cell sorter capable of supporting rapid, sterile sorting of human cells for therapeutic use; and

Whereas Dr. Villa-Komaroff was a key member of the research team that first demonstrated that bacterial cells produce insulin and her varied and active professional life includes research positions at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Harvard University, and the University of Massachusetts Medical Center: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes efforts to educate, support, and provide hope for the Hispanic community, including efforts—

(A) to honor outstanding Hispanic scientists in the United States at the annual National Hispanic Scientist of the Year Gala; and

(B) to motivate Hispanic youth to study science through ''Meet the Hispanic Scientist Day'', an opportunity for Hispanic youth to meet the honoree of the National Hispanic Scientist of the Year Award; and

(2) congratulates the 2008 National Hispanic Scientist of the Year designated by the Museum of Science and Industry, for ongoing dedication to improving the quality of, and access to, science and engineering research and education.

SENATE RESOLUTION 670—DESIGNATING SEPTEMBER 25, 2008, AS ''NATIONAL FIRST RESPONDER APPRECIATION DAY''

Mr. ALLARD (for himself, Mr. CASEY, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. BROWN, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. COLEMAN, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. Enzi, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. KENNEDY, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. PRYOR, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHUMER, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. VOINOVICH, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WICKER, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. BARRASSO, and Mr. MENENDEZ) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 670

Whereas millions of Americans have benefitted from the courageous service of first responders across the United States;

Whereas the police, fire, emergency medical service, and public health personnel (commonly known as ''first responders'') work devotedly and selflessly on behalf of the people of the United States, regardless of the peril or hazard to themselves;

Whereas in emergency situations, first responders carry out the critical role of protecting and ensuring public safety;

Whereas the men and women who bravely serve as first responders have found themselves on the front lines of homeland defense in the war against terrorism;

Whereas first responders are called upon in the event of a natural disaster, such as the tornados in Florida and the blizzard in Colorado in December 2006, the flooding in the Northeast in April 2007, the flooding in the Midwest in June 2008, and the wildfires in the West in July 2008;

Whereas the critical role of first responders was witnessed in the aftermath of the mass shooting at the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, when the collaborative effort of police officers, firefighters, and emergency medical technicians to secure the campus, rescue students from danger, treat the injured, and transport victims to local hospitals undoubtedly saved the lives of many students and faculty;

Whereas 900,000 police officers, 1,100,000 firefighters, and 891,000 emergency medical technicians risk their lives every day to make our communities safe;

Whereas these 900,000 sworn police officers from Federal, State, tribal, city, and county law enforcement agencies protect lives and property, detect and prevent crimes, uphold the law, and ensure justice;

Whereas these 1,100,000 firefighters, both volunteer and career, provide fire suppression, emergency medical services, search and rescue, hazardous materials response, response to terrorism, and critical fire prevention and safety education;

Whereas the 891,000 emergency medical professionals in the United States respond to and treat a variety of life-threatening emergencies, from cardiac and respiratory arrest to traumatic injuries;

Whereas these 2,661,000 ''first responders'' make personal sacrifices to protect our communities, as was witnessed on September 11, 2001, and in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, and as is witnessed every day in cities and towns across the United States;

Whereas, according to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund, a total of 1,671 law enforcement officers died in the line of duty during the past 10 years, an average of 1 death every 53 hours or 167 per year, and 181 law enforcement officers were killed in 2007;

Whereas, according to the United States Fire Administration, from 1996 through 2005 over 1500 firefighters were killed in the line of duty, and tens of thousands were injured;

Whereas 4 in 5 medics are injured on the job, more than 1 in 2 (52 percent) have been assaulted by a patient and 1 in 2 (50 percent) have been exposed to an infectious disease, and emergency medical service personnel in the United States have an estimated fatality rate of 12.7 per 100,000 workers, more than twice the national average;

Whereas most emergency medical service personnel deaths in the line of duty occur in ambulance accidents;

Whereas thousands of first responders have made the ultimate sacrifice;

Whereas, in the aftermath of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, firefighters, law enforcement officers, and emergency medical workers in the United States were universally recognized for the sacrifices they made on that tragic day, and should be honored each year as these tragic events are remembered;

Whereas there currently exists no national day to honor the brave men and women of the first responder community, who give so much of themselves for the sake of others; and

Whereas these men and women by their patriotic service and their dedicated efforts have earned the gratitude of Congress: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate designates September 25, 2008, as ''National First Responder Appreciation Day'' to honor and celebrate the contributions and sacrifices made by all first responders in the United States.

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, I rise to submit a resolution today that will designate September 25 as National First Responder Appreciation Day. Last year I introduced this resolution with my good friend and colleague Senator ROBERT CASEY and I am pleased Senator CASEY has joined me again in honoring our first responders. I am also pleased to be joined by Senators AKAKA, BENNETT, BROWN, CHAMBLISS, CLINTON, COLEMAN, CRAPO, DOMENICI, DURBIN, ENZI, HUTCHISON, INHOFE, KENNEDY, LANDRIEU, LEAHY, LIEBERMAN, MIKULSKI, MURRAY, PRYOR, ROCKEFELLER, SANDERS, STABENOW, STEVENS, VOINOVICH, WHITEHOUSE and WICKER in this important recognition of our men and women who keep us safe.

The contributions that our Nation's 1.1 million firefighters, 900,000 police officers, and 890,000 emergency medical professionals make in our communities are familiar to us all. Their heroics can be seen every night on our TV screens, read about in our papers, and heralded by the survivors of every modern disaster. From the wildfires in Colorado and California, the tragic events at Virginia Tech, and the horrific damage of Hurricanes Katrina, Gustav, and Ike, our first responders regularly risk their lives to protect property, uphold the law, and save the lives of others.

The duty of a first responder is never without risk and requires the courage to place the safety of others ahead of one's own. It is courage that compels a firefighter to rush into a burning building, a police officer to charge into an active shooter, and an emergency medical professional to perform precision lifesaving procedures in the most hazardous conditions imaginable. While all of these brave Americans know the risks involved, some make that ultimate sacrifice to save another, at the cost of their own life.

Every year over 100 firefighters and nearly 200 police officers are killed in the line of duty. And while some may not consider a career in the emergency medical services dangerous, EMS workers actually have an occupational fatality rate comparable to that of firefighters and police officers. I know I speak on behalf of all Americans when I express my sincerest appreciation for their service and sacrifice.

While we recognize our first responders for their sacrifices, we also acknowledge their everyday contributions that make our communities throughout America a safer place. In addition to battling fires, firefighters reach out through fire prevention and public education, like teaching our children about fire safety and proper emergency response. In addition to arresting criminals, police officers encourage communities to stay involved in crime prevention and cooperate with law enforcement to help make our neighborhoods safer and more livable. If we or our loved ones experience a medical emergency, EMTs are there at a moment's notice to provide lifesaving care.

In many ways, our first responders embody the very best of the American spirit. With charity and compassion, these brave men and women commit themselves to preserving the highest standard of life we all enjoy in this great Nation. Through their actions they have become heroes to many, through their examples they have become role models to us all.

While various cities and towns have recognized the contributions made by their local first responders, there exists no national day to honor and thank these courageous men and women. The time has come to give our first responders the national day of appreciation that they deserve.

Designating September 25 as National First Responder Appreciation Day provides an opportunity for this institution and the people of the United States to honor first responders for their contributions, sacrifices, and dedication to public service.

I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting passage of this worthwhile resolution.

SENATE RESOLUTION 671—CONGRATULATING THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND SCHOOL OF MEDICINE ON ITS 200TH ANNIVERSARY

Ms. MIKULSKI (for herself and Mr. CARDIN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 671

Whereas the University of Maryland School of Medicine was established in 1807, making it the first public and the fifth oldest medical school in the United States;

Whereas, in 1823, the University of Maryland School of Medicine became the first teaching hospital in the Nation with the construction of the Baltimore Infirmary and became the first medical school in the United States to institute a residency training program;

Whereas the School of Medicine was the founding school of the University of Maryland and is an integral part of the 11-campus University System of Maryland;

Whereas, at the Baltimore campus of the University of Maryland, the School of Medicine serves as the foundation for a large academic health center that combines medical education, biomedical research, patient care, and community service;

Whereas the University of Maryland School of Medicine is dedicated to providing excellence in biomedical education, basic and clinical research, quality patient care, and service to improve the health of the people of Maryland and the United States;

Whereas the University of Maryland School of Medicine is committed to the education and training of M.D. and Ph.D. students in fields including physical therapy, rehabilitation science, and medical research technology;

Whereas the University of Maryland School of Medicine has played a crucial role in helping to meet the health care needs of

the people of Maryland and continues to recruit and develop faculty to serve as exemplary role models for students; and

Whereas the University of Maryland School of Medicine has developed a legacy of academic excellence, outstanding patient care, and ground-breaking research: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates the University of Maryland School of Medicine on its 200th anniversary; and

(2) recognizes the achievements of the University of Maryland, Baltimore, and the School of Medicine in providing outstanding service to, and in training leaders for, the local community, the State of Maryland, and the world.

SENATE RESOLUTION 672—DESIGNATING SEPTEMBER 12, 2008, AS ''NATIONAL DAY OF ENCOURAGEMENT''

Mr. PRYOR (for himself and Mrs. LINCOLN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 672

Whereas negative images, stories, and influences in the day-to-day lives of Americans can detrimentally affect their emotional well-being, interactions with others, and general demeanor;

Whereas a group of teenagers participating in a leadership forum at Harding University in Searcy, Arkansas, identified a lack of encouragement as one of the greatest problems facing young people today;

Whereas the youth of our Nation need guidance, inspiration, and reassurance to counteract this negativity and to develop the qualities of character essential for future leadership in our country;

Whereas a National Day of Encouragement would serve as a reminder to counterbalance and overcome negative influences, and would also provide much-needed encouragement and support to others;

Whereas, following the events of September 11, 2001, thousands of people of the United States made sacrifices in order to bring help and healing to the victims and their families, inspiring and encouraging the Nation; and

Whereas the renewed feelings of unity, hope, selflessness, and encouragement that began on September 12, 2001, are the same feelings that the National Day of Encouragement is meant to recapture and spread: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates September 12, 2008, as ''National Day of Encouragement'';

(2) acknowledges the importance of encouragement and positive influences in the lives of all people; and

(3) urges the people of the United States to encourage others, whether it be through an act of service, a thoughtful letter, or words of kindness and inspiration, and to thereby boost the morale of all.

SENATE RESOLUTION 673—RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF WORKPLACE WELLNESS AS A STRATEGY TO HELP MAXIMIZE EMPLOYEES' HEALTH AND WELL BEING

Mr. HARKIN (for himself and Mr. SMITH) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 673

Whereas comprehensive, culturally sensitive health promotion within the workplace is essential to maintain and improve the health of American workers;

Whereas employees who improve their health also reduce their probability of chronic health conditions, lower their out-of-pocket medical and pharmaceutical costs, reduce pain and suffering, have greater levels of energy and vitality, and experience increased satisfaction with their lives and jobs;

Whereas health care costs in the United States doubled from 1990 to 2001 and are expected to double again by 2012;

Whereas employee health benefits are the fastest growing labor cost component for employers, thus posing a serious and growing challenge to business in the United States;

Whereas business leaders are struggling to find strategies to help reduce the direct costs of employer-provided health care, as well as the indirect costs associated with higher rates of absenteeism, disability, and injury;

Whereas an effective strategy to address the primary driving force of soaring health care costs requires an investment in prevention;

Whereas some employers who invest in health promotion and disease prevention have achieved rates of return on investment ranging from $3 to $15 for each dollar invested, as well as a 28 percent average reduction in sick leave absenteeism, an average 26 percent reduction in health care costs, and a 30 percent average reduction in workers' compensation and disability management claims costs;

Whereas the Healthy People 2010 national objectives for the United States include the workplace health–related goal that at least ¾ of United States employers, regardless of size, will voluntarily offer a comprehensive employee health promotion program that includes—(1) health education and programming which focuses on skill development and lifestyle behavior change along with information dissemination and awareness building, preferably tailored to employees' interests and needs; (2) supportive social and physical environments, including an organization's expectations regarding healthy behaviors, and implementation of policies that promote health and reduce risk of disease; (3) integration of the worksite wellness programs into the organization's structure; (4) linkage to related programs like employee assistance programs (EAPs) and programs to help employees balance work and family; and (5) screening programs, ideally linked to medical care to ensure follow-up and appropriate treatment as necessary;

Whereas employers should be encouraged to invest in the health of employees by implementing comprehensive worksite health promotion programs that will help achieve our national Healthy People 2010 objectives;

Whereas business leaders that have made a healthy workforce a part of their core business strategy should be encouraged to share information and resources to educate their peers on the issue of employee health management through initiatives such as the Leading by Example CEO-to-CEO Roundtable on Workforce Health and the United States Workplace Wellness Alliance;

Whereas the employers that provide health care coverage for more than 177,000,000 Americans have the potential to exert transformative leadership on this issue by increasing the number, quality, and types of health promotion programs and policies at worksites across the Nation;

Whereas, for workplace wellness efforts to reach their full potential, chief executive officers of major corporations, company presidents of small enterprises, and State governors should be encouraged to make worksite health promotion a priority; and

Whereas Congress supports the National Worksite Health Promotion goal as stated in Healthy People 2010 and encourages public employers to increase their awareness of the value of corporate investments in employee health management to help our Nation achieve this goal: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate calls on private and public employers to support workplace wellness and implement voluntarily worksite health promotion programs to help maximize employees' health and well being and lower health care costs.

SENATE RESOLUTION 674—DESIGNATING SEPTEMBER 22, 2008, AS ''NATIONAL FALLS PREVENTION AWARENESS DAY'' TO RAISE AWARENESS AND ENCOURAGE THE PREVENTION OF FALLS AMONG OLDER ADULTS

Ms. MIKULSKI (for herself, Mr. ENZI, Mr. BURR, and Mr. HATCH) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 674

Whereas older adults value their independence and a fall can significantly limit their ability to remain self-sufficient;

Whereas falls are the leading cause of death from unintentional injuries among older adults in the United States;

Whereas older adults are by far the population at greatest risk for falling unintentionally, with more than ⅓ of all people 65 years or older falling each year;

Whereas older adults who fall once are 2 to 3 times more likely than adults who have not fallen to fall again;

Whereas, in 2000, the Bureau of the Census reported that more than 34,800,000 adults older than the age of 65 live in the United States, and that number is expected to grow to almost 55,000,000 by 2020;

Whereas 20 to 30 percent of older adults who fall suffer moderate to severe injuries, such as bruising, hip fractures, and head traumas;

Whereas, in 2005, falls resulted in nearly 1,800,000 older adults being treated in emergency departments and more than 433,000 older adults being hospitalized;

Whereas, in 2005, nearly 16,000 people aged 65 and older died from injuries related to unintentional falls;

Whereas the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report that the mortality rate from falls among older adults increased 45 percent between 2000 and 2004;

Whereas the total in direct costs associated with both fatal and non-fatal falls is more than $19,000,000,000 annually for hospitalization, emergency department visits, and outpatient care;

Whereas the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimate that if the rate of increase in falls is not stemmed, annual direct treatment costs will reach $43,800,000,000 by 2020, with an annual cost under the Medicare program of $32,400,000,000;

Whereas evidence-based programs show promise in reducing falls and facilitating cost-effective interventions, such as comprehensive clinical assessments, exercise programs to improve balance and health, management of medications, correction of vision, and reduction of home hazards;

Whereas, on April 23, 2008, the Safety of Seniors Act of 2007 (Public Law 110–202) was enacted, amending the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 280b et seq.) to create a national education campaign aimed at older

adults, their families, and healthcare providers, and injury prevention programs that focus on the reduction and prevention of falls among older adults; and

Whereas the Falls Free Coalition Advocacy Work Group, its numerous supporting organizations and all other supportive organizations, should be commended for their efforts to raise awareness and to promote greater understanding, research, and pilot programs to prevent falls among older adults: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates September 22, 2008, as ''National Falls Prevention Awareness Day'';

(2) commends the National Falls Free Coalition and all other supportive organizations for their efforts to promote awareness about preventing and reducing falls among older people in the United States;

(3) encourages the private sector, the public health community, healthcare providers, advocacy organizations, and Federal, State, and local governments to work together to increase education and awareness about the prevention of falls; and

(4) urges national and community organizations, businesses, individuals, and the media to use National Falls Prevention Awareness Day to promote awareness of this important public health problem in an effort to reduce the incidence of falls among older people in the United States.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I rise today to submit legislation designating September 22, 2008, as National Falls Prevention Awareness Day. Earlier this year Senator ENZI and I worked together to pass a law that expands research and education on elder falls. Passing our resolution is yet another way we can help raise awareness and educate the Nation about this serious issue. Falls prevention helps seniors live longer, healthier, and more independent lives.

Falls are the leading cause of injury deaths among older adults. In 2005, falls among older adults accounted for 16,000 deaths, 1.8 million emergency department visas, and 433,000 hospitalizations. In Maryland alone, falls resulted in roughly 340 deaths, 23,000 falls-related emergency room visits, and 13,000 hospitalizations. The resulting costs to the individual, their families, and the health care system are avoidable.

I am pleased to continue to work with the Falls Free Coalition Advocacy Work Group comprised of the Home Safety Council, the National Council on Aging, the National Safety Council, the American Occupational Therapy Association, the American Physical Therapy Association, AARP, and many other concerned advocates to prevent elder falls. Together, I am hopeful we can continue to improve the quality of life for America's seniors through awareness and prevention.

SENATE RESOLUTION 675—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE GOALS OF NATIONAL ADOPTION DAY AND NATIONAL ADOPTION MONTH BY PROMOTING NATIONAL AWARENESS OF ADOPTION AND THE CHILDREN AWAITING FAMILIES, CELEBRATING CHILDREN AND FAMILIES INVOLVED IN ADOPTION, AND ENCOURAGING AMERICANS TO SECURE SAFETY, PERMANENCY, AND WELL-BEING FOR ALL CHILDREN

Ms. LANDRIEU (for herself, Mr. COLEMAN, Mrs. LINCOLN, Mr. MARTINEZ, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. CASEY, Mr. BAYH, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. INHOFE, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. BURR, Mr. BUNNING, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. SMITH, Mr. DEMINT, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. SPECTER, Mr. BROWNBACK, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. OBAMA, Mr. ENZI, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. VITTER, Mr. KERRY, Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. THUNE, Mrs. DOLE, Mr. COBURN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. INOUYE, Mr. SALAZAR, Mrs. HUTCHISON, and Mr. MENENDEZ (submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 675

Whereas there are approximately 510,000 children in the foster care system in the United States, approximately 129,000 of whom are waiting for families to adopt them;

Whereas 61 percent of the children in foster care are age 10 or younger;

Whereas the average length of time a child spends in foster care is over 3 years;

Whereas, for many foster children, the wait for a loving family in which they are nurtured, comforted, and protected seems endless;

Whereas the number of youth who ''age out'' of foster care by reaching adulthood without being placed in a permanent home has continued to increase since 1998, and more than 26,000 foster youth age out every year;

Whereas every day loving and nurturing families are strengthened and expanded when committed and dedicated individuals make an important difference in the life of a child through adoption;

Whereas a 2007 survey conducted by the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption demonstrated that though ''Americans overwhelmingly support the concept of adoption, and in particular foster care adoption . . . foster care adoptions have not increased significantly over the past five years'';

Whereas, while 4 in 10 Americans have considered adoption, a majority of Americans have misperceptions about the process of adopting children from foster care and the children who are eligible for adoption;

Whereas 71 percent of those who have considered adoption consider adopting children from foster care above other forms of adoption;

Whereas 45 percent of Americans believe that children enter the foster care system because of juvenile delinquency, when in reality the vast majority of children who have entered the foster care system were victims of neglect, abandonment, or abuse;

Whereas 46 percent of Americans believe that foster care adoption is expensive, when in reality there is no substantial cost for adopting from foster care and financial support is available to adoptive parents after the adoption is finalized;

Whereas both National Adoption Day and National Adoption Month occur in November;

Whereas National Adoption Day is a collective national effort to find permanent, loving families for children in the foster care system;

Whereas, since the first National Adoption Day in 2000, more than 20,000 children have joined forever families during National Adoption Day;

Whereas, in 2007, adoptions were finalized for over 4,200 children through more than 260 National Adoption Day events in all 50 States, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico; and

Whereas the President traditionally issues an annual proclamation to declare November as National Adoption Month, and National Adoption Day is on November 15, 2008: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of National Adoption Day and National Adoption Month;

(2) recognizes that every child should have a permanent and loving family; and

(3) encourages the citizens of the United States to consider adoption during the month of November and all throughout the year.

SENATE RESOLUTION 676—SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF RED RIBBON WEEK

Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself, Mr. BAYH, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. CASEY, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. COCHRAN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CRAPO, Mrs. DOLE, Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. INOUYE, Mr. KERRY, Mr. MARTINEZ, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. PRYOR, Mr. SCHUMER, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. SPECTER, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. SALAZAR, and Mrs. CLINTON, (submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 676

Whereas the Red Ribbon Campaign was established to commemorate the service of Enrique ''Kiki'' Camarena, an 11-year special agent of the Drug Enforcement Administration who was murdered in the line of duty in 1985 while engaged in the battle against illicit drugs;

Whereas the Red Ribbon Campaign has been sponsored by the National Family Partnership and nationally recognized since 1988 to preserve Special Agent Camarena's memory and further the cause for which he gave his life, and is now the oldest and largest drug prevention program in the Nation, reaching millions of young people each year during Red Ribbon Week;

Whereas the Drug Enforcement Administration, committed throughout its 35 years to aggressively targeting organizations involved in the growing, manufacturing, and distribution of controlled substances, has been a steadfast partner in commemorating Red Ribbon Week;

Whereas the Governors and Attorneys General of the States, the National Family Partnership, Parent Teacher Associations, Boys and Girls Clubs of America, the Drug Enforcement Administration, and more than 100 other organizations throughout the United States annually celebrate Red Ribbon Week during the period of October 23 through October 31;

Whereas the objective of Red Ribbon Week is to promote the creation of drug-free communities through drug prevention efforts,

education, parental involvement, and community-wide support;

Whereas drug abuse is one of the major challenges that the Nation faces in securing a safe and healthy future for families in the United States;

Whereas drug abuse and alcohol abuse contribute to domestic violence and sexual assault and place the lives of children at risk;

Whereas, although public awareness of illicit drug use is increasing, emerging drug threats and growing epidemics demand attention, including the abuse of methamphetamines, inhalants, and prescription medications, the second most abused drug by young people in the United States;

Whereas, between 1996 and 2006, the percentages of admissions to substance abuse treatment programs as a result of the abuse of methamphetamines, prescription medications, and marijuana each significantly rose;

Whereas drug dealers specifically target children by marketing illicit drugs that mimic the appearance and names of well known brand-name candies and foods; and

Whereas parents, youths, schools, businesses, law enforcement agencies, religious institutions, service organizations, senior citizens, medical and military personnel, sports teams, and individuals throughout the United States will demonstrate their commitment to healthy, productive, and drug-free lifestyles by wearing and displaying red ribbons during this week-long celebration: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of Red Ribbon Week;

(2) encourages children and teens to choose to live drug-free lives; and

(3) encourages the people of the United States to promote the creation of drug-free communities and to participate in drug prevention activities to show support for healthy, productive, and drug-free lifestyles.

SENATE RESOLUTION 677 TO AUTHORIZE TESTIMONY AND LEGAL REPRESENTATION IN RAMSEY, ET AL. V. WILSON, ET AL.

Mr. REID (for himself and Mr. MCCONNELL) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 677

Whereas, in the case of Ramsey, et al. v. Wilson, et al., Case No. 06–82, pending in federal district court in the Southern District of Ohio, the United States has requested testimony from a former employee of the office of Senator George Voinovich;

Whereas, pursuant to sections 703(a) and 704(a)(2) of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978, 2 U.S.C. §§ 288b(a) and 288c(a)(2), the Senate may direct its counsel to represent employees of the Senate with respect to any subpoena, order, or request for testimony relating to their official responsibilities;

Whereas, by the privileges of the Senate of the United States and Rule XI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, no evidence under the control or in the possession of the Senate may, by the judicial or administrative process, be taken from such control or possession but by permission or the Senate:

Whereas, when it appears that evidence under the control or in the possession of the Senate may promote the administration of justice, the Senate will take such action as will promote the ends of justice consistent with the privileges of the Senate: Now, therefore be it

Resolved, That Anthony Condia is authorized to testify in the case of Ramsey, et al. v. Wilson, et al. and related proceedings, except concerning matters for which a privilege should be asserted.

SEC. 2. The Senate Legal Counsel is authorized to represent Anthony Condia in connection with the action referenced in section one of this resolution.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 100—AUTHORIZING THE LAST SURVIVING UNITED STATES VETERAN OF THE FIRST WORLD WAR TO LIE IN HONOR IN THE ROTUNDA OF THE CAPITOL UPON HIS DEATH

Mr. BYRD submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration:

S. CON. RES. 100

Whereas the veterans of the First World War fought bravely and made heroic sacrifices for the Allied forces;

Whereas the veterans of the First World War suffered the terrors of both trench warfare and the chemical battlefield;

Whereas the veterans of the First World War suffered the scourge of the Spanish influenza pandemic;

Whereas past resolutions have sought authorization for veterans, representative of specific wars, to lie in honor in the rotunda of the Capitol;

Whereas it is the desire of all veterans to honor both those who serve and those who have served in time of war and peace;

Whereas it is the Nation's collective desire to express its gratitude for the sacrifice and service of all First World War veterans; and

Whereas Frank Woodruff Buckles, born February 1, 1901, in Bethany, Missouri, and residing in Jefferson County, West Virginia, at age 107, is believed to be the last surviving United States veteran of the First World War: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring),

SECTION 1. HONORING VETERANS OF THE FIRST WORLD WAR.

(a) IN GENERAL.—In recognition of the historic contributions of United States veterans who served in the First World War, the last surviving United States veteran of the First World War shall be permitted to lie in honor in the rotunda of the Capitol upon his death, so that the citizens of the United States may pay their last respects to these great Americans.

(b) IMPLEMENTATION.—The Architect of the Capitol, under the direction and supervision of the President pro tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, shall take the necessary steps to implement subsection (a), including, if necessary, scheduling the use of the rotunda of the Capitol for the purposes described in such subsection at such a time as such use will not coincide with the use of the Capitol for an Inauguration or a State of the Union address.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 5632. Mr. REID (for Mr. DODD (for himself, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mrs. BOXER, and Ms. MURKOWSKI)) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 5834, to amend the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004 to promote respect for the fundamental human rights of the people of North Korea, and for other purposes.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 5632. Mr. REID (for Mr. DODD (for himself, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mrs. BOXER, and Ms. MURKOWSKI)) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 5834, to amend the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004 to promote respect for the fundamental human rights of the people of North Korea, and for other purposes; as follows:

On page 3, beginning on line 4, strike the comma and all that follows to the end period and insert the following: ''and has increased the bounty paid for turning in North Korean refugees''.

On page 3, beginning on line 11, strike ''including'' and all that follows through ''killings'' on line 17.

On page 4, line 4, strike ''On February'', and insert the following: ''Since the passage of the North Korean Human Rights Act, Congress has on several occasions expressed interest in the status of North Korean refugees, and on February''.

On page 4, line 19, strike ''at overseas posts''.

On page 5, line 10, after ''should'', insert ''continue to''.

On page 6, line 3, strike ''rights, humanitarian, and refugee issues,'' and insert the following: ''rights and humanitarian issues, and to participate in policy planning and implementation with respect to refugee issues,''.

On page 7, line 20, strike ''$4,000,000'' and insert ''$2,000,000''.

On page 9, line 13, after ''including'', insert the following: '', in coordination with the Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration,''.

On page 9, line 21, strike ''coordinate'' and insert ''participate in the formulation and''.

On page 11, line 13, strike ''paragraphs'' and insert ''paragraph''.

On page 11, strike line 14 and all that follows through line 19.

On page 11, line 20, strike ''(4)'' and insert ''(3)''.

On page 12, lines 3 and 4, strike ''may be provided in a classified format, if necessary'' and insert the following: ''shall be provided in unclassified form, with a classified annex, if necessary''.

NOTICES OF HEARINGS

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I would like to announce that the Committee on Indian Affairs will meet on Tuesday, September 23, at 10 a.m. in room 628 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building to conduct a business meeting to consider pending legislative issues.

Those wishing additional information may contact the Indian Affairs Committee at 202–224–2251.

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I would like to announce that the Committee on Indian Affairs will meet on Thursday, September 25, at 2:15 p.m. in room 628 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building to conduct a hearing on (1) H.R. 1294, Thomasina E. Jordan Indian Tribes of Virginia Federal Recognition Act of 2007; (2) S. 514, Muscogee Nation of Florida Federal Recognition Act; (3) S. 724, Little Shell Tribe of Chippewa Indians Restoration Act of 2007; and (4) S. 1058, Grand River Bands of Ottawa Indians of Michigan Referral Act.

Those wishing additional information may contact the Indian Affairs Committee at 202–224–2251.

FEDERAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE MANAGEMENT IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2008

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 1027, S. 3341.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3341) to reauthorize and improve the Federal Financial Assistance Management Improvement Act of 1999.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read the third time and passed, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, there be no intervening action or debate, and that any statements relating to this matter be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (S. 3341) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 3341

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Federal Financial Assistance Management Improvement Act of 2008''.

SEC. 2. REAUTHORIZATION.

Section 11 of the Federal Financial Assistance Management Improvement Act of 1999 (31 U.S.C. 6101 note) is amended—

(1) in the section heading, by striking ''and sunset''; and

(2) by striking ''and shall cease to be effective 8 years after such date of enactment''.

SEC. 3. WEBSITE RELATING TO FEDERAL GRANTS.

Section 6 of the Federal Financial Assistance Management Improvement Act of 1999 (31 U.S.C. 6101 note) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsections (e) and (f) as subsections (f) and (g), respectively;

(2) by inserting after subsection (d) the following:

''(e) WEBSITE RELATING TO FEDERAL GRANTS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Director shall establish and maintain a public website that serves as a central point of information and access for applicants for Federal grants.

''(2) CONTENTS.—To the maximum extent possible, the website established under this subsection shall include, at a minimum, for each Federal grant—

''(A) the grant announcement;

''(B) the statement of eligibility relating to the grant;

''(C) the application requirements for the grant;

''(D) the purposes of the grant;

''(E) the Federal agency funding the grant; and

''(F) the deadlines for applying for and awarding of the grant.

''(3) USE BY APPLICANTS.—The website established under this subsection shall, to the greatest extent practical, allow grant applicants to—

''(A) search the website for all Federal grants by type, purpose, funding agency, program source, and other relevant criteria;

''(B) apply for a Federal grant using the website;

''(C) manage, track, and report on the use of Federal grants using the website; and

''(D) provide all required certifications and assurances for a Federal grant using the website.''; and

(3) in subsection (g), as so redesignated, by striking ''All actions'' and inserting ''Except for actions relating to establishing the website required under subsection (e), all actions''.

SEC. 4. REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION.

The Federal Financial Assistance Management Improvement Act of 1999 (31 U.S.C. 6101 note) is amended by striking section 7 and inserting the following:

''SEC. 7. EVALUATION OF IMPLEMENTATION.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 9 months after the date of enactment of the Federal Financial Assistance Management Improvement Act of 2008, and every 2 years thereafter until the date that is 15 years after the date of enactment of the Federal Financial Assistance Management Improvement Act of 2008, the Director shall submit to Congress a report regarding the implementation of this Act.

''(b) CONTENTS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Each report under subsection (a) shall include, for the applicable period—

''(A) a list of all grants for which an applicant may submit an application using the website established under section 6(e);

''(B) a list of all Federal agencies that provide Federal financial assistance to non-Federal entities;

''(C) a list of each Federal agency that has complied, in whole or in part, with the requirements of this Act;

''(D) for each Federal agency listed under subparagraph (C), a description of the extent of the compliance with this Act by the Federal agency;

''(E) a list of all Federal agencies exempted under section 6(d);

''(F) for each Federal agency listed under subparagraph (E)—

''(i) an explanation of why the Federal agency was exempted; and

''(ii) a certification that the basis for the exemption of the Federal agency is still applicable;

''(G) a list of all common application forms that have been developed that allow non-Federal entities to apply, in whole or in part, for multiple Federal financial assistance programs (including Federal financial assistance programs administered by different Federal agencies) through a single common application;

''(H) a list of all common forms and requirements that have been developed that allow non-Federal entities to report, in whole or in part, on the use of funding from multiple Federal financial assistance programs (including Federal financial assistance programs administered by different Federal agencies);

''(I) a description of the efforts made by the Director and Federal agencies to communicate and collaborate with representatives of non-Federal entities during the implementation of the requirements under this Act;

''(J) a description of the efforts made by the Director to work with Federal agencies to meet the goals of this Act, including a description of working groups or other structures used to coordinate Federal efforts to meet the goals of this Act; and

''(K) identification and description of all systems being used to disburse Federal financial assistance to non-Federal entities.

''(2) SUBSEQUENT REPORTS.—The second report submitted under subsection (a), and each subsequent report submitted under subsection (a), shall include—

''(A) a discussion of the progress made by the Federal Government in meeting the goals of this Act, including the amendments made by the Federal Financial Assistance Management Improvement Act of 2008, and in implementing the strategic plan submitted under section 8, including an evaluation of the progress of each Federal agency that has not received an exemption under section 6(d) towards implementing the strategic plan; and

''(B) a compilation of the reports submitted under section 8(c)(3) during the applicable period.

''(c) DEFINITION OF APPLICABLE PERIOD.—In this section, the term 'applicable period' means—

''(1) for the first report submitted under subsection (a), the most recent full fiscal year before the date of the report; and

''(2) for the second report submitted under subsection (a), and each subsequent report submitted under subsection (a), the period beginning on the date on which the most recent report under subsection (a) was submitted and ending on the date of the report.''.

SEC. 5. STRATEGIC PLAN.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Federal Financial Assistance Management Improvement Act of 1999 (31 U.S.C. 6101 note) is amended—

(1) by redesignating sections 8, 9, 10, and 11 as sections 9, 10, 11, and 12, respectively; and

(2) by inserting after section 7, as amended by this Act, the following:

''SEC. 8. STRATEGIC PLAN.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of the Federal Financial Assistance Management Improvement Act of 2008, the Director shall submit to Congress a strategic plan that—

''(1) identifies Federal financial assistance programs that are suitable for common applications based on the common or similar purposes of the Federal financial assistance;

''(2) identifies Federal financial assistance programs that are suitable for common reporting forms or requirements based on the common or similar purposes of the Federal financial assistance;

''(3) identifies common aspects of multiple Federal financial assistance programs that are suitable for common application or reporting forms or requirements;

''(4) identifies changes in law, if any, needed to achieve the goals of this Act; and

''(5) provides plans, timelines, and cost estimates for—

''(A) developing an entirely electronic, web-based process for managing Federal financial assistance, including the ability to—

''(i) apply for Federal financial assistance;

''(ii) track the status of applications for and payments of Federal financial assistance;

''(iii) report on the use of Federal financial assistance, including how such use has been in furtherance of the objectives or purposes of the Federal financial assistance; and

''(iv) provide required certifications and assurances;

''(B) ensuring full compliance by Federal agencies with the requirements of this Act, including the amendments made by the Federal Financial Assistance Management Improvement Act of 2008;

''(C) creating common applications for the Federal financial assistance programs identified under paragraph (1), regardless of whether the Federal financial assistance programs are administered by different Federal agencies;

''(D) establishing common financial and performance reporting forms and requirements for the Federal financial assistance programs identified under paragraph (2), regardless of whether the Federal financial assistance programs are administered by different Federal agencies;

''(E) establishing common applications and financial and performance reporting forms

and requirements for aspects of the Federal financial assistance programs identified under paragraph (3), regardless of whether the Federal financial assistance programs are administered by different Federal agencies;

''(F) developing mechanisms to ensure compatibility between Federal financial assistance administration systems and State systems to facilitate the importing and exporting of data;

''(G) developing common certifications and assurances, as appropriate, for all Federal financial assistance programs that have common or similar purposes, regardless of whether the Federal financial assistance programs are administered by different Federal agencies; and

''(H) minimizing the number of different systems used to disburse Federal financial assistance.

''(b) CONSULTATION.—In developing and implementing the strategic plan under subsection (a), the Director shall consult with representatives of non-Federal entities and Federal agencies that have not received an exemption under section 6(d).

''(c) FEDERAL AGENCIES.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 6 months after the date on which the Director submits the strategic plan under subsection (a), the head of each Federal agency that has not received an exemption under section 6(d) shall develop a plan that describes how the Federal agency will carry out the responsibilities of the Federal agency under the strategic plan, which shall include—

''(A) clear performance objectives and timelines for action by the Federal agency in furtherance of the strategic plan; and

''(B) the identification of measures to improve communication and collaboration with representatives of non-Federal entities on an on-going basis during the implementation of this Act.

''(2) CONSULTATION.—The head of each Federal agency that has not received an exemption under section 6(d) shall consult with representatives of non-Federal entities during the development and implementation of the plan of the Federal agency developed under paragraph (1).

''(3) REPORTING.—Not later than 2 years after the date on which the head of a Federal agency that has not received an exemption under section 6(d) develops the plan under paragraph (1), and every 2 years thereafter until the date that is 15 years after the date of enactment of the Federal Financial Assistance Management Improvement Act of 2008, the head of the Federal agency shall submit to the Director a report regarding the progress of the Federal agency in achieving the objectives of the plan of the Federal agency developed under paragraph (1).''.

(b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 5(d) of the Federal Financial Assistance Management Improvement Act of 1999 (31 U.S.C. 6101 note) is amended by inserting '', until the date on which the Federal agency submits the first report by the Federal agency required under section 8(c)(3)'' after ''subsection (a)(7)''.

ALBUQUERQUE INDIAN SCHOOL ACT

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate now proceed to Calendar No. 925, S. 1193.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1193) to direct the Secretary of the Interior to take into trust 2 parcels of Federal land for the benefit of certain Indian Pueblos in the State of New Mexico.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read the third time and passed, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to this matter be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (S. 1193) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 1193

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Albuquerque Indian School Act''.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) 19 PUEBLOS.—The term ''19 Pueblos'' means the New Mexico Indian Pueblos of—

(A) Acoma;
(B) Cochiti;
(C) Isleta;
(D) Jemez;
(E) Laguna;
(F) Nambe;
(G) Ohkay Owingeh (San Juan);
(H) Picuris;
(I) Pojoaque;
(J) San Felipe;
(K) San Ildefonso;
(L) Sandia;
(M) Santa Ana;
(N) Santa Clara;
(O) Santo Domingo;
(P) Taos;
(Q) Tesuque;
(R) Zia; and
(S) Zuni.

(2) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of the Interior (or a designee).

(3) SURVEY.—The term ''survey'' means the survey plat entitled ''Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Southern Pueblos Agency, BIA Property Survey'' (prepared by John Paisano, Jr., Registered Land Surveyor Certificate No. 5708), and dated March 7, 1977.

SEC. 3. LAND TAKEN INTO TRUST FOR BENEFIT OF 19 PUEBLOS.

(a) ACTION BY SECRETARY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall take into trust all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the land described in subsection (b) (including any improvements and appurtenances to the land) for the benefit of the 19 Pueblos.

(2) ADMINISTRATION.—The Secretary shall—

(A) take such action as the Secretary determines to be necessary to document the transfer under paragraph (1); and

(B) appropriately assign each applicable private and municipal utility and service right or agreement.

(b) DESCRIPTION OF LAND.—The land referred to in subsection (a)(1) is the 2 tracts of Federal land, the combined acreage of which is approximately 18.3 acres, that were historically part of the Albuquerque Indian School, more particularly described as follows:

(1) TRACT B.—The approximately 5.9211 acres located in sec. 7 and sec. 8 of T. 10 N., R. 3 E., of the New Mexico Principal Meridian in the city of Albuquerque, New Mexico, as identified on the survey.

(2) TRACT D.—The approximately 12.3835 acres located in sec. 7 and sec. 8 of T. 10 N., R. 3 E., of the New Mexico Principal Meridian in the city of Albuquerque, New Mexico, as identified on the survey.

(c) SURVEY.—The Secretary may make minor corrections to the survey and legal description of the Federal land described in subsection (b) as the Secretary determines to be necessary to correct clerical, typographical, and surveying errors.

(d) USE OF LAND.—The land taken into trust under subsection (a) shall be used for the educational, health, cultural, business, and economic development of the 19 Pueblos.

(e) LIMITATIONS AND CONDITIONS.—The land taken into trust under subsection (a) shall remain subject to any private or municipal encumbrance, right-of-way, restriction, easement of record, or utility service agreement in effect on the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 4. EFFECT OF OTHER LAWS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as otherwise provided in this section, land taken into trust under section 3(a) shall be subject to Federal laws relating to Indian land.

(b) GAMING.—No gaming activity (within the meaning of the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (25 U.S.C. 2701 et seq.)) shall be carried out on land taken into trust under section 3(a).

FOSTERING CONNECTIONS TO SUCCESS AND INCREASING ADOPTIONS ACT OF 2008

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that we now proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 6893.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 6893) to amend Parts B and E of title IV of the Social Security Act to connect and support relative caregivers, improve outcomes for children in foster care, provide for tribal foster care and adoption access, improve incentives for adoption, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read three times and passed, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, there be no intervening action or debate, and any statements relating to this matter be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 6893) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

NORTH KOREAN HUMAN RIGHTS ACT

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the committee on Foreign Relations be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 5834, and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will state the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 5834) to amend the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004 to promote respect for fundamental human rights of the people of North Korea, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, I am pleased that the Senate is considering H.R. 5834, a bill to reauthorize the North Korea Human Rights Act. The act underscores U.S. concern about the poor human rights conditions inside North Korea and the difficulties faced by thousands of North Koreans who have fled the country and become refugees. I support this bill because I believe our Government's approach to North Korean human rights and refugee issues must be seamlessly integrated into a coherent strategy that promotes regional peace and stability, advances core U.S. national security interests by verifiably eliminating North Korea's pursuit of nuclear weapons, and step by step encourages North Korea to adhere to international norms in the areas of human rights, security, and trade.

It is essential that the United States reach out and begin a dialogue with North Korea on issues related to basic human rights. Four years ago, I was proud to work with my colleague, Senator BROWNBACK of Kansas, on an amendment to the North Korean Human Rights Act that created within the Department of State a Special Envoy for Human Rights in North Korea. In reauthorizing the act, the Congress expresses its intent that the envoy should be a full-time employee, and Congress elevates the post to the rank of ambassador, subject to the advice and consent of the Senate. The incumbent special envoy has pursued his duties part-time while residing outside of Washington, making coordination with the Department more difficult and limiting the overall effectiveness of his diplomatic efforts. By expressing the sense of the Congress that the new ambassador should be a full-time position, the Congress does not preclude the possibility that the President may find it desirable to nominate as ambassador an individual who already has other duties closely related to those to be pursued by the Ambassador for North Korean Human Rights Issues. Indeed, such dual assignments are not uncommon within the State Department.

The bill acknowledges that the new Ambassador for North Korean Human Rights Issues should be able to participate in policy planning and implementation with respect to refugee issues, particularly given the fact that returning refugees are among those most likely to be persecuted by North Korean authorities. But it is my expectation that the State Department's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM) will continue to play the leading role on North Korean refugee issues, engaging with China and other nations to ensure humane treatment in accordance with international norms. PRM has the staffing, expertise, congressional authorization, and experience needed to spearhead U.S. efforts in this area, and they should continue to do so.

The new Ambassador for North Korean Human Rights Issues will have to approach the job with quiet determination and considerable patience. Discussing human rights issues with North Korean authorities will not be easy, and the new ambassador will need to have both excellent diplomatic skills and a deep understanding of East Asia and the particular circumstances on the Korean Peninsula. Change will not come easily, and is more likely to flow from dialogue and engagement than from bombast and condemnation.

There are many issues on the table, ranging from family reunification visits for the thousands of Korean-Americans with relatives in the north, to ending the persecution of people of faith inside North Korea. Other humanitarian issues may also enter the mix, including food security and public health. It is my hope that the new ambassador will work with our treaty ally, South Korea, and with other countries neighboring North Korea to craft an approach to human rights issues that can, step by step, see an improvement in the lives of average North Koreans and compassionate care for those who have fled the country. In this effort, the ambassador may find it useful to draw appropriate lessons from the Helsinki process in Europe, but ultimately the approach will have to be one that is specifically tailored to the North Korean situation.

As Congress passes this legislation, we must not lose sight of the fact that members of the Bush administration are toiling to convince North Korea to resume the disablement of its nuclear facilities and to agree to a verification mechanism for its nuclear declaration. These efforts are of vital importance. It is regrettable that progress has been derailed over a dispute about sanctions relief and the verification protocol. North Korea should understand that if Pyongyang honors its commitments, we stand ready to honor ours. On the basis of action-for-action, I hope the United States and North Korea, along with other members of the Six Party Talks, will work to accomplish the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula and the full integration of North Korea into the community of nations. In exchange for the complete and verifiable elimination of its nuclear weapons programs, North Korea stands to receive energy assistance, sanctions relief, and security assurances from the United States and other members of the Six Party Talks. I look forward to the day when North Korea is truly at peace with its neighbors and enjoys normal relations with the United States. It is a future that is within North Korea's grasp if it abandons its pursuit of nuclear weapons.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the amendment at the desk be agreed to, the bill, as amended, be read the third time and passed, the motion to reconsider laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and that any statements relating to this measure be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 5632) was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: To make certain technical and clarifying amendments)

On page 3, beginning on line 4, strike the comma and all that follows to the end period and insert the following: ''and has increased the bounty paid for turning in North Korean refugees''.

On page 3, beginning on line 11, strike ''including'' and all that follows through ''killings'' on line 17.

On page 4, line 4, strike ''On February'', and insert the following: ''Since the passage of the North Korean Human Rights Act, Congress has on several occasions expressed interest in the status of North Korean refugees, and on February''.

On page 4, line 19, strike ''at overseas posts''.

On page 5, line 10, after ''should'', insert ''continue to''.

On page 6, line 3, strike ''rights, humanitarian, and refugee issues,'' and insert the following: ''rights and humanitarian issues, and to participate in policy planning and implementation with respect to refugee issues,''.

On page 7, line 20, strike ''$4,000,000'' and insert ''$2,000,000''.

On page 9, line 13, after ''including'', insert the following: '', in coordination with the Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration,''.

On page 9, line 21, strike ''coordinate'' and insert ''participate in the formulation and''.

On page 11, line 13, strike ''paragraphs'' and insert ''paragraph''.

On page 11, strike line 14 and all that follows through line 19.

On page 11, line 20, strike ''(4)'' and insert ''(3)''.

On page 12, lines 3 and 4, strike ''may be provided in a classified format, if necessary'' and insert the following: ''shall be provided in unclassified form, with a classified annex, if necessary''.

The amendment was ordered to be engrossed and the bill be read a third time.

The bill (H.R. 5834), as amended, was read the third time, and passed.

SENATE LEGAL COUNSEL AUTHORIZATION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 677.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will state the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 677) to authorize testimony and legal representation in Ramsey, et al. v. Wilson, et al.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, this resolution concerns a request for testimony and representation in a civil action in Federal district court in the Southern District of Ohio. In this action under the Federal Tort Claims Act, in which the plaintiffs seek damages arising out of an accident involving a pickup truck, the United States has requested testimony from a former employee in Senator VOINOVICH's office who was traveling in his own car on official Senate business at the time of the accident. A trial in this case is scheduled

to commence on November 10, 2008. Senator VOINOVICH would like to cooperate. This resolution would authorize the Senator's former staffer to testify in connection with this action, and in related proceedings, with representation from the Senate Legal Counsel.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table en bloc; that any statements relating to this measure be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 677) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 677

Whereas, in the case of Ramsey, et al. v. Wilson, et al., Case No. 06–82, pending in federal district court in the Southern District of Ohio, the United States has requested testimony from a former employee of the Office of Senator George Voinovich;

Whereas, pursuant to sections 703(a) and 704(a)(2) of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978, 2 U.S.C. §§288b(a) and 288c(a)(2), the Senate may direct its counsel to represent employees of the Senate with respect to any subpoena, order, or request for testimony relating to their official responsibilities;

Whereas, by the privileges of the Senate of the United States and Rule XI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, no evidence under the control or in the possession of the Senate may, by the judicial or administrative process, be taken from such control or possession but by permission of the Senate:

Whereas, when it appears that evidence under the control or in the possession of the Senate may promote the administration of justice, the Senate will take such action as will promote the ends of justice consistent with the privileges of the Senate: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That Anthony Condia is authorized to testify in the case of Ramsey, et al. v. Wilson, et al., and related proceedings, except concerning matters for which a privilege should be asserted.

SEC. 2. The Senate Legal Counsel is authorized to represent Anthony Condia in connection with the action referenced in section one of this resolution.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—S. 3507

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be discharged from further consideration of S. 3507 and that it be referred to the Finance Committee.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—S. 3535

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I understand there is a bill at the desk. I now ask for its first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title for the first time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3535) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to index certain assets for purposes of determining gain or loss.

Mr. REID. I now ask for its second reading—I do that in order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV—and I object to my own request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard. The bill will be read for the second time on the next legislative day.

ADVANCING AMERICA'S PRIORITIES ACT—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I move to proceed to Calendar No. 894, S. 3297.

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2008

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand in recess until 10 a.m., September 23; that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and the Senate then proceed to a period for the transaction of morning business for up to 1 hour, with Senators permitted to speak for up 10 minutes each, with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees, with the Republicans controlling the first half and the majority controlling the second half; that following morning business, the Senate proceed to the consideration of H.R. 6049, the tax extenders legislation, under the previous order; further, that the Senate recess from 12:30 p.m. to 2:15 p.m. to allow for the weekly caucus luncheons.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. REID. Mr. President, under the previous order the Chair has issued, the Senate will consider up to three amendments to the tax extenders legislation with limited debate on the amendments and on the bill. The first vote of the day is expected to occur prior to the caucus luncheons and the remaining votes to occur in the afternoon. This bill is one of the most important ones done by this Congress. It is so important that we get this bill done. I hope the House will accept this legislation very quickly.

RECESS UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. REID. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand in recess under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:42 p.m., recessed until Tuesday, September 23, 2008, at 10 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 3037:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. SCOTT C. BLACK

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. CARROLL F. POLLETT

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. JAMES H. PILLSBURY

THE FOLLOWING ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12211:

To be brigadier general

COL. DAVID N. BLACKORBY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

DAVID E. GRAETZ
BERT S. KOZEN
BRUCE A. POSTMA
STEPHEN E. VAUGHN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY AS CHAPLAINS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 3064:

To be colonel

ORMAN W. BOYD
SCOTT R. CARSON
BRENT V. CAUSEY
RANDALL C. DOLINGER
THOMAS L. DUDLEY, JR.
THOMAS E. ENGLE
THOMAS G. EVANS
JOEL C. HARRIS
FRANKLIN L. JACKSON, JR.
YOUN H. KIM
KARL O. KUCKHAHN, JR.
WILLIAM H. PHILLIPS, JR.
JIM L. PITTMAN
JONATHAN E. SHAW
D0000

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

CHRISTOPHER C. CARLSON
JAMES R. COTTER
STEVEN E. DYESS
BRADFORD L. FIPPS
RALPH J. GORE, JR.
PHILLIP L. HUNTER
WYLIE W. JOHNSON
DAVID B. KOCH
JEFFREY D. MCGRADY
ALVIN E. MILLER
BERNARD K. NISWANDER
JOHN C. PETTIT
DAVID A. POLLOK, JR.
MARK SACHS
OTTO C. SCHNARR, JR.
STEPHEN B. SHOW
HARRY W. TERMAAT
LARRY O. TONEY
KEVIN R. TURNER
JAMES G. WINTER, JR.

DISCHARGED NOMINATIONS

The Senate Committee on Foreign Relations was discharged from further consideration of the following nominations and the nominations were confirmed:

BILL NELSON, OF FLORIDA, TO BE A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE SIXTY-THIRD SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS.

BOB CORKER, OF TENNESSEE, TO BE A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE SIXTY-THIRD SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate Monday, September 22, 2008:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

BILL NELSON, OF FLORIDA, TO BE A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE SIXTY-THIRD SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS.

BOB CORKER, OF TENNESSEE, TO BE A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE SIXTY-THIRD SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING BRENDON THIRY

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 22, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Brendon Thiry of Lee's Summit, Missouri. Brendon 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 1255, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

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

TRIBUTE TO DR. NANCY WILSON

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 22, 2008

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the retirement of Dr. Nancy Wilson, the director of the Buena Vista Marshalltown Center in Marshalltown, Iowa and to express my appreciation for her dedication and commitment to young adults in Iowa.

For the past 25 years, Dr. Wilson has contributed her time and talents to enriching the lives of her students and guiding the direction of the Marshalltown Center. When Dr. Wilson began, the center only had 10 students but has grown to over 200 students today.

Dr. Wilson's leadership in continuing education in the community of Marshalltown will be missed, but she leaves behind lasting contributions that will continue to help students advance their education and receive a college degree. I consider it an honor to represent Dr. Nancy Wilson in the United States Congress, and I wish her a long, happy and healthy retirement.

NO CHILD LEFT INSIDE ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. JIM SAXTON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2008

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3036) to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 regarding environmental education, and for other purposes:

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of H.R. 3036, the No Child Left Inside Act. Last week, I inadvertently voted against this legislation, of which I am original cosponsor. I regret that error, and want to make clear that I support this reauthorization of the National Environmental Education Act—both the continuation of important programs at the Environmental Protection Agency, and newly authorized programs at the Department of Education.

Environmental education is important to our children's future, has a positive impact on their educational achievement, and also helps promote healthier lifestyles. H.R. 3036 assists state and local efforts to improve and expand upon these important goals by creating new grant programs and increasing professional development in order to ensure that environmental education is a subject area that becomes more widely and effectively practiced.

Again, I strongly support the No Child Left Inside Act, and intended to vote "yes" on its final passage.

COMMODITY MARKETS TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2008

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Mr. speaker, I rise to thank Chairmen PETERSON and ETHERIDGE for their hard work on H.R. 6604.

Protecting consumers and ensuring that our markets work fairly are among our most vital duties as Members of Congress. For eight years, the Bush Administration has been asleep at the switch. With record foreclosures and major American companies seeking multibillion dollar government bailouts, we are seeing the effects of this Administration's policies. It is long past time that Wall Street oversight reflects the 21st century economy.

As someone who has worked both on Wall Street and now in Congress, I know how important it is to have referees on the field to call the game. I also know how minor changes in the financial markets can have major impacts. In the current environment, it would be particularly unwise to add any further instability to the markets.

A fair and regulated system is critical to the function of our financial markets. I commend the intentions of this legislation but believe that its enactment will have unintended consequences.

I am concerned that this bill will prevent pension funds and other institutional investors from engaging in the futures market. Such a prohibition could prevent my constituents' pensions from being invested in a diverse and safer manner. Without changes to this legislation, CalPERS, which manages the pensions of 1.5 million Californians, could be severely restricted in its ability to maximize return on investment.

As an alternative to this legislation, I have introduced H.R. 6976, the Preventing Manipulation in Commodity Markets Act of 2008. This bill is virtually identical to H.R. 6604. However, it permits pension funds to continue to invest in the futures market.

I am firmly committed to preventing manipulation of the commodity markets. H.R. 6976 enables the Commodity Futures Trading Commission to target manipulation without preventing honest investors from participating in the markets.

TRIBUTE TO JASON THORSON

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 22, 2008

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the efforts of a Mason City, Iowa resident, Jason Thorson, in rescuing a young woman from Willow Creek.

On August 5, just after 9:30 p.m., Jason Thorson and a group of friends were walking to a convenience store when they noticed a young woman standing on the bridge, just staring at the water. When he came out of the store, it was apparent that the woman jumped off the bridge. Thorson ran to the north side of the bridge, through some weeds and into the water. The young woman was not breathing and he held her head out of the water until the Mason City Police Department and the Fire Department ambulance arrived. Although Thorson had never met the woman, he said, "I just wanted to help her out. It was like a godsend that I was here and able to help."

The diligent effort of this young man is a testament to the bravery and compassion of Iowans; willing to do whatever is necessary for a neighbor in need. I commend Jason Thorson for his heroism and cooperation. I am honored to represent him in the United States Congress, and I wish him health and happiness in the future.

HONORING RYAN DONALDSON

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 22, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Ryan Donaldson of Liberty, Missouri. Ryan is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1376, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

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

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

COMMODITY MARKETS TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2008

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 6604, the Commodity Markets Transparency and Accountability Act.

As chairman of the Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, I have held two hearings on excessive speculation and its effect on energy prices.

We learned that in 2000, physical hedgers—businesses like trucking companies, airlines, and other industries that need to hedge to ensure a stable price for fuel in future months—accounted for 63 percent of the oil futures market.

Today, physical hedgers only control 19 percent of the market. Approximately 81 percent of the market has been taken over by swap dealers and speculators, a considerable majority of whom have no physical stake in the market.

Since the Enron loophole became law in 2000, there has been a dramatic shift as physical hedgers continually represent a smaller portion of the market. This excessive speculation is a significant factor in the price Americans are paying for gasoline, diesel, and home heating oil.

Just yesterday, JP Morgan's global chief investment officer, Michael Cembalest, wrote: ''there was an enormous amount of speculation pent up in energy markets * * * and it wasn't just the supply-demand equation. Oil will rise again, and we need solutions to energy supplies, but $140 in July 2008 was ridiculous.'' Even the speculators admit they're inflating energy prices.

Last week, the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, CFTC, released a report that it claims shows that speculators are not affecting prices.

However, CFTC even admits in its own report: ''This preliminary survey is not able to accurately answer and quantify the amount of speculative trading occurring in the futures markets.''

How can the CFTC tell Congress that speculation is not a problem if they can't even tell us how much speculation is occurring? This is a study that made its conclusions before it had the facts to back them up.

I encourage Members and those watching at home to go to the website: accidentalhuntbrothers.com. On this website is a report by Michael Masters, 1 of 11 witnesses who testified at our June 2008 O&I hearing.

This report shows what my colleagues and I have been saying for a long time. The price of oil has become completely detached from supply and demand fundamentals.

As the report shows, it's very simple: When index speculators pour large amounts of money into commodities markets, prices go up. When these same speculators pull their money out, prices go down.

As you can see in this chart, from January through May 2008, index speculators poured more than $60 billion into commodities, causing crude oil prices to increase $33 a barrel.

Then, starting on July 15, 2008, index speculators reduced their investments by $39 billion, causing prices to decrease by about $29 a barrel.

Even more startling, index speculators completely ignored supply and demand signals.

During the first 3 months of 2008, index speculators bet on high energy prices when the Energy Information Agency, EIA, forecast increasing supply, which should mean lower prices.

In July, when EIA forecast that demand would exceed supply, a sign that oil prices should go up, index speculators began to pull $39 billion out of the market.

Today, we face hurricanes in the Gulf of Mexico, civil war in Nigeria, OPEC considering production cuts, the situation in Georgia, and continuing violence in the Middle East. In the past, each of these events would have sent crude oil prices through the roof.

However, because speculators have been pulling their money out of the market, crude oil is at $91.49 a barrel. This is $53.67 lower than it was just 2 months ago.

If there is anyone that can show me any reason, other than speculators pulling out of these markets, that the price of crude oil should drop $53 in 2 months, I'd like to see it.

While the Peterson bill may not have everything that I've called for in my legislation, the Prevent Unfair Manipulation of Prices, PUMP, Act, it does take significant steps to rein in excessive speculation.

The bill would strengthen position limits on regulated markets, and establish an advisory board to set position limits while still protecting physical hedgers. It addresses the foreign boards of trade loophole, and properly limits the bona fide hedging exemption to physical hedgers.

The legislation would improve the information available to the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, significantly improving CFTC's ability to monitor energy markets. And, should the CFTC find excessive speculation on unregulated markets as a result, CFTC can take the steps necessary to correct it.

I was proud to support this legislation in July, when it should have passed. Unfortunately, 16 of my Republican colleagues decided to change their vote, playing politics instead of providing relief to Americans facing high energy prices.

While it has not been the only factor, speculators have seen that Congress is serious about acting to curb excessive speculation, and the markets are responding accordingly.

I urge members to continue their support for H.R. 6604, so we can continue to show speculators that Congress is serious about protecting American consumers.

I thank Chairman PETERSON and his staff for working with me and my colleagues to produce this legislation. I urge my colleagues to vote for H.R. 6604, the Commodity Markets Transparency and Accountability Act, to rein in excessive speculation and provide your constituents with relief from high gas prices.

HUMAN RIGHTS, DEMOCRACY, AND CORRUPTION IN KAZAKHSTAN

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 22, 2008

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise before you today to voice my concern over the current situation in Kazakhstan in spite of the Kazakhstan government's pledge to reform in areas of human rights, democracy and corruption. Kazakhstan was selected to hold the Chairmanship of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) in 2010, and thus it is required to uphold the standards of this organization in the fields stated above. So far, Kazakhstan has failed to do so.

Kazakhstan's government ratified the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) in 2006; it signed the Optional Protocol to ICCPR and the Optional Protocol to the U.N. Convention Against Torture (CAT) in 2007, and it has introduced some reform to the criminal justice system. In this, Kazakhstan should be applauded. However, the government has made almost no concrete progress toward implementing these pledges. As Human Rights Watch argued, ''Kazakhstan is not a country with frequent or dramatic government crackdown on freedoms and human rights. One finds rather an atmosphere of quiet, subtle repression.''

This ''subtle repression'' can be seen by the government's failure to heed the concerns of local human rights groups that have been advocating for reforms such as the review of legislation on freedom of assembly, improvements in the prison system, abolition of the death penalty, reform of the judicial system and legislation to guarantee an independent judiciary, and ensuring accountability for torture. While Kazakhstan's government is about to chair OSCE, it has resisted implementing meaningful reforms in these areas. As Dr. Andrea Berg, a Central Asia Researcher, testified to Human Rights Watch: ''The government [of Kazakhstan] has certainly created a difficult environment for the exercise and promotion of human rights that is out of line with the OSCE standards and far less than what one would expect of the leadership of an organization grounded in human right principles.''

Kazakhstan's president, Nursultan Nazarbayev, has been in power since 1989. He has never been elected in a vote judged free and fair by the OSCE. Ironically, last year the OSCE described a Kazakh parliamentary poll, in which a presidential party won all the seats in the lower house, as being below the required standards. While Nazarbayev is credited for bringing stability to Kazakhstan, it has come at a price, with a weak and fragmented opposition that has called on the government to reform the election and media laws and to ease restriction on public meetings. During the most recent elections, in August 2007, opposition candidates did not win a single seat.

There is a reason for the weakness of any political opposition in Kazakhstan: Since 2002,

for a political party to come into existence, the party must have an initial conference of 1,000 persons representing two-thirds of the regions of Kazakhstan and a membership of 50,000. The OSCE, the same organization that Kazakhstan will head in the near future, denounced the restrictiveness of this law and predicted that it would have ''a chilling effect on the development of political pluralism in Kazakhstan.''

The media, a tool of the utmost importance in any democracy, has been dominated in Kazakhstan by government loyalists, while independent journalists are threatened and harassed for criticizing the president for government policies and practices. This, no doubt, has enhanced Nazarbayev's hold on power.

As for corruption, Kazakhstan regularly ranks close to the bottom internationally. In 2007, Kazakhstan was ranked 150 out of 179 countries by ''Transparency International'' league table. As a United Nations report on Kazakhstan's corruption so eloquently put it: ''Corruption undermines the democratic development, performance of State institutions, and efficient use of resources. Eventually, it undermines development of society, especially of its most vulnerable groups.''

So why should we care? Is it because Kazakhstan is an oil-rich country? Is it because of its proximity to Russia? Perhaps. We often seem to care more about the fate of any oil-rich country, or any country that delivers oil than countries in a similar plight that do not have oil. But we should also care because we claim to be a country that promotes democracy and human rights, a country that values the individual freedoms of humans, no matter where they live, no matter what natural resources they posses, and no matter what relations they have with the US. How can we lecture the world about abiding to human rights laws, anti-corruption laws, and judicial reform, when we cannot look straight at our friend's face and say: ''For the sake of your own people, for the sake of your region, you need to do better.'' And now, more than ever, before it takes the Chairmanship position of the OSCE, it must reform.

HONORING CAMERON CROOKS

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 22, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Cameron Crooks of Kansas City, Missouri. Cameron 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.

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

TRIBUTE TO CRAIG RHODES

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 22, 2008

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the retirement of Craig Rhodes, park officer and maintenance supervisor for the Marshall County Conservation Board, and to express my appreciation for his 37 years of public service to his community.

Craig began as a seasonal employee in the summers of 1969 and 1970 with the Marshall County Conservation Board. In 1971, he applied for a maintenance position that opened up and was offered the position. Craig kept the area parks, wildlife areas, prairies, river access sites and trails maintained for the public use. During his years at the Conservation Board, Craig's hard work has earned him respect and appreciation from citizens and visitors around the region.

I commend Craig Rhodes for his many years of loyalty and service to his fellow Iowans. It is an honor to represent Craig in the United States Congress, and I know my colleagues join me in wishing him a happy and healthy retirement.

HONORING TIM MOREHOUSE

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 22, 2008

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, Tim Morehouse combines the discipline of an Olympic medalist with the generosity of spirit that makes him a teacher in one of our poorer neighborhoods.

As a member of the United States sabre team, Tim won a Silver Medal at the Beijing Olympics.

He began fencing in seventh grade at Riverdale Country Day School, and switched to the sabre from the foil in the eighth grade. His skill got him recruited by Brandeis University in Waltham, Massachusetts. There he became one of the top college fencers in the country, qualifying for the NCAA championships three times.

At Brandeis, Tim was a history major and served as a resident adviser for 2 years. After graduating, he became a part of Teach for America, an education consortium that aims to bridge the achievement gap between different socio-economic groups. Morehouse went to Intermediate School 90 in Washington Heights as a 7th-grade English and social studies teacher.

As a former teacher I am proud of Tim Morehouse for his abilities as an Olympian, but even more so for his dedication to helping others. He is an example of the scholar-athlete who, having achieved his goals, then helps others to achieve theirs.

We are proud of Tim Morehouse. To be an Olympian takes dedication and training, and a lot of both. It takes a different kind of dedication to devote your life to helping others. I congratulate Tim for being superb on both counts.

CONGRATULATING HURST MAIN POST OFFICE AS A VOLUNTARY PROTECTION PROGRAM STAR SITE

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 22, 2008

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Hurst Main Post Office for being certified as a Star site in the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, OSHA, Voluntary Protection Program, VPP. The Hurst Main Post Office is one of three postal VPP sites in the Fort Worth area.

The Voluntary Protection Program promotes success through effective worksite safety and health. Approval into the Voluntary Protection Program is the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's way of officially recognizing the outstanding efforts of employers and employees who uphold exemplary occupational safety practices.

The distinction as a ''Star'' site displays Hurst Main Post Office's sustained excellence in all areas of safety and health management systems. This excellence stems from strong leadership, participation, and commitment to quality.

I commend the Hurst Main Post Office upon their receipt of this distinction for their commitment to exercising safe and healthful working conditions. Their efforts serve as an example to all, and I am proud to be their representative in the 26th District of Texas.

HONORING MAXWELL BOWERS

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 22, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Maxwell Bowers of Kearney, Missouri. Maxwell is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1397, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

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

TRIBUTE TO NAVY COMMANDER DAVID ASJES

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 22, 2008

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Navy Commander David Asjes of Ames, Iowa as a recipient of a Bronze Star

Medal for his heroic achievements during combat operations in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The Bronze Star, the Department of Defense's fourth highest award given, is awarded to individuals for bravery, heroism, and meritorious service.

Commander Asjes earned the Bronze Star as a military personnel assigned individually for his expertise in coordinating air combat operations, organizing ground units and executing tactical air operations. Commander Asjes served in Iraq from October 13, 2007 to April 2, 2008. He has honorably served in the U.S. Navy for 23 years.

Commander Asjes' sacrifices, heroism and hard work illustrate the compassion and professionalism of America's troops. I commend Navy Commander David Asjes' courageousness and service to our great nation and consider it an honor to represent Commander Asjes and his family in the United States Congress. I know my colleagues join me in wishing him the best in his future service to our country.

A TRIBUTE TO PROTECTION & ADVOCACY INC.

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 22, 2008

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Protection & Advocacy Inc. for their 30 years of advocacy in California on behalf of the disabled. Following the 1975 reports of abuse and neglect at a State institute called Willowbrook, Congress mandated and began to fund Protection and Advocacy systems across the Nation. In 1978, Protection & Advocacy Inc. was created as a nonprofit to advance human and legal rights of those with disabilities. The spirit and dedication of Protection & Advocacy Inc. still lives in their daily work. I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring some of California's finest citizens.

For the past 30 years, Protection & Advocacy Inc. has advocated for Californians with disabilities that had been traditionally underserved. Since their first office opened in 1978 in my hometown of Sacramento, Protection & Advocacy Inc. has grown into 26 satellite offices throughout California. With more than 200 staff members, Protection & Advocacy Inc. provides services and information at community events, trainings and conferences. In order to properly represent the diverse community they serve, the staff members speak 15 different languages and more than half of their staff lives with disabilities themselves. Today, Protection & Advocacy Inc. is the largest disability advocacy agency in the Nation. It will soon be renamed Disability Rights California in order to more accurately reflect their mission.

As a response to congressional findings of abuse and neglect of individuals in residential care facilities, the Protection and Advocacy for Individuals with Mental Illness Act was enacted in 1986. This allowed Protection & Advocacy Inc. the opportunity to provide legal representation to persons with psychiatric disabilities and conduct investigations of abuse and neglect.

Protection & Advocacy Inc, strives to create an inclusive society. In 1993 they became a cross disability advocacy agency when Congress extended their role to protect and advocate for those who were not eligible for services under other programs. Their work now also focuses on improving daily life for people living with disabilities. This includes strengthening access to justice, correcting wrongs, enforcing rights, training individuals on self-advocacy and legal protections, public education, and building collaboration across advocacy groups.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to the Protection & Advocacy Inc's distinguished commitment to the well-being of the disabled community. Over the last 30 years, they have expanded their mission with the changing times and have been true champions of those living with disabilities. As the Protection & Advocacy Inc.'s staff, supporters, and constituents gather together to celebrate the organization's 30th anniversary, I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring their outstanding work on behalf of Californians with disabilities.

HONORING BLANCA ALVARADO

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 22, 2008

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Madam Speaker, today I rise with Congressman MIKE HONDA to honor Santa Clara County Supervisor Blanca Alvarado on her 28 years of elected service and wish her the best upon her retirement.

Supervisor Alvarado was elected to the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors in March 1996 to complete my unexpired term upon my election to Congress. My colleague, MIKE HONDA had the pleasure of serving with Supervisor Alvarado during his term in office.

As the County Supervisor for the Second District, Blanca represented over 350,000 residents living in San Jose. Her district has one of the Nation's highest concentrations of racial diversity and poverty where the lack of opportunity is prevalent for many individuals and families.

During her time in office, Ms. Alvarado served on several committees as an engaged member of the board. As chair of the Children and Families' Committee, her efforts led to programs that focused on the comprehensive care of children and their families and reduced teen pregnancy. As chair of the Public Safety and Justice Committee, Supervisor Alvarado tackled issues of youth incarceration and provided productive alternatives to troubled youth other than incarceration. Her work established neighborhood programs to support anti-gang initiatives and she tirelessly pursued reforms that emphasized prevention and hope for the young residents of San Jose's poorest neighborhoods.

Additionally, Blanca served as an advocate for programs for incarcerated women and gave crucial support for programs and services for female inmates in county jail. Her work was so significant that the County Domestic Violence Council Conference presented her with its 2007 Lifetime Achievement Award.

Always mindful of her cultural roots and the importance of ethnicity and race in America, Alvarado was the principal visionary behind the Mexican Heritage Plaza.

Blanca Alvarado has appointed more Latinas to commissions and committees than anyone else throughout her 28 years of service. This year, Ms. Alvarado launched the Latina Leadership Project in an effort to ensure that Latina leaders continue to have opportunities in Santa Clara County to serve their communities and inspire each other in their dreams of civic service.

It has been an honor for us to know Blanca Alvarado and on behalf of the many residents of the county of Santa Clara who have benefited from her leadership; we thank her and wish her the best upon her well-deserved retirement.

HONORING ROBERT AMSDEN

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 22, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Robert Amsden of Liberty, Missouri. Robert 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 1376, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

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

RECOGNIZING THE ORFORDVILLE JOURNAL AND FOOTVILLE NEWS

HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 22, 2008

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in tribute to the Orfordville Journal and Footville News, which ceased publication on August 15, 2008, after nearly a century of chronicling the lives of families in the Orfordville area of Rock County, Wisconsin. Its dedicated owners and publishers, the Stewart family, kept the small weekly newspaper alive for 92 years. Upon its closing, the Journal-News was the second oldest business in Orfordville.

The first issue of the Orfordville Journal debuted on December 17, 1908, but it was not until 1916 that the Stewart family became its owners, when Ward A. Stewart purchased the struggling newspaper at age 22. Later that year, a young woman named Rose came to work for the Journal. Rose and Ward soon married on a Wednesday night in Orfordville, but only after the printing of that week's paper was complete.

This and countless other Stewart family anecdotes illustrate a behind-the-scenes picture of the Journal-News as a quintessential family business rooted in the community that

it served. Early on, the Stewarts relied on the assistance of several local women to create the weekly Orfordville Journal. The labor was painstaking and slow—all of the typesetting was completed by hand, letter by letter, and pages were printed using hand-rollers.

When the newspaper added the Footville News section in 1925, the Stewarts upgraded to a linotype typesetting machine to speed production and accommodate the growing territory. Rose Stewart typically ran the linotype with her son, George, by her side, sleeping in a cradle, and as he got older, standing by in a playpen. At age 8, George had already written his first story. When he later entered journalism school at the University of Wisconsin, he found himself firmly upon the path to a career in the newspaper industry.

George Stewart and his wife, Betty, eventually succeeded his parents as owners of the Journal-News. George and Betty ushered the Journal-News into the 21st century with modern, computer-aided production processes; even so, the paper never lost its community focus and homegrown appeal. I commend the Stewarts on their service to their community and look forward to their new venture, an online Orfordville area news website.

A TRIBUTE TO FORMER CONGRESSMAN WILLIAM CLAY, SR.: A CIVIL RIGHTS PIONEER, GREAT LEGISLATOR AND A PERMANENT PART OF THE AMERICAN POLITICAL LANDSCAPE

HON. WM. LACY CLAY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 22, 2008

Mr. CLAY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to William Clay, Sr., my father, and a former United States Congressman from the 1st Congressional District in St. Louis, Missouri. Bill Clay has fought a long and historic battle in defense civil and human rights for all Americans throughout his life. His dedication and service to our Nation as a leader on education, labor rights and civil rights, aptly earns his place in the Missouri Walk of Fame and the privilege of being honored today before Congress.

William Lacy Clay, Sr. one of six children was born on April 30, 1931, in St. Louis, Missouri to Luella Hyatt and Irving Clay. He is happily married to his wife of 55 years Carol, and they have raised three children, Vicki, Michelle and William, Jr.

When Bill Clay was elected to Congress in 1968, he was the first African American member elected from Missouri and one of only two African American representatives from states west of the Mississippi River. Throughout his 16 terms in Congress, he gained a reputation as an effective legislator. A staunch advocate for civil rights and social justice, he also served as one of the founders of the Congressional Black Caucus. From 1991 to 1995 he chaired the House Committee on the Post Office and Civil Service and served as the Ranking Member on the Education and the Workforce Committee until he retired.

His success can largely be attributed to his belief that there were no permanent friends or permanent enemies in politics, just permanent interests. He was a true advocate for the people that he represented, and he served them well. He's been credited with turning back racial discrimination throughout his career and remains an outspoken leader in our community. An accomplished author, he has documented he history of not only St. Louis, but the political arena throughout the Civil Rights era up to and including the present.

He worked tirelessly on behalf of the poor and disenfranchised, always seeking to give them a voice in Congress. During his tenure he authored the Historically Black Colleges and Universities Capital Financing Act, which provided $375 million in federal loan guarantees for construction and renovation projects at Historically Black Colleges and Universities and played a key role in the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, including efforts to reduce early grade class sizes by hiring 100,000 teachers nationwide.

Throughout his illustrious Congressional career, Clay co-sponsored 3,403 bills, of which 279 were enacted. Of the 248 bills that he sponsored, 16 were enacted. Bill Clay was the key sponsor of the transcendent Family and Medical Leave Act, the first bill signed into law by President Bill Clinton. This bill helped change the life of American families. He was instrumental in passing the Hatch Act which reformed the political activities of federal employees.

He continues to contribute to the American political landscape through his work as a successful author. He has authored several works including Just Permanent Interests: Black Americans in Congress, 1870–1991 (1992), which many view as essential American political reading. He continues to be a wonderful husband, loving father, and grandfather.

Madam Speaker, my father is my hero and I am proud to salute him for his lasting contributions to both our local St. Louis community and to our Nation. His outstanding leadership and sincere commitment to justice make him more than worthy of receiving our recognition and I urge my colleagues to join me in commending Former Congressman William Clay, Sr. for his induction into the Missouri Walk of Fame and his legacy of serving our Nation.

HONORING MICHAEL CASHIN

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 22, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Michael Cashin of Platte City, 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 1419, 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 Cashin for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

TRIBUTE TO DAVID REHBEIN

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 22, 2008

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize David Rehbein of Ames, Iowa, on being elected as the new national commander of The American Legion.

The American Legion is the United States' largest veterans organization. David is a member of the Ames Post No. 37. He is a U.S. Army veteran who served as an infantryman with the 4th and 1st Armored Divisions in Germany in 1970–1971. In July, David retired from the U.S. Department of Energy's Ames Laboratory as a research metallurgist. He has served on the Iowa Commission on Veterans Affairs and represented Iowa on The American Legion's National Executive Committee.

I commend David Rehbein on his courageous service to our nation and for the many contributions he has made to the State of Iowa. I consider it an honor to represent David in the United States Congress, and I wish him the best serving in his new position.

TRIBUTE TO DOROTHY ''DOTTIE'' JOHNSON

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 22, 2008

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Madam Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to Dorothy ''Dottie'' Johnson on the occasion of her retirement from the United States Postal Service, South Florida District. Dottie will retire as manager of diversity development, and can look back on a proud career of service and distinction in community leadership.

A native Miamian, Dottie attended Miami Northwestern Senior High School where she graduated with several honors and awards. In order to further her education, she attended Miami Dade College majoring in criminology, postal management and public administration. In May 1996, she was trained and certified as a Federal mediator. In 1997, she completed several business courses at the University of Michigan. In October 2000, she was trained and certified as a global career development facilitator. In 2001, she was trained and certified as a county mediator. In October 2003, she was trained and certified as an organizational development practitioner.

She complemented her educational achievements with her involvement in various organizations such as the Florida Minority Business Council Inc.; Miami-Dade Branch of the NAACP; South Florida Federal Executive Board Diversity Council; South Florida Federal Executive Board; South Florida Puerto Rican Day Parade, Inc; Excel Academy Inc.; Martin Luther King, Jr. Parade and Festivities Committee, Inc.; The Historic Hampton House Community Trust, Inc.; North Dade Federal Community Development Credit Union; UP-PAC; Broward County Business and Professional Women's Network; and mentor at North Dade Middle School and Nathan B. Young Elementary.

Dottie has lectured to various audiences and has served as an instructor, facilitator and

motivational speaker on issues pertaining to affirmative action, women's issues, diversity awareness, community empowerment and workforce development. In addition, she is very active in the community and is often called upon to be a speaker, advisor, and/or mediator by local schools, colleges, universities, churches, local/Federal government, and civil and professional organizations.

In April 2000, she founded and currently serves as the president/CEO of The Portrait of Empowerment Inc., a not-for-profit community based organization. This organization is dedicated to enabling individuals and families to become self-sufficient, which ultimately will improve the economic development as well as the quality of life in the community-at-large. In May 2001, she graduated from the Interdenominational Theological Center with a certificate of theology in Atlanta, Georgia. In 2002, she was elected as the vice-mayor for the city of Opa-Locka, Florida, and also served as the interim mayor. She also serves as the volunteers' coordinator for the Carrie Meek Foundation, Inc.

This public servant is married to Roy Johnson, has two daughters, Roilanda and Tamika, and two grandchildren, Joshua and Nisiah. Dottie is known in the community as ''Lady Justice''.

It is an honor to have the privilege of knowing this valued leader of the Miami-Dade County community and beyond. I salute Mrs. Dorothy ''Dottie'' Johnson on behalf of a grateful community that she truly loves and cares for. Now, in retirement, she embarks upon new challenges in life and I am certain her legacy of greatness will only grow and develop as she enters this new phase of life. I wish her every happiness and success.

HONORING THE CHILDREN OF APPLETIME CHILDCARE CENTER

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 22, 2008

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota, Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the children of Appletime Childcare Center of Rogers, Minnesota, and the Trike-a-Thon they sponsored to help fight childhood cancer.

The children of Appletime Childcare Center worked hard to raise community support and resources with their families and friends through a Trike-a-Thon on May 16, 2008. Their efforts will support research at St. Jude's Children's Hospital, the world's largest cancer research center. St. Jude's contributions to pediatric medicine have assisted doctors around the world in treating children with cancer and other life-threatening diseases. This event demonstrated a remarkable commitment by these young Minnesotans to help others.

The story of this effort reached me by way of Sharon Wilson, a proud grandmother and constituent of mine from St. Paul whose grandson, Zach Schmitz, was one of the many children who worked so diligently to organize and complete this event. The Trike-a-Thon taught young children the importance of helping others while also introducing valuable concepts of bike riding safety. By combining the fun of riding bicycles and tricycles with charitable giving, the Trike-a-Thon was a wonderful introduction to philanthropy for these youth, and an outstanding example for the rest of our community.

Madam Speaker, it is my honor to recognize the children of Appletime Childcare Center and their successful Trike-a-Thon to fight childhood cancer.

HONORING BENJAMIN BRESLOW

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 22, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Benjamin Breslow of Platte City, Missouri. Benjamin 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 1351, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

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

TRIBUTE TO HOWARD HODSON

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 22, 2008

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Howard R. Hodson, Sr., as the recipient of the 2008 Iowa Legionnaire of the Year Award by the American Legion for his servitude to this country and to the ideals of the American Legion. He was also awarded three other awards by the department commander and one award from the national commander.

The Legionnaire of the Year Award is presented every year to an outstanding member who has served the Legion and their community, state, and nation. Howard is a Vietnam veteran having served in the Army and is a member of the American Legion for forty-three years. In the American Legion, he has served as a post commander, post historian, post membership chairman, 3rd District senior vice commander, and as the membership chairman of the 3rd District.

I congratulate Howard R. Hodson, Sr. on his well-deserved award, and I'm certain that he will continue to serve this great nation and the American Legion. It is a great honor to represent Howard in the United States Congress, and I wish him the best.

RECOGNIZING THE DALLAS CENTER FOR ARCHITECTURE

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 22, 2008

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to make my colleagues aware of an exciting new facility opening in my district. The Dallas Arts District will soon be home to the Dallas Center for Architecture.

Officially opening on October 7, 2008, the DCFA will add another facet to the ever-expanding Arts District in downtown Dallas. The Center will be at 1909 Woodall Rogers Freeway and will face the Woodall Rogers Plaza. In fact, the first exhibit at the DCFA will be about the soon-to-be-constructed plaza.

I am excited about this addition to the already world renowned arts district in my hometown. The DCFA is designed for those interested in learning more about the art and science of architecture and will feature a wide variety of exhibits on topics such as environmentally sustainable design, historic preservation, adaptive reuse of buildings, urban planning, and a personal interest of mine—brownfield redevelopment.

The DCFA, in addition to the exhibits for the public, will be a place of continuing education for the architecture community and the home of the Dallas Chapter of the American Institute of Architects.

I know this project is the culmination of the work of many people. Specifically I would like to acknowledge Tip Housewright, of the AIA, for being the commissioner of the Dallas Center for Architecture during its construction. This large project has been funded by gifts from 25 of the top local architecture firms and will be sustained by events hosted by the Dallas Chapter of the American Institute of Architects.

Finally, as a Texan I need to note that the size of the Dallas Center for Architecture—it will cover over 9,000 square feet—will make it the second largest Center for Architecture in the Nation. It will be quite an asset in the continuing enhancement of Dallas.

COMMENDING BARTOW ELEMENTARY ACADEMY'S DESIGNATION AS A 2008 BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL

HON. ADAM H. PUTNAM

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 22, 2008

Mr. PUTNAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the faculty, staff, and students of Bartow Elementary Academy (BEA) for their designation as a 2008 No Child Left Behind—Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education.

Bartow Elementary Academy achieved this distinguished honor as a school performing in the top 10 percent within the State of Florida in the category of schools with less than 40 percent of their students from disadvantaged backgrounds. One of 320 schools in the nation to receive this honor, the Blue Ribbon reflects the dedication and commitment shared among faculty and students alike at BEA.

Bartow Elementary Academy has long displayed excellence in education. Earning an 'A'

all but one year since Florida first implemented school grades during the 1998–99 school year, BEA's teachers and students continue to distinguish themselves—helping students to continually achieve at high levels while making significant progress in closing the achievement gap.

Further, the school's willingness to explore creative new learning techniques and methodologies, such as ''brain-based'' learning, attributes to BEA's academic progress and ability to create varying curriculums when it comes to Sunshine State Standards.

I would like to extend my congratulations to Principal Carol Borders and her team of inspiring educators and extraordinary students. You're making a true difference in the lives of so many, and building communities that improve students' learning.

HONORING KYLE BORGESON

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 22, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Kyle Borgeson of Gladstone, Missouri. Kyle is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1155, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

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

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

TRIBUTE TO DAN DAVIS

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 22, 2008

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the recent heroic actions of Dan Davis of Badger, Iowa.

On Saturday, June 14th at 4:00 a.m., Dan heard the sound of popping tires when he looked outside and saw flames shooting out of the neighbor's house. He knew that two teens were in that home while their parents were away. Dan ran into the home and woke Hannah and Max Edwards, who were sleeping through the smoke alarms. Although the house and possessions were nearly a total loss, Dan, Hannah and Max made it out unharmed.

Dan's decisive decision making in such a critical situation goes above and beyond what we are asked of as citizens of this country. His courage illustrates the compassion of Iowans; willing to do whatever it takes for a neighbor in need. I know my colleagues in the United States Congress join me in congratulating Dan Davis on a job well done. It is an honor to represent such a compassionate Iowan in Congress, and I wish Dan the best in his future endeavors.

STENNIS CENTER PROGRAM FOR CONGRESSIONAL INTERNS

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2008

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, for 6 years now, the John C. Stennis Center for Public Service Leadership has conducted a program for summer interns working in Congressional offices. This 6-week program is designed to enhance their internship experience by giving them an inside view of how Congress really works. It also provides an opportunity for them to meet with senior congressional staff and other experts to discuss issues ranging from the legislative process to the influence of the media and lobbyists on Congress.

The program is a joint effort of the Stennis Center and a collection of current and former senior congressional staff leaders who are serving as Senior Stennis Fellows. These fellows use their experience and expertise to design the program and to participate in each of the interactive sessions and panel discussions.

Interns are selected for this program based on their college record, community service background, and interest in a career in public service. This year, 21 outstanding interns, most of them juniors and seniors in college, who are working for Democrats and Republicans in both the House and Senate participated.

Madam Speaker, I congratulate the interns for their participation in this valuable program and I thank the Stennis Center and the Senior Stennis Fellows for providing such a unique experience for these interns and for encouraging them to consider a future career in public service.

I ask that a list of 2008 Stennis Congressional Interns and the offices in which they work be printed in the RECORD.

Matt Beato, attending the College of William and Mary interning in the office of Rep. Brian Higgins.

Molly Box, attending the University of Wyoming interning in the office of Sen. Mike Enzi.

Geoff Browning, attending Loyola College interning in the office of Rep. James McGovern.

Chloe Cabot, attending the University of Wisconsin interning in the office of Sen. Herb Kohl.

Zach Chalett, attending New York University interning in the office of Rep. Jim McDermott.

Jason Chang, attending Brandeis University interning in the office of Rep. Emanuel Cleaver.

Shaun N. Christiansen, attending the University of Oregon interning in the office of Rep. Earl Blumenauer.

TJ Garrigan, attending Catholic University interning in the office of Rep. Robert Brady.

Mitch Hunter, attending Harvard University interning in the office of Sen. Amy Klobuchar.

Jon Junig, attending the University of Rochester interning in the office of Rep. Tom Petri.

Jonathan Kay, attending Middlebury College interning in the office of Sen. Hillary Clinton.

Rebecca Lurie, attending the University of Maryland interning in the office of Rep. Robert Brady.

Grainne Lynn, attending Catholic University interning in the office of Rep. Robert Brady.

Chris Mickey, attending the University of Wyoming interning in the office of Sen. John Barrasso.

Kristina Nesse, attending the College of St. Benedict interning in the office of Sen. Amy Klobuchar.

Jillian Petrella, attending William Smith College interning in the office of Rep. Brian Higgins.

Trevor Pierce, attending the University of Michigan interning in the office of Rep. John Campbell.

William Poindexter, attending Mississippi State University interning in the office of Sen. Thad Cochran.

Betsey Sawyer, attending Louisiana State University interning in the office of Sen. Thad Cochran.

Harrison Tome, attending the University of Pennsylvania interning in the office of Sen. John Barrasso.

Neil White, attending Princeton University interning in the office of Sen. Thad Cochran.

HONORING HOLOCAUST MUSEUM AND STUDY CENTER

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 22, 2008

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, the Holocaust Museum and Study Center over the past 30 years has become an important museum, cultural and educational center for one of the greatest tragedies of history that must never be forgotten.

The museum originated in 1979 with the appointment of the Rockland County Holocaust Commission by the County Legislature. It opened its doors in 1988 dedicated to educate, examine and explore the history of the Holocaust. The museum uses educational programs, lectures, exhibitions, teaching training seminars, and commemoration ceremonies to ensure that the lessons of the Holocaust are not forgotten.

The Holocaust Museum and Study Center uses the witness of Holocaust survivors living in Rockland, stories of triumph and survival in the face of a highly efficient and determined Nazi death machine. The museum also includes the stories of Allied soldiers who, in defeating the Nazis, liberated the death camps.

Remembering and teaching the history of the Holocaust is essential if we are never to repeat its terrible events. The tragic events of Rwanda tell us that the lessons of the Holocaust are still to be learned.

The murder of six million Jews as well as millions more of Gypsies, the handicapped, Slavic peoples and others such as Communists, homosexuals, Jehovah Witnesses, and Socialists, just for being who they were must not be repeated.

The Holocaust Museum and Study Center teaches this dramatic lesson so that we never have to learn it again. It is a powerful force for good in a world that still needs it.

HONORING STEPHEN GOTT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 22, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Stephen Gott of Liberty, Missouri. Stephen 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.

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

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE ALAN WHEAT

HON. WM. LACY CLAY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 22, 2008

Mr. CLAY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Honorable Alan Wheat, former Congressman who represented Missouri's 5th District from 1983 to 1994. Born to James Weldon and Emogene Wheat in San Antonio, Texas on October 16, 1951, Alan is one of three children.

Congressman Wheat made history by becoming one of the Nation's first African-Americans to represent a district with a white majority. Although it was suggested that he would only support African-American issues, one-third of Wheat's vote total in the primary came from white voters.

Throughout his career, Congressman Wheat earned the widely respected reputation of being a strong political leader and coalition builder. This well earned reputation led to him becoming the youngest member and only the third freshman Congressman in history to be appointed to the powerful Rules Committee. Dedicated to public service, Congressman Wheat ran for the U.S. Senate in 1994, won the Democratic primary and became the first minority candidate selected as a major party nominee for statewide office in Missouri. When Congressman Wheat made his bid for the Senate, he was described as ''a new kind of black candidate: not simply a representative of black America but a bridge-builder between black and white America.''

In 1995, Wheat became vice president of public policy and government relations for the CARE Foundation, an international relief and development organization, one of the largest of its kind in the Nation.

In 1998, Congressman Wheat formed Wheat Government Relations. With his unparalleled knowledge of the legislative process and his reputation for promoting bipartisan support, Wheat Government Relations has established him as a successful, bipartisan liaison between the government and the private sector.

Congressman Wheat holds a Bachelor of Arts from Grinnell College. He is married to Yolanda and has three children.

Madam Speaker, I am pleased to induct Congressman Wheat into the Missouri Walk of Fame. I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring Congressman Alan Wheat for his commitment to the great state of Missouri.

RECOGNIZING THE BIRTHDAY OF DR. CLAYTIE ODESSA SEARCY

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 22, 2008

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to honor a great leader in the Dallas community: Dr. Claytie Odessa Searcy. Dr. C. O. Searcy was Pastor Emeritus and Founder of ''The House of Love Church.'' A native Texan, Dr. Searcy made history by becoming the first Black woman to receive a Masters degree from the University of Texas. She was the second person in the history of the university to complete a Masters program in only nine months.

Dr. Searcy first began community work at the Moorland Branch YMCA in Dallas, Texas. Concerned about the boys' moral and spiritual life, she secured bibles for the entire boy's division and recognizing the need to strengthen the ''total family'', she organized a mothers' club which provided funds to send underprivileged boys to camp each summer.

Dr. Searcy launched her community activities when she founded the C.O. Searcy Youth Foundation. The C.O. Searcy Foundation enabled Dr. Searcy to provide food, clothes, household merchandise and other much needed items to the families of her community. She offered the adults and youth extended GED courses in conjunction with the Dallas Independent School District.

In 1966, Dr. Searcy then organized The House of Love Church, where she served as Pastor Emeritus. As Pastor Emeritus of the House of Love Church, Dr. Searcy spent her life serving others. When asked what ''life'' means to her, her response was, ''Life is about helping someone else see who he/she really is.'' Today, Madame Speaker, I would like to celebrate the full life of Dr. Claytie Odessa Searcy, on this the occasion of her birthday.

HONORING JOSEPH LANDERS III

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 22, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Joseph Landers III of Smithville, Missouri. Joseph 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 1412, 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 Landers III for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

TRIBUTE TO RICHARD AVISE

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 22, 2008

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the recipient of the Iowa National Association of Active and Retired Federal Employees (NARFE) Federation's Community Service Award, Richard ''Dick'' Avise of Rockwell, Iowa for his longtime community service efforts.

For 48 years, Dick has volunteered his time to improving the Rockwell Community. Among many other accomplishments, Dick helped establish apartments for retirees, served as President and Secretary of the Rockwell Chamber of Commerce, grew and donated sweet corn for over a decade to the Rockwell Annual Chicken Barbecue, arranged the 1994 Ziedler Park Lion's Club Tree Project, and assisted the Cerro Gordo Extension Crop Clinics for 15 years. Dick's dedication to his community and his commitment to his organization should be commended.

A year after celebrating his 80th birthday, Dick continues his community service and remains active as the NARFE Chapter 170 Alzheimer Chair. I consider it an honor to represent Dick Avise in Congress, and I wish him the best in the future.

RECOGNIZING MRS. BILLIE JOHNSON'S ADMISSION TO THE OHIO WOMEN'S HALL OF FAME

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 22, 2008

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I rise today with pride to recognize the entry into the Ohio Women's Hall of Fame of Billie Johnson of my District. Mrs. Johnson is a founder of the Area Office on Aging of Northwest Ohio. She has been a leader of elder and women's issues throughout her accomplished career.

Billie Johnson can claim many ''firsts'': she was the first African American elected Governor of Zonta International—District 5, Ohio, West Virginia and Kentucky; she was the first African American woman elected to the Board of Directors of National City Bank; she was appointed by former Governor James A. Rhodes to serve two terms on one of Ohio's first Women's Advisory Boards to recognize the achievements of women throughout the state and to improve opportunities and employment for women; she organized efforts to incorporate under Ohio law the first regional, non-profit office on aging in northwest Ohio; she launched the first SeniorNet Program in northwest Ohio—an affiliate of national

SeniorNet Inc—that helped older citizens learn how to use computers and navigate the internet; fostered the development of the first information and assistance programs in Lucas County for grandparents and other kin who are raising children; she established the first Elder Friendly Program for Toledo—affiliated with the national Elder Friendly Program—with the assistance of the former Toledo Mayor Jack Ford, to help improve services and accessibility for older citizens shopping in retail stores and local businesses; she fostered the creation of a Senior Safety program for older citizens; and she spearheaded the organization of the first campaign to get a Senior Citizens Tax Levy on the ballot in Lucas County to help increase meals for homebound elders, expand home care for the sick and frail elderly, provide more services of Alzheimer's patients and their caregivers, and expand services for senior centers.

Billie Johnson is widely regarded by her colleagues in the aging network. Her leadership fosters a spirit of cooperation, allegiance and loyalty which is rare. Evidence of her skill is the development of a master plan, in cooperation with many partners, for the re-use of the 42 acres of county-owned land surrounding the Area Office on Aging into a comprehensive, continuing care complex for older adults. As the Area Office on Aging's first and only Executive Director for three decades, Mrs. Johnson has helped in the creation and development of many senior centers, nutrition sites for seniors, transportation programs, health services, adult day care programs, home care, and numerous other services for older adults. She has been an advisor, consultant and speaker for numerous local, state, national and international organizations and agencies serving older persons including: Iowa Commission on Aging, Ohio Department of Aging, National Church Residences, National Council on Aging/NISH, National Caucus and Center on Black Aged, Gerontology Program for the University of Toledo, and numerous Area Agencies on Aging located in Michigan, Ohio, Kansas and Iowa. She was even selected to participate in the United Nations World Conference on Women Forum in 1985 in Nairobi, Kenya. The International Federation on Aging later published excerpts of her white paper in a book entitled: ''Global Aging.''

More important than any professional achievement, Billie Johnson has carried forward the lessons learned at her grandmother's knee as she inspires and teaches her own daughter and granddaughters. She guides them in proud tradition and shows them by example how to be strong women in their own right.

I have counted on Billie Johnson's wise counsel throughout the years, as have many others in our region. She is a compassionate, caring, and dynamic woman, and a fine example to all as a Member of the Ohio Women's Hall of Fame. I know I join with many across our state when I offer my warmest and heartfelt Congratulations!

IN HONOR OF DAVE PAVLICK

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 22, 2008

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Dave Pavlick for his dedication to social justice on the occasion of the completion of his second 600 mile walk throughout southeastern Ohio to promote the Health Care for All Ohioans Act.

In coordination with the Single Payer Action Network (SPAN), Dave is ending his twenty-three day walk for Healthcare Justice in Parma, Ohio. The purpose of the walk is to promote the Health Care for All Ohioans Act and to raise awareness of the plight of millions of Americans who are underinsured or without healthcare. Dave's walk across southeastern Ohio has garnered attention and support from people all over the State of Ohio and has raised our collective consciousness of one of the biggest issues facing Americans today. I, along with SPAN and the United Auto Workers Local 1005 join in welcoming Dave back to Parma at tonight's ''Welcome Home Dave'' celebration.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor of Dave Pavlick, and in recognition of his outstanding commitment to social justice and promoting healthcare for all Ohioans.

UNLESS U HAVE WALKED IN OUR SHOES

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 22, 2008

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I submit the following:

UNLESS U HAVE WALKED IN OUR SHOES

(By Brock DeAngelo)

My name is Brock, I am 13 years old. I will make a difference in a world that refuses to hear our voices. We deserve a voice. And that voice should be our own. We live in a nation that offers ''Freedom of Speech.'' Not only should we be heard but we should be offered respect. Please join me in a mission that is all about U. Contact me at unlessuwalked@aol.com.

My name is Brock, Brock DeAngelo. For years I would have loved any last name but mine. Then one day I realized, it's not the name that makes a person; it's the person that makes the name.

I then decided I will change the vicious cycle behind my last name. The mental and physical abuse, the evilness and malicious lies stop with me.

I will show my brother and one day my children; that a man with great pride and integrity stands in front of the ''DeAngelo'' name. And it began with me, Brock!

The courts cursed me with a Guardian ad Litem. I can honestly say she never listened to a word I said. She was too busy trying to twist my situation around to suit her views. It was a little hard for her to accomplish since everytime we met the stories on my behalf were always the same. Funny thing about ''the truth'', it's consistent.

She was the first of many disappointments. Children's Services made me a promise that they never followed through with (no thanks to my ad Litem).

In the end, the person that does not deserve a title to fatherhood, saved his own reputation. He agreed to leave me alone. Unfortunately not every one is as lucky.

I am asking U to join me on my quest, to become a voice and to make what U have to say important.

I have discussed this matter with my attorney, met with a Special Assistant to Tim Ryan and discussed this matter with Sandra Harwood, State Representative, 65th House District.

My goal is for Congress to not only hear us but to act upon our intelligence. In order for U to be recognized, we must fight together. U are old enough to know right from wrong. The courts need to listen. U are the future.

CHILDREN'S BILL OF RIGHTS

DECLARATION I

Congress shall allow no law that endangers a child's physical, emotional or physiological well-being.

DECLARATION II

Congress shall encourage all states to provide standardized legal representation of children and their specific issues in legal domestic disputes, regardless of state jurisdiction or residence.

DECLARATION III

A child shall be guaranteed an equal voice in determining court-ordered visitations with parents or guardians as well as the continuation of those visits.

DECLARATION IV

No child shall be forced to endure ongoing physical, emotional, or verbal harm by a parent, guardian or other individual.

DECLARATION V

No child shall be forced to return to the care of a parent or legal guardian who has been convicted of certain civil crimes or any felony, unless they themselves desire it.

DECLARATION VI

Accusations by a child concerning ongoing parental misconduct shall be investigated within twenty-four hours and taken seriously until otherwise proven false.

DECLARATION VII

The child physical, emotional and physiological well-being shall be of the utmost concern when determining their possible court testimony against a parent, guardian or other adult.

DECLARATION VIII

A child shall have a voice in determining the need for restraining orders against a parent, guardian or other adult.

DECLARATION IX

Reports from doctors, physiologists, social workers and other professionals and paraprofessionals shall be given the highest priority when determining parental rights, visitations, and other issues concerning the emotional and physiological well-being of the child.

DECLARATION X

The rights of all other citizens shall be applied with equal conviction to all children.

RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF RANDALL C. FERGUSON, JR.

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 22, 2008

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, I proudly rise today in recognition of the achievements of Mr. Randall C. Ferguson, Jr., an important resident of the Fifth District of Missouri, which I am honored to represent. This week, Mr. Ferguson is to be inducted into the Missouri Walk of Fame during a reception as part of the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation's Annual Legislative Conference, an event held to honor the achievements of African-Americans who have made significant contributions

to Missouri. Randall is a retired executive from the IBM Corporation. He spent 29 years with IBM in various sales, management, and executive positions. His last position at IBM was senior location executive for the Kansas City region and senior state executive for Kansas and Missouri with responsibility for programs and policy implementation essential to IBM's interests, reputation and involvement relating to both the internal IBM community of 900 employees, and to the outside community. His responsibilities also included government relations, community relations, and all IBM philanthropic grants.

After IBM, he was recruited to be the senior vice president for business growth and member connections for the Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce. His responsibilities included membership, technology, small business activities, aviation, minority business alliances, the economic advisory board, and the world trade center.

Randall holds a bachelor of science degree in business administration with honors from Walton School of Business, University of Arkansas. Throughout his life, Mr. Ferguson has exercised a tireless belief in the principle of putting ''others'' before ''self.'' He has put his principles to practice, and the effects of his efforts can be felt throughout the Kansas City metropolitan area. Recognizing his business acumen, Great Planes Energy, Blue Cross/Blue Shield, and Shelter Insurance voted him on to their corporate boards.

Civically, Randall serves on 12 boards in the greater Kansas City area with varied interests such as energy, healthcare, education, economic development and technology, employment, and diversity in such areas as race, sex, and religion. In all of his activities, he demonstrates his dedication and commitment to the greater good of others. His high energy pace translates directly to the results he is able to obtain for the benefit of all in the greater Kansas City area. Regardless of whether he is in the trenches or the boardroom, his poise and thoughtfulness is ever present. For those reasons and more, it is indeed an honor and a privilege to recognize Randall Ferguson, Jr. at the Missouri Walk of Fame reception, hosted by myself and fellow Missourian, U.S. Representative WM. LACY CLAY of St. Louis.

Madam Speaker, please join me in expressing our appreciation to Mr. Randall Ferguson, Jr. and his endless commitment to serving the residents of the State of Missouri. He is a true role model not just to the African-American community in Missouri, but to the entire African-American community-at-large. May his success serve as a stepping-stone for many other African-Americans eager to be just as successful in their endeavors. While it is but a small acknowledgement for all of the work he has done, it is a heartfelt gesture to a heartfelt friend, taking strength from the lives he has touched in our hometown.

COMMEMORATING SEA OTTER AWARENESS WEEK

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 22, 2008

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to call attention to the 6th Annual Sea Otter Awareness Week, September 22–28, 2008, sponsored by Defenders of Wildlife. This weeklong event provides the opportunity to educate the broader public about sea otters, their natural history, the integral role that sea otters play in the near-shore marine ecosystem, and the conservation issues they are facing.

In the early 1700s, before wide-scale hunting began, sea otters ranged across the North Pacific rim from Japan to Baja, California. The worldwide population estimates for that time range from the hundreds of thousands to possibly a million or more. Before the hunting began, there were approximately 16,000–20,000 along California's coast. Killing these animals for their fur brought down their numbers until they were thought to be extinct off California by the early 1900s.

But they were not driven completely to extinction. In the 1930s a small population, less than 100, was discovered that had escaped the hunt in a remote cove on a coastal ranch in Big Sur on the central coast of California. Since that time, groups such as Defenders of Wildlife, Friends of the Sea Otter, and The Ocean Conservancy have raised public awareness and helped protect this important species under the Marine Mammal Protection Act and the Endangered Species Act.

The presence of the California sea otter has become an icon of the State's coastal environment and culture, and these charismatic animals bring significant tourism revenue to Californian coastal communities. The spring census conducted by the U.S. Geological Survey this year counted 2,760 animals, down 8.8 percent from last year, and their range extends along the central coast from Half Moon Bay to Pt. Conception.

These numbers are significantly less than what is necessary to consider the population stable and their population growth in recent years is slower than their cousins in Alaska. Researchers are beginning to identify indirect hazards for sea otters such as non-point source pollution, pathogens, and entrapment in fisheries' gear that are causing their population growth to slow. Such realizations support the need for continued research and preventive measures to respond to these issues, while continuing to ward against the direct killings/takings that still occur.

The decline of southern sea otters off the California coast not only impacts the species itself, but it affects other marine populations and the surrounding ecosystem. They are what scientists refer to as a keystone species. This means that they are integrally important to the ecosystem in which they live. For example, the demise of sea otters allows their prey, sea urchins, to proliferate unchecked, which leads to the alarming overgrazing of kelp beds—one of the ocean's nursery grounds for many marine animals. In particular, research shows that the absence of sea otters has a direct link to the sharp decline of kelp along portions of California's coast.

The sea otter is also what scientists refer to as a sentinel or an indicator species. In this way, the sea otters are the canaries in the coal mine for our coastal health. The sea otters are all too effective at monitoring toxins and diseases in the marine environment, which can affect the health of humans and other wildlife.

California has taken the first step toward addressing these emerging concerns by signing into law California Assembly Bill 2485, which establishes a State fund for sea otter conservation. Again this year Californians had the option of donating a portion of their tax returns to sea otter conservation. I want to emphasize that this means that Californians voluntarily pay a little more on their tax return to help protect these animals. To date, this has raised almost $270,000.

However, this is a federally protected species and California cannot go it alone. In addition to working with my colleagues to secure Federal funds to support a continued and complete recovery of the population, I introduced H.R. 3639, the southern sea otter Recovery and Research Act. Earlier this year, the Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, and Oceans held a hearing about the southern sea otter and the management of these populations.

Dr. James Estes from the University of California, Santa Cruz; Andrew Johnson, from the Monterey Bay Aquarium; and Jim Curland from Defenders of Wildlife testified on the state of the sea otter populations. I and my colleagues have sought their knowledge and expertise, along with other Federal, State, and local experts and citizens to provide for research and recovery programs for the southern sea otter.

Madam Speaker, I applaud the many accomplishments of Defenders of Wildlife, who carry out the important mission to preserve our Nation's wildlife and habitat. I also applaud the other non-profit environmental organizations, working with the Monterey Bay Aquarium, researchers, fishermen, State and Federal agencies, schools, and many other institutions and individuals, who devote tremendous effort to protect and recover the southern California sea otter. Sea Otter Awareness Week is just one of their many activities geared towards honoring and saving this species, and I am proud to be associated with this vital work.

HONORING JUDGE HAROLD BAREFOOT SANDERS, JR.

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 22, 2008

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, today I mourn the passing of one of my political heroes, the legendary U.S. District Judge Harold Barefoot Sanders, Jr.

Madam Speaker, Judge Sanders is best known for overseeing a desegregation plan for the Dallas Independent School District from the 1980s until 2003. Judge Sanders also directed the overhaul of state schools for mentally retarded people and served as a legislative counsel to President Lyndon Johnson.

Madam Speaker, from his core, Judge Sanders symbolized civil rights. He knew that fairness took work, and his diligence is why he was able to make history and inspire a generation of my Texas colleagues. As an assistant attorney general in the Department of Justice, he was credited with helping pass the Voting Rights Act of 1965. As a Texas legislator, he helped write the Texas Mental Health Code. And as a federal judge, in a ruling that I believe took more courage than any other, he declared Dallas' segregated schools illegal.

Madam Speaker, President John F. Kennedy appointed Judge Sanders as U.S. attorney for the Northern District of Texas in 1961.

President Jimmy Carter elevated him to the federal bench in 1979. Judge Sanders was a help to me personally with my acclaimed national and international Peace Initiative. His counsel and assistance were instrumental to its success. I know Judge Sanders as a man revered for his intellect and compassion. I will truly miss him; the void he is leaving will not soon be filled.

Madam Speaker, Judge Harold Barefoot Sanders, Jr., born in Dallas, graduated from North Dallas High School in 1942 and went on to serve as a lieutenant in the U.S. Naval Reserve until 1946. He received his law degree from the University of Texas in 1950 and served three terms in the Texas Legislature. In 1952 he married Jan Scurlock, who survives him. He is also survived by daughters Martha Kay Crockett of Dallas and Mary Frances Korsan of Santa Monica, CA; a sister, Martha Ann Schneider of Dallas; brother, Charles Addison Sanders of Durham, NC; and 10 grandchildren.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE ''INDIVIDUAL DEPOSITOR AND COMMUNITY BANK PROTECTION ACT OF 2008''

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 22, 2008

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, today I introduced the ''Individual Depositor and Community Bank Protection Act of 2008,'' which raises the federal deposit insurance limit from the current $100,000 to $200,000. This upward adjustment in the federal deposit insurance limit is long overdue. The last increase in the deposit insurance limit—to the current $100,000—was made 28 years ago, in 1980, the year Ronald Reagan was first elected President. This has been the longest period in history in which there has been no raise in the deposit insurance maximum. Since 1980, our nation's economy has changed, with an undeniable increase in income, prices, and wealth. By failing to raise the deposit insurance limit in kind, Congress has effectively weakened the federal guarantee underlying deposit Insurance.

Deposit insurance, established in response to the financial meltdown of the 1930s that led to the Great Depression, is vital to consumer confidence and to the stability of our nation's banking system. It also is an effective mechanism for ensuring that small community banks can maintain a competitive position vis à vis large national banks. Large banks are not as dependent as small ones on deposit insurance because they are categorized as ''too big to fail'' and will be protected by the federal government should they run into financial trouble. As a result, they have a competitive advantage in securing depositors and in providing loans. Small community banks enjoy no such protection and, as a result, depend on a robust federal deposit insurance guarantee to reassure consumers that their money is safe in a community bank. Weakening deposit insurance effectively gives a competitive upper hand to the ever-shrinking number of large national banks and, in the long run, will limit the vitality and competitiveness of our nation's banking industry.

At this moment of economic crisis and deep financial uncertainty for millions of Americans, I urge my colleagues to support this straightforward and long-overdue raise in the federal insurance deposit limit. It is vital to maintaining our nation's financial stability, ensuring a solid foundation for economic growth, promoting competition in the banking industry, and reassuring an anxious nation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 22, 2008

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise to explain my reason for missing votes on September 11 and 15, 2008. My voting percentage is over 96 percent for the 110th Congress, and I rarely miss votes, but felt it was extremely important to be home in Houston, Texas while my neighbors and constituents were making preparations for Hurricane Ike and to help recovery efforts in the immediate aftermath. The storm made landfall early Saturday morning, and by the time it passed Houston Saturday afternoon, it had caused the largest power disruption in the state's history, along with tremendous flood and wind damage. There are still nearly two million people in the Houston area without power, and many without water. When I left yesterday to fly back to Washington, significant relief efforts by Federal, State, and local emergency officials were just getting underway.

There is still a tremendous amount of work to be done, and I ask for everyone's thoughts and prayers as Houston and the Gulf Coast recover from this devastating storm.

Had I been present to vote, I would have voted as follows:

On rollcall vote No. 585, on Approving the Journal, I would have voted ''aye'';

On rollcall vote No. 586, H. Res. 1344, on Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree to the resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding the terrorist attacks launched against the United States on September 11, 2001, I would have voted ''aye'';

On rollcall vote No. 587, H. Res. 6532, on Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree to the Senate Amendment to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to restore the Highway Trust Fund balance, I would have voted ''aye'';

On rollcall vote No. 588, on Motion to Adjourn, I would have voted ''aye'';

On rollcall vote No. 589, H. Res. 1200, on Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree as amended, a resolution honoring the dedication and outstanding work of military support groups across the country for their steadfast support of the members of our Armed Forces and their families, I would have voted ''aye'';

On rollcall vote No. 590, H. Con. Res. 390, on Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree as amended, a resolution honoring the 28th Infantry Division for serving and protecting the United States, I would have voted ''aye'';

On rollcall vote No. 591, H. R. 6889, on Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, 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 would have voted ''aye'';

EL CENTRO FIRE CHIEF BENNIE BENAVIDEZ INDUCTED INTO THE NAVY FIREFIGHTER HALL OF FAME

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 22, 2008

Mr. FILNER. Madam Speaker and colleagues, I rise today to recognize Bennie Benavidez, retired NAF El Centro Fire Chief, who was inducted into the Navy Firefighter Hall of Fame at the 2008 Navy and Marine Corps Fire and Emergency Services Awards Luncheon on August 14, 2008 in Denver, Colorado.

Chief Benavidez is the first nominee and first inductee from the Navy Region Southwest into the Hall of Fame, which was created three years ago. He was selected by the 13 Regional Fire Chiefs as a person whose contributions should be recognized for posterity.

He served his country for many years in a Navy Fire Career which included rapid promotions: Firefighter 1955–1956, Engineer 1956–1960, Captain 1960–1973, Assistant Chief 1973–1974, and Fire Chief 1974–1983. Upon his retirement, he was appointed as the Fire Chief of the Imperial County Fire Department and served for an additional 15 years, working to improve the training and safety of fire fighting personnel.

Bennie Benavidez's love of the fire service was passed along to one of his sons, who rose to the rank of Engineer with a local fire department before his death in the line of duty. He keeps his son's memory alive through his community support and charitable contributions to the Burn Institute and local hospitals.

His accomplishments fill several pages. Some examples follow. He received Congressional recognition for ''outstanding and invaluable service to the community.'' He was recognized as ''Imperial Man of the Year'' by the California State Assembly. He was appointed as Deputy State Fire Marshal for the state of California. He received a commendation from the State of California Governor's Office of Emergency Services. One of his primary contributions has been to foster friendship and cooperation in firefighting training between Imperial County and friends just across the border in Mexico.

Some of his 20 memberships, past and present, include the Imperial County Fire Chiefs Association, International Association of Fire Chiefs, California State Firefighters Association, Southern California Earthquake Preparedness Committee, Elks Lodge #1325, American Legion Post #25, Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Korean War Veterans Association, and Member of several Imperial County Committees regarding the environment, hazardous materials, and community economic development.

It is impossible to thank Bennie Benavidez for all his contributions, throughout his career and in volunteer activities within his community. The occasion of his induction into the Navy Firefighter Hall of Fame is an appropriate time to recognize him, his contributions, and the most prestigious honor that has been bestowed upon him.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 22, 2008

Mr. ISSA. Madam Speaker, on Thursday, September 18, 2008, I was absent from the House. Had I been present I would have voted:

On rollcall No. 610, ''nay''—H.R. 3036—To Amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 regarding environmental education, and for other purposes.

On rollcall No. 611, ''nay''—H.R. 3036—Providing for consideration of H.R. 3036, to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 regarding environmental education, and for other purposes.

On rollcall No. 613, ''yes''—H.R. 3036—On Motion to Recommit with Instructions of the No Child Left Inside Act of 2008.

On rollcall No. 614, ''nay''—H.R. 3036—On Passage of the No Child Left Inside Act of 2008.

On rollcall No. 615, ''nay''—H.R. 6460—On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended.

COMMEMORATING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE RESOURCE CENTER OF DALLAS

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 22, 2008

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, this September marks the 25th anniversary of the Resource Center of Dallas, a long standing institution in the 30th Congressional District of Texas. The center's parent organization—the Dallas Gay Political Caucus, later known as the Dallas Gay and Lesbian Alliance—incorporated what was then called the Foundation for Human Understanding in 1983.

In 1988, the center established the Nelson-Tebedo Clinic for treatment, clinical drug trials and HIV testing. Today, the renamed Nelson-Tebedo Health Resource Center also offers HIV dental, STD testing and treatment, medical case management, insurance assistance, prevention and transgender health services. Nutritional services are available as well as hot lunches.

To recognize the history of and the struggle for GLBT rights in Dallas, the Phil Johnson Historic Archives and Research Library was established at the Community Center in 1994. The Library also operates a 24-hour information helpline, which first started in 1985.

In 1998, the Foundation for Human Understanding changed its name to the Resource Center of Dallas. It operates the John Thomas Gay and Lesbian Community Center, named after the founding executive director, and the Nelson-Tebedo Health Resource Center. Through its health and medical services, the center is a leader in HIV/AIDS education, prevention and services, and provides a full spectrum of STD prevention education, screenings and treatments.

More than 1,100 volunteers and a paid staff of 44 make the Resource Center of Dallas one of the largest centers of its kind in the United States. More than 50,000 people each year use the Resource Center through its programs and services. From its roots as an advocacy group for civil rights regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity, the center continues its dual mission: to develop programs and offer services for the GLBT community, as well as individuals and families affected by HIV and AIDS.

RETIREMENT TRIBUTE TO COLONEL FRANCIS M. MUNGAVIN

HON. KIRSTEN E. GILLIBRAND

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 22, 2008

Mrs. GILLIBRAND. Madam Speaker, on the occasion of his retirement from the United States Air Force, I want to recognize Colonel Francis M. ''Mike'' Mungavin for his 40-plus years of dedicated service to our country. In his most recent assignment, he serves as the Commander, Air Force Reserve Command Recruiting Service and Director of Recruiting, Air Force Reserve Command, Robins Air Force Base, Georgia. In this role, he exercises command and oversight to over 450 military and civilian personnel worldwide at over 45 main operating locations and serves as the principal advisor to the AFRC commander on all matters relating to recruiting.

Colonel Mungavin enlisted in the Air Force in November 1968, and served 10 years prior to receiving his commission through the Deserving Airman Commissioning Program. Prior to entering Recruiting Services, Colonel Mungavin served as member of the security forces for 32 years on active duty, as a civilian and within the Air Force Reserve Command as a Traditional Reservist and Air Reserve Technician. During this time, he conceived, developed, implemented and commanded the Air Force Reserve Patriot Warrior Program providing our security force troops with required ground combat skills training.

Since taking command of Air Force Reserve Recruiting, Colonel Mungavin has developed and executed numerous initiatives resulting in the Air Force Reserve Command (AFRC) exceeding its annual recruiting goal for eight consecutive years. As the second largest Air Force Major Command, AFRC has been manned at greater than ninety-nine percent for the past seven consecutive years reversing a decade-long trend of failing to meet congressionally mandated end strength levels. He is directly responsible for accessing more than 72,037 airmen helping to transform the Air Force Reserve recruiter into the most productive within DoD.

Mike could not have been such a tremendous leader without the love and unfailing support of his lovely wife of 37 years, Arlene, and their two sons—Nick and Ryan.

Madam Speaker, I join my colleagues in expressing our sincere appreciation to Colonel Francis ''Mike'' Mungavin for his outstanding service to both the United States Air Force and our great nation. We wish him the best as he transitions into retirement. Colonel Mungavin is a true professional and a credit to himself and the United States Air Force Reserve.

CONGRATULATING WOUNDED WARRIOR PROJECT'S SOLDIER RIDE—2008 HIGH DESERT CHALLENGE AND SPONSOR U-HAUL

HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 22, 2008

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend the Wounded Warrior Project for its annual Soldier Ride—2008 High Desert Challenge and the sponsor of the challenge, U-Haul.

The nonprofit Wounded Warrior Project is a nonprofit organization that follows their mission, honors and empowers wounded veterans through raising public awareness, enlisting aid for those severely injured, and providing programs and services to those with special needs.

The Soldier Ride—2008 High Desert Challenge is a rehabilitative program that provides the opportunity for wounded veterans to regain an active lifestyle. This three-day bicycle ride from Phoenix to Las Vegas is a remarkable way to honor those wounded during their brave service to our country and to raise money to further the mission of the Wounded Warrior Project.

I congratulate the Wounded Warriors Project for recognizing the significant sacrifices these soldiers have made for our country and community, and continuing to serve these brave men and women through fundraising projects such as the Soldier Ride. I would also like to recognize U-Haul for sponsoring the event.

Madam Speaker, please join me in recognizing the Wounded Warrior Project and their fundraising efforts, as well as their dedicated sponsor, U-Haul.

GEORGIAN COURT UNIVERSITY CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 22, 2008

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th Anniversary Celebration of Georgian Court University (GCU). For the past 100 years, Georgian Court has been a leader in higher education, encouraging intellectual inquiry, ethical professionalism, and community involvement. Founded as a women's college in 1908 by the Sisters of Mercy, Georgian Court is dedicated to the success of women. The Women's College at GCU provides a liberal arts education tailored to women's learning styles and an environment conducive to achievement. Georgian Court's Women in Leadership Development program is one of the most powerful programs for young women today. By participating in university committees, making presentations, lobbying legislators, and networking with mentors, students develop the skills and tools needed by today's successful women leaders. In the 1970s, Georgian Court established a coeducational graduate program. Today, the University College caters to men and women adult students and offers flexible class schedules with online components at a number of locations throughout the state.

With 29 undergraduate and 8 graduate degree programs, Georgian Court University continues to develop new academic programs to meet the changing needs of the time. A new nursing program established in this Centennial Year will help stem the serious nursing shortage in our state. Accelerated and Executive M.B.A.s allow busy executives to gain the information they need to advance their careers. As 1 of only 50 NASA Educational Resource Centers, Georgian Court ensures that our children's teachers have the most up-to-date scientific information for their classrooms.

Georgian Court University has preserved the estate that comprises its campus and is on the National Register of Historic Places and the New Jersey Register. Over the decades, GCU has added buildings to meet the growing student population—starting with 7 students in 1908 up to more than 3,000 today. Within the past several years, a new wellness center, residence hall, chapel, and science wing have been added to the Georgian Court landscape.

Georgian Court University is an economic force in Lakewood and the surrounding areas, providing employment to thousands over its 100-year history and fueling the local economy. The university is also a cultural gathering place for the community, bringing notable artists, musicians, poets, writers, and political figures to campus for lectures and concerts that are open to the public.

Sending teams of students and staff to poverty-stricken areas of Honduras to install water systems, to New Orleans to rebuild after Hurricane Katrina, or right here in Lakewood to help provide the necessities of life for the homeless, Georgian Court University is a good neighbor and is committed to making the world a better place. Georgian Court is also an ecologically aware citizen, contributing to the sustainability of our environment. Its new wellness center complex has been built with energy efficiency in mind and is being considered for LEED—Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design—certification.

With an abiding commitment to its students, the community, and the greater good, I commend Georgian Court University on its 100 years of academic excellence and community service.

SUNSET MEMORIAL

HON. TRENT FRANKS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 22, 2008

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

It is September 22, 2008, in the land of the free and the home of the brave, and before the sun set today in America, almost 4,000 more 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 13,027 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 he 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 13,027 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 22, 2008, 13,027 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 Tuesday, September 23, 2008 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

SEPTEMBER 24

9:30 a.m.

Foreign Relations

African Affairs Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine Africa's management of its extractive industries.

SD–419

Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Mark Everett Keenum, of Mississippi, to be a Member of the Farm Credit Administration Board, Farm Credit Administration for a term ending May 21, 2014.

SR–328A

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

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

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine the safety and security of spent nuclear fuel transportation.

SR–253

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

Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of James Franklin Jeffrey, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Turkey.

SD–419

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

Environment and Public Works

To hold oversight hearings to examine the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) cleanup of the Superfund site in Libby, Montana.

SD–406

Judiciary

Business meeting to consider S. 3259, to amend title 11, United States Code, with respect to the priority of certain high cost credit debts, H.R. 3971, to encourage States to report to the Attorney General certain information regarding the deaths of individuals in the custody of law enforcement agencies, S. 3501, to ensure that Congress is notified when the Department of Justice determines that the Executive Branch is not bound by a statute, H.R. 1943, to provide for an effective HIV/AIDS program in Federal prisons, S. Res. 659, A resolution designating September 27, 2008, as Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Day, the nominations of Clark Waddoups to be United States District Judge for the District of Utah, Michael M. Anello to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of California, Mary Stenson Scriven to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Florida, Christine M. Arguello to be United States District Judge for the District of Colorado, Philip A. Brimmer to be United States District Judge for the District of Colorado, and Gregory G. Garre of Maryland, to be Solicitor General of the United States, George W. Venables to be United States Marshal for the Southern District of California, A. Brian Albritton to be United States Attorney for the Middle District of Florida, and Dennis Michael Klein to be United States Marshal for the Eastern District of Kentucky, all of the Department of Justice, and the authorization for subpoenas relating to the Department of Justice Office of Legal Counsel.

SH–216

Joint Economic Committee

To hold hearings to examine ways to reduce the number of American families living in poverty.

SD–562

2:15 p.m.

Indian Affairs

Business meeting to consider H.R. 1294, to extend Federal recognition to the Chickahominy Indian Tribe, the Chickahominy Indian Tribe-Eastern Division, the Upper Mattaponi Tribe, the Rappahannock Tribe, Inc., the Monacan Indian Nation, andthe Nansemond Indian Tribe, S. 514, to extend Federal recognition to the Muscogee Nation of Florida, S. 724, to extend the Federal recognition to the Little Shell Tribe of Chippewa Indians of Montana, and S. 1058, to expedite review of the Grand River Bands of Ottawa Indians of Michigan to secure a timely and just determination of whether the Bands are entitled to recognition as a Federal Indian tribe so that the Bands may receive eligible funds before the funds are no longer available.

SD–628

2:30 p.m.

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Federal Financial Management, Government Information, Federal Services, and International Security Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine addressing cost growth of major Department of Defense (DOD) weapons systems.

SD–342

Rules and Administration

Business meeting to consider the nominations of Gracia M. Hillman, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the Election Assistance Commission, Donetta Davidson, of Colorado, to be a Member of the Election Assistance Commission, Rosemary E. Rodriguez, of Colorado, to be a Member of the Election Assistance Commission, and Gineen Bresso Beach, of New York, to be a Member of the Election Assistance Commission for the remainder of the term expiring December 12, 2009.

SR–301

Intelligence

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of J. Patrick Rowan, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Attorney General.

SD–G50

3 p.m.
Foreign Relations
Near Eastern and South and Central Asian Affairs Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine the Middle East peace process, focusing on progress and prospects.
SD–419

10 p.m.
Judiciary
To hold hearings to examine S. 3501, to ensure that Congress is notified when the Department of Justice determines that the Executive Branch is not bound by a statute.
SD–215

CANCELLATIONS

SEPTEMBER 24

10 a.m.
Finance
To hold hearings to examine infrastructure needs and the consequences of inaction.
SD–215

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S9169–S9221

Measures Introduced: Ten bills and ten resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 3528–3537, S. Res. 669–677, and S. Con. Res. 100. **Page S9204**

Measures Reported:

S. 1577, to amend titles XVIII and XIX of the Social Security Act to require screening, including national criminal history background checks, of direct patient access employees of skilled nursing facilities, nursing facilities, and other long-term care facilities and providers, and to provide for nationwide expansion of the pilot program for national and State background checks on direct patient access employees of long-term care facilities or providers, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 110–474)

S. 1933, to amend the Safe Drinking Water Act to provide grants to small public drinking water systems. (S. Rept. No. 110–475)

S. 199, to amend the Safe Drinking Water Amendments of 1996 to modify the grant program to improve sanitation in rural and Native villages in the State of Alaska. (S. Rept. No. 110–476)

S. 906, to prohibit the sale, distribution, transfer, and export of elemental mercury, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 110–477)

S. 3109, to amend the Solid Waste Disposal Act to direct the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to establish a hazardous waste electronic manifest system. (S. Rept. No. 110–478)

S. 3175, to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to reauthorize the predisaster hazard mitigation program, to make technical corrections to that Act, with amendments. (S. Rept. No. 110–479)

S. 3192, to amend the Act of August 9, 1955, to authorize the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians, the Coquille Indian Tribe, and the Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Indians of Oregon to obtain 99-year lease authority for trust land, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 110–480) **Pages S9203–04**

Measures Passed:

Commemorating Irena Sendler: Committee on the Judiciary was discharged from further consideration of S. Con. Res. 96, commemorating Irena Sendler, a woman whose bravery saved the lives of thousands during the Holocaust and remembering her legacy of courage, selflessness, and hope, and the resolution was then agreed to. **Pages S9179–85**

National Medicine Abuse Awareness Month: Committee on the Judiciary was discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 614, designating the month of August 2008 as ''National Medicine Abuse Awareness Month'', and the resolution was then agreed to. **Pages S9179–85**

The Ohio State University Football Team: Committee on the Judiciary was discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 653, celebrating the outstanding athletic accomplishments of The Ohio State University football team for achieving its 800th all-time victory, and the resolution was then agreed to. **Pages S9179–85**

National Child Awareness Month: Committee on the Judiciary was discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 644, designating September 2008 as ''National Child Awareness Month'' to promote awareness of charities benefiting children and youth-serving organizations throughout the United States and recognizing efforts made by these charities and organizations on behalf of children and youth as a positive investment in the future of the United States, and the resolution was then agreed to. **Pages S9179–85**

National Runaway Prevention Month: Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions was discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 646, recognizing and supporting the goals and ideals of National Runaway Prevention Month, and the resolution was then agreed to. **Pages S9179–85**

National Assisted Living Week: Committee on the Judiciary was discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 652, designating the week beginning September 8, 2008, as ''National Assisted Living Week'', and the resolution was then agreed to. **Pages S9179–85**

National Aeronautics and Space Administration 50th Anniversary: Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation was discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 651, honoring the National Aeronautics and Space Administration on the 50th anniversary of its establishment, and the resolution was then agreed to. **Pages S9179–85**

Dandy-Walker syndrome and hydrocephalus: Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions was discharged from further consideration of H. Con. Res. 163, expressing the sense of Congress in support of further research and activities to increase public awareness, professional education, diagnosis, and treatment of Dandy-Walker syndrome and hydrocephalus, and the resolution was then agreed to. **Pages S9179–85**

USS Nautilus (SSN 571) 50th Anniversary: Committee on Armed Services was discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 648, recognizing the 50th anniversary of the crossing of the North Pole by the USS *Nautilus* (SSN 571) and its significance in the history of both our Nation and the world, and the resolution was then agreed to. **Pages S9179–85**

Space Foundation 25th Anniversary: Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation was discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 502, commemorating the 25th anniversary of the Space Foundation, and the resolution was then agreed to. **Pages S9179–85**

National Sudden Cardiac Arrest Awareness Month: Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions was discharged from further consideration of S. Con. Res. 93, supporting the goals and ideals of ''National Sudden Cardiac Arrest Awareness Month'', and the resolution was then agreed to. **Pages S9179–85**

National Heat Stroke Awareness Month: Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions was discharged from further consideration of H. Con. Res. 296, expressing support for the designation of August 2008 as ''National Heat Stroke Awareness Month'' to raise awareness and encourage prevention of heat stroke, and the resolution was then agreed to. **Pages S9179–85**

Senate Select Committee on Nutrition and Human Needs 40th Anniversary: Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry was discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 634, recognizing July 30, 2008, as the 40th anniversary of the enactment of the resolution establishing the Senate Select Committee on Nutrition and Human Needs, and the resolution was then agreed to. **Pages S9179–85**

National Celiac Disease Awareness Day: Committee on the Judiciary was discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 657, designating September 13, 2008, as ''National Celiac Disease Awareness Day'', and the resolution was then agreed to. **Pages S9179–85**

National First Responder Appreciation Day: Senate agreed to S. Res. 670, designating September 25, 2008, as ''National First Responder Appreciation Day''. **Pages S9179–85**

University of Maryland School of Medicine 200th Anniversary: Senate agreed to S. Res. 671, congratulating the University of Maryland School of Medicine on its 200th anniversary. **Pages S9179–85**

National Day of Encouragement: Senate agreed to S. Res. 672, designating September 12, 2008, as ''National Day of Encouragement''. **Pages S9179–85**

Workplace Wellness: Senate agreed to S. Res. 673, recognizing the importance of workplace wellness as a strategy to help maximize employees' health and well being. **Pages S9179–85**

National Falls Prevention Awareness Day: Senate agreed to S. Res. 674, designating September 22, 2008, as ''National Falls Prevention Awareness Day'' to raise awareness and encourage the prevention of falls among older adults. **Pages S9179–85**

National Adoption Day and National Adoption Month: Senate agreed to S. Res. 675, expressing support for the goals of National Adoption Day and National Adoption Month by promoting national awareness of adoption and the children awaiting families, celebrating children and families involved in adoption, and encouraging Americans to secure safety, permanency, and well-being for all children. **Pages S9179–85**

Red Ribbon Week: Senate agreed to S. Res. 676, supporting the goals and ideals of Red Ribbon Week. **Pages S9179–85**

Native American Heritage Day Act: Senate passed H.J. Res. 62, to honor the achievements and contributions of Native Americans to the United States, after agreeing to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute. **Page S9186**

Federal Financial Assistance Management Improvement Act: Senate passed S. 3341, to reauthorize and improve the Federal Financial Assistance Management Improvement Act of 1999. **Pages S9217–18**

Albuquerque Indian School Act: Senate passed S. 1193, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to take into trust 2 parcels of Federal land for the benefit of certain Indian Pueblos in the State of New Mexico. **Page S9218**

Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act: Senate passed H.R. 6893, to amend parts B and E of title IV of the Social Security Act to connect and support relative caregivers, improve outcomes for children in foster care, provide for tribal foster care

and adoption access, improve incentives for adoption, clearing the measure for the President. **Page S9218**

North Korean Human Rights Reauthorization Act: Committee on Foreign Relations was discharged from further consideration of H.R. 5834, to amend the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004 to promote respect for the fundamental human rights of the people of North Korea, and the bill was then passed, after agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto: **Pages S9218–19**

Reid (for Dodd) Amendment No. 5632, to make certain technical and clarifying amendments. **Page S9219**

Legal Representation: Senate agreed to S. Res. 677, to authorize testimony and legal representation in Ramsey, et al. v. Wilson, et al. **Pages S9219–20**

Measures Considered:

Advancing America's Priorities Act: Senate began consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of S. 3297, to advance America's priorities. **Page S9220**

Unemployment Compensation—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be discharged from further consideration of S. 3507, to provide for additional emergency unemployment compensation, and that the bill be referred to the Committee on Finance. **Page S9220**

Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nominations:

Bill Nelson, of Florida, to be a Representative of the United States of America to the Sixty-third Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations.

Bob Corker, of Tennessee, to be a Representative of the United States of America to the Sixty-third Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations. **Pages S9169, S9221**

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

4 Army nominations in the rank of general.

Routine lists in the Army. **Page S9220**

Messages from the House: **Pages S9200–01**

Measures Read the First Time: **Page S9201**

Executive Communications: **Page S9201**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S9204–06**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S9206–16**

Additional Statements: **Pages S9196–S9200**

Amendments Submitted: **Page S9216**

Notices of Hearings/Meetings: **Page S9216**

Recess: Senate convened at 3 p.m. and recessed at 6:42 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, September 23, 2008. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S9220.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

No committee meetings were held.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 16 public bills, H.R. 6980–6995; and 9 resolutions, H. Con. Res. 422; and H. Res. 1471–1475, 1477–1479, were introduced. **Pages H8577–78**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H8578–79**

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 6577, to express the consent and approval of Congress to an interstate compact regarding water resources in the Great Lakes—St. Lawrence River Basin (H. Rept. 110–863);

H.R. 5352, to protect seniors in the United States from elder abuse by establishing specialized elder abuse prosecution and research programs and activities to aid victims of elder abuse and to provide training to prosecutors and other law enforcement related to elder abuse prevention and protection, with an amendment (H. Rept. 110–864, Pt. 1);

H.R. 6370, to transfer excess Federal property administered by the Coast Guard to the Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians (H. Rept. 110–865); and

H.R. 6524, to authorize the Administrator of General Services to take certain actions with respect to parcels of real property located in Eastlake, Ohio, and Koochiching County, Minnesota (H. Rept. 110–866, Pt. 1); and

H. Res. 1476, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 5244) to amend the Truth in Lending Act to establish fair and transparent practices relating to

the extension of credit under an open end consumer credit plan (H. Rept. 110–867). **Page H8577**

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein she appointed Representative Carnahan to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H8479**

Recess: The House recessed at 10:48 a.m. and reconvened at 12 p.m. **Page H8481**

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

Commending the Honor Flight Network, its volunteers, and donors, for enabling World War II veterans to travel to our Nation's capital to see the World War II Memorial created in their honor: H. Res. 1287, to commend the Honor Flight Network, its volunteers, and donors, for enabling World War II veterans to travel to our Nation's capital to see the World War II Memorial created in their honor; **Pages H8481–83**

Veterans' Benefits Enhancement Act of 2008: S. 1315, amended, to amend title 38, United States Code, to enhance veterans' insurance and housing benefits and to improve benefits and services for transitioning servicemembers; **Pages H8487–91**

Minute Man National Historical Park Boundary Revision Act: H.R. 5853, to expand the boundary of the Minute Man National Historical Park in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to include Barrett's Farm; **Page H8496**

Authorizing the expansion of the Fort Davis National Historic Site in Fort Davis, Texas: H.R. 6176, to authorize the expansion of the Fort Davis National Historic Site in Fort Davis, Texas; **Pages H8496–97**

Deafy Glade Land Exchange Act: H.R. 6159, amended, to provide for a land exchange involving certain National Forest System lands in the Mendocino National Forest in the State of California; **Pages H8497–98**

Trail of Tears Documentation Act: H.R. 5335, amended, to amend the National Trails System Act to provide for the inclusion of new trail segments, land components, and campgrounds associated with the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail; **Pages H8498–S8500**

Camp Hale Study Act: H.R. 3336, amended, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to carry out a study to determine the suitability and feasibility of establishing a historic district to the Camp Hale on parcels of land in the State of Colorado; **Page H8500**

Agreed to amend the title so as to read: ''To direct the Secretary of the Interior to carry out a study to determine the suitability and feasibility of establishing Camp Hale as a unit of the National Park System.''. **Page H8500**

Box Elder Utah Land Conveyance Act: H.R. 3849, amended, to provide for the conveyance of parcels of land to Mantua, Box Elder County, Utah; **Pages H8500–01**

Providing for a boundary adjustment and land conveyances involving Roosevelt National Forest, Colorado, to correct the effects of an erroneous land survey that resulted in approximately 7 acres of the Crystal Lakes Subdivision, Ninth Filing, encroaching on National Forest System land: H.R. 3299, amended, to provide for a boundary adjustment and land conveyances involving Roosevelt National Forest, Colorado, to correct the effects of an erroneous land survey that resulted in approximately 7 acres of the Crystal Lakes Subdivision, Ninth Filing, encroaching on National Forest System land; **Pages H8501–02**

Agreed to amend the title so as to read: ''To provide for a boundary adjustment and land conveyances involving Roosevelt National Forest, Colorado, to correct the effects of an erroneous land survey that resulted in approximately 7 acres of the Crystal Lakes Subdivision, Ninth Filing, encroaching on National Forest System land, and for other purposes.''. **Page H8502**

Commemorating the 75th anniversary of the Grand Coulee Dam and recognizing its critical role in the national and economic security of the United States and the contributions of hydroelectric power to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions: H. Res. 1374, to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Grand Coulee Dam and recognizing its critical role in the national and economic security of the United States and the contributions of hydroelectric power to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions; **Pages H8502–03**

Authorizing the Secretary of the Interior to provide an annual grant to facilitate an iron working training program for Native Americans: H.R. 6685, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to provide an annual grant to facilitate an iron working training program for Native Americans, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 302 yeas to 72 nays, Roll No. 616; **Pages H8503, H8543–44**

Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program Act: H.R. 1907, amended, to authorize the acquisition of land and interests in land from willing sellers to improve the conservation of, and to enhance the ecological values and functions of, coastal and estuarine areas to benefit both the environment and the economies of coastal communities, by a ⅔

yea-and-nay vote of 313 yeas to 59 nays, Roll No. 617; **Pages H8503–06, H8544–45**

Nationwide Mortgage Fraud Task Force Act of 2008: H.R. 6853, amended, to establish in the Federal Bureau of Investigation the Nationwide Mortgage Fraud Task Force to address mortgage fraud in the United States, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 350 yeas to 23 nays, Roll No. 618; **Pages H8517–19, H8545**

Agreed to amend the title so as to read: ''To establish in the Federal Bureau of Investigation the Nationwide Mortgage Fraud Coordinator to address mortgage fraud in the United States, and for other purposes.''. **Page H8545**

Commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Azorean Refugee Act of 1958 and celebrating the extensive contributions of Portuguese-American communities to the United States: H. Res. 1438, to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Azorean Refugee Act of 1958 and to celebrate the extensive contributions of Portuguese-American communities to the United States; **Pages H8522–24**

Recognizing and honoring the 50th anniversary of the founding of AARP: H. Res. 1464, to recognize and honor the 50th anniversary of the founding of AARP; **Pages H8524–25**

Extending the waiver authority for the Secretary of Education under section 105 of subtitle A of title IV of division B of Public Law 109–148, relating to elementary and secondary education hurricane recovery relief: H.R. 6890, amended, to extend the waiver authority for the Secretary of Education under section 105 of subtitle A of title IV of division B of Public Law 109–148, relating to elementary and secondary education hurricane recovery relief; **Pages H8525–27**

Agreed to amend the title so as to read: ''To extend the waiver authority for the Secretary of Education under section 105 of subtitle A of title IV of division B of Public Law 109–148, relating to elementary and secondary education hurricane recovery relief, and for other purposes.''. **Page H8527**

Recognizing the benefits of service-learning as a teaching strategy to effectively engage youth in the community and classroom, and supporting the goals of the National Learn and Serve Challenge: H. Res. 1463, amended, to recognize the benefits of service-learning as a teaching strategy to effectively engage youth in the community and classroom, and to support the goals of the National Learn and Serve Challenge; **Pages H8527–28**

Oregon Surplus Federal Land Act of 2008: H.R. 6370, to transfer excess Federal property administered by the Coast Guard to the Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians; **Pages H8530–32**

Authorizing the Administrator of General Services to take certain actions with respect to parcels of real property located in Eastlake, Ohio, and Koochiching County, Minnesota: H.R. 6524, to authorize the Administrator of General Services to take certain actions with respect to parcels of real property located in Eastlake, Ohio, and Koochiching County, Minnesota; **Pages H9532–33**

Honoring Dr. Guion S. "Guy" Bluford, Jr., and the 25th anniversary of his historic flight as the first African-American in space: H. Res. 1466, to honor Dr. Guion S. ''Guy'' Bluford, Jr., and the 25th anniversary of his historic flight as the first African-American in space; **Pages H8533–34**

Expressing support for the designation of a 4–H National Youth Science Day: H. Res. 1390, to express support for the designation of a 4–H National Youth Science Day; and **Pages H8538–39**

Honoring the 50th anniversary of the successful demonstration of the first integrated circuit and its impact on the electronics industry: H. Res. 1471, to honor the 50th anniversary of the successful demonstration of the first integrated circuit and its impact on the electronics industry. **Pages H8541–43**

Recess: The House recessed at 4:32 p.m. and reconvened at 6:30 p.m. **Page H8543**

Suspensions—Proceedings Postponed: The House debated the following measures under suspension of the rules. Further proceedings were postponed:

Filipino Veterans Equity Act of 2008: H.R. 6897, amended, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to make certain payments to eligible persons who served in the Philippines during World War II; **Pages H8483–87**

Revolutionary War and War of 1812 Battlefield Protection Act: H.R. 160, amended, to amend the American Battlefield Protection Act of 1996 to establish a battlefield acquisition grant program for the acquisition and protection of nationally significant battlefields and associated sites of the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812; **Pages H8491–93**

Civil War Battlefield Preservation Act of 2008: H.R. 2933, amended, to amend the American Battlefield Protection Act of 1996 to extend the authorization for that Act; **Pages H8493–95**

Palo Alto Battlefield National Historical Park Boundary Expansion and Redesignation Act of 2008: H.R. 4828, amended, to amend the Palo Alto

Battlefield National Historic Site Act of 1991 to expand the boundaries of the historic site;

Pages H8595–96

Great Lakes—St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact: S.J. Res. 45, to express the consent and approval of Congress to an interstate compact regarding water resources in the Great Lakes—St. Lawrence River Basin; **Pages H8506–17**

Elder Abuse Victims Act of 2008: H.R. 5352, amended, to protect seniors in the United States from elder abuse by establishing specialized elder abuse prosecution and research programs and activities to aid victims of elder abuse and to provide training to prosecutors and other law enforcement related to elder abuse prevention and protection;

Pages H8519–22

College Fire Prevention Act: H.R. 642, amended, to establish a demonstration incentive program within the Department of Education to promote installation of fire sprinkler systems, or other fire suppression or prevention technologies, in qualified student housing and dormitories; **Pages H8528–30**

United States Fire Administration Reauthorization Act of 2008: S. 2606, to reauthorize the United States Fire Administration; and **Pages H8534–38**

Establishing a research, development, demonstration, and commercial application program to promote research of appropriate technologies for heavy duty plug-in hybrid vehicles: H.R. 6323, amended, to establish a research, development, demonstration, and commercial application program to promote research of appropriate technologies for heavy duty plug-in hybrid vehicles. **Pages H8539–41**

Senate Messages: Message received from the Senate by the Clerk and subsequently presented to the House and a message received from the Senate today appear on pages S8481 and S8543.

Senate Referrals: S. 531 was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources and S. 2606 was held at the desk. **Page H8566**

Quorum Calls—Votes: Three yea-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H8543–44, H8544–45, and H8545. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 10:30 a.m. and adjourned at 10:18 p.m.

Committee Meeting

RETAIL CRIME

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism and Homeland Security held a hearing on the following bills: H.R. 6713, E-fencing Enforcement Act of 2008; H.R. 6491, Organized Retail Crime Act of 2008; and S. 3434, Combating Organized Retail Crime Act of 2008. Testimony was heard from Congressman Brad Ellsworth; and public witnesses.

CREDIT CARDHOLDER BILL OF RIGHTS ACT

Committee on Rules: Granted, by a recorded vote of 7–4, a rule providing for consideration of H.R. 5244, ''the Credit Cardholders' Bill of Rights Act of 2008.'' The rule provides for one hour general debate equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Financial Services. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill except clauses 9 and 10 of rule XXI. The rule provides that the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Financial Services now printed in the bill shall be considered as adopted and the bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions of the bill, as amended, are waived.

The rule provides one motion to recommit with or without instructions. The rule provides that notwithstanding the operation of the previous question, the Chair may postpone further consideration of the bill to a time designated by the Speaker. The rule allows the chairman of the Committee on Armed Services to insert in the Congressional Record at any time during the remainder of the second session of the 110th Congress such material as he may deem explanatory of defense authorization measures for the fiscal year 2009. Testimony was heard from Representatives Maloney of New York, and Campbell.

NEW PUBLIC LAWS

(For last listing of Public Laws, see DAILY DIGEST, *p. D1123)*

H.R. 6456, to provide for extensions of certain authorities of the Department of State. Signed on September 19, 2008. (Public Law 110–321)

S. 2450, to amend the Federal Rules of Evidence to address the waiver of the attorney-client privilege and the work product doctrine. Signed on September 19, 2008. (Public Law 110–322)

H.R. 5683, to make certain reforms with respect to the Government Accountability Office. Signed on September 22, 2008. (Public Law 110–323)

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2008

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies, with the Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government, to hold joint hearings to examine food marketing to children, 10:30 a.m., SD–192.

Committee on 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, 9:30 a.m., SD–106.

Committee on 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, 9:30 a.m., SD–G50.

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

Committee on 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, 10 a.m., SD–366.

Committee on Environment and Public Works: to hold hearings to examine regulation of greenhouse gases under the Clean Air Act (Public Law 101–549), 10 a.m., SD–406.

Committee on Finance: to hold hearings to examine covering the uninsured, focusing on making health insurance markets work, 10 a.m., SD–215.

Committee on Foreign Relations: business meeting to consider Protocols to the North Atlantic Treaty of 1949 on the Accession of the Republic of Albania and the Republic of Croatia adopted at Brussels on July 9, 2008, and signed that day on behalf of the United States and the other Parties to the North Atlantic Treaty (Treaty Doc. 110–20), Amendments to the Constitution and Convention of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) (Geneva 1992), as amended by the Plenipotentiary Conference (Kyoto 1994), together with declarations and reservations by the United States as contained in the Final Acts of the Plenipotentiary Conference (Minneapolis 1998) (Treaty Doc. 108–05), Amendments to the Constitution and Convention of the International Telecommunication Union (Geneva, 1992), as amended by the Plenipotentiary Conference (Kyoto, 1994) and the Plenipotentiary Conference (Minneapolis, 1998), together with the declarations and reservations by the United States, all as contained in the Final Acts of the Plenipotentiary Conference (Marrakesh, 2002) (Treaty Doc. 109–11), Amendments to the Constitution and Convention of the International Telecommunication Union (Geneva, 1992), as Amended by the Plenipotentiary Conference (Kyoto, 1994) and the Plenipotentiary Conference (Marrakesh, 2002), Together with the Declarations and Reservations by the United States, all as Contained in the Final Acts of the Plenipotentiary Conference (Antalya, 2006) (Treaty Doc. 110–16), S. 2609, to establish a Global Service Fellowship Program, S. 3103, to amend the Iran, North Korea, and Syria nonproliferation Act to allow certain extraordinary payments in connection with the International Space Station, S. 1007, to direct the Secretary of State to work with the Government of Brazil and other foreign governments to develop partnerships that will strengthen diplomatic relations and energy security by accelerating the development of biofuels production, research, and infrastructure to alleviate poverty, create jobs, and increase income, while improving energy security and protecting the environment, S. 3426, to amend the Foreign Service Act of 1980 to extend comparability pay adjustments to members of the Foreign Service assigned to posts abroad, and to amend the provision relating to the death gratuity payable to surviving dependents on Foreign Service employees who die as a result of injuries sustained in the performance of duty abroad, S. Res. 598, expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the need for the United States to lead renewed international efforts to assist developing nations in conserving natural resources and preventing the impending extinction of a large portion of the world's plant and animal species, an original bill entitled, ''Security Assistance Act'', and the nominations of Brian H. Hook, of Iowa, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (International Organization Affairs), Sung Y. Kim, of California, a Foreign Service Officer of Class One, for the rank of Ambassador during his tenure of service as Special Envoy for the Six Party Talks, Gregori Lebedev, of Virginia, to be Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations for U.N. Management and Reform, with the rank of Ambassador and to be Alternate Representative of the United States to the United Nations, during his tenure of service as Representative of the United States to the United Nations for U.N. Management and Reform, Clifford D. May, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Broadcasting Board of Governors, C. Steven McGann, of New York, to be Ambassador to the Republic of the Fiji Islands, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador to the Republic of Nauru, the Kingdom of Tonga, Tuvalu, and the Republic of Kiribati, and other pending nominations, 2:15 p.m., S–116, Capitol.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: Subcommittee on Employment and Workplace Safety, to hold hearings to examine investing in a skilled workforce, focusing on making the best use of tax-payer dollars to maximize results, 10 a.m., SD–430.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Disaster Recovery, to hold hearings to examine after action reviews of Federal, State, and local activities to respond and recover from Hurricanes Gustav and Ike, 10 a.m., SD–562.

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

Full Committee, business meeting to consider S. 3474, to amend title 44, United States Code, to enhance information security of the Federal Government, S. 3384, to amend section 11317 of title 40, United States Code, to

require greater accountability for cost overruns on Federal IT investment projects, H.R. 2631, to strengthen efforts in the Department of Homeland Security to develop nuclear forensics capabilities to permit attribution of the source of nuclear material, H.R. 6098, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to improve the financial assistance provided to State, local, and tribal governments for information sharing activities, H.R. 3815, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to make full and efficient use of open source information to develop and disseminate open source homeland security information products, S. 3176, to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to authorize the President to provide mental health and substance abuse services, an original bill to establish a controlled unclassified information framework, H.R. 6073, to provide that Federal employees receiving their pay by electronic funds transfer shall be given the option of receiving their pay stubs electronically, to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide for 8 weeks of paid leave for Federal employees giving birth, S. 3350, to provide that claims of the United States to certain documents relating to Franklin Delano Roosevelt shall be treated as waived and relinquished in certain circumstances, S. 3477, to amend title 44, United States Code, to authorize grants for Presidential Centers of Historical Excellence, H.R. 5975 and S. 3317, bills to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 101 West Main Street in Waterville, New York, as the ''Cpl. John P. Sigsbee Post Office'', H.R. 6092, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 101 Tallapoosa Street in Bremen, Georgia, as the ''Sergeant Paul Saylor Post Office Building'', S. 3309, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2523 7th Avenue East in North Saint Paul, Minnesota, as the Mayor William ''Bill'' Sandberg Post Office Building, H.R. 6437, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 200 North Texas Avenue in Odessa, Texas, as the ''Corporal Alfred Mac Wilson Post Office'', and the nominations of Ruth Y. Goldway, of California, to be a Commissioner of the Postal Regulatory Commission, and Carol Waller Pope, of the District of Columbia, and Thomas M. Beck, of Virginia, both to be a Member of the Federal Labor Relations Authority, 12 noon, S–216, Capitol.

Subcommittee on Oversight of Government Management, the Federal Workforce, and the District of Columbia, 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, 2:30 p.m., SD–342.

Committee on Indian Affairs: business meeting to consider H.R. 5680, to amend certain laws relating to Native Americans, H.R. 2963, to transfer certain land in Riverside County, California, and San Diego County, California, from the Bureau of Land Management to the United States to be held in trust for the Pechanga Band of Luiseno Mission Indians, S. 3194, to transfer surplus Federal land administered by the Coast Guard in the State of Oregon, S. 3128, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to provide a loan to the White Mountain Apache Tribe for use in planning, engineering, and designing a certain water system project, S. 3355, to authorize the Crow Tribe of Indians water rights settlement, and S. 3381, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Commissioner of Reclamation, to develop water infrastructure in the Rio Grande Basin, and to approve the settlement of the water rights claims of the Pueblos of Nambe, Pojoaque, San Ildefonso, Tesuque, and Taos, 10 a.m., SD–628.

Committee on the Judiciary: to hold hearings to examine equal pay for equal work, 10 a.m., SH–216.

Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of C. Darnell Jones II to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, Mitchell S. Goldberg to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, Joel H. Slomsky to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, Eric F. Melgren to be United States District Judge for the District of Kansas, and Anthony John Trenga to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Virginia, 3 p.m., SD–562.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: business meeting to consider the nomination of Patrick W. Dunne, of New York, to be Under Secretary for Benefits of the Department of Veterans Affairs, 10 a.m., S–213, Capitol.

Select Committee on Intelligence: to hold hearings to examine the new Attorney General guidelines for domestic intelligence collection, 2:30 p.m., SH–216.

House

Committee on Armed Services, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing on the Department of Defense's work with states, universities and students to transform the nation's foreign language capacity, 10 a.m., 2212 Rayburn.

Committee on Education and Labor, Subcommittee on Workforce Protections, hearing on Child Labor Enforcement: Are We Adequately Protecting our Children, 11 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, to mark up the following legislation: H.R. 1283, Arthritis Prevention, Control, and Cure Act of 2007; H.R. 3232, Travel Promotion Act of 2007; H.R. Calling Card Consumer Protection Act; H.R. 1157, Breast Cancer and Environmental Research Act of 2007; legislation to amend Part II of the Federal Power Act to address potential cybersecurity threats to the bulk power system; and H.R. 6568, Tom Lantos Pulmonary Hypertension Research and Education Act of 2008, 10 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, Subcommittee on Western Hemisphere, hearing on the Hurricanes in Haiti: Disaster and Recovery, 10 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Committee on the Judiciary, to mark up the following legislation: H.R. 6598, Prevention of Equine Cruelty Act of 2008; H.R. 5882, To recapture employment-based immigration visas lost to bureaucratic delays and to prevent losses of family- and employment-based immigrant visas in the future; H.R. 5924, Emergency Nursing Supply Relief Act; H.R. 5950, Detainee Basic Medical Care Act

of 2008; and a resolution and report recommending to the House of Representatives that Attorney General Michael B. Mukasey be cited for contempt of Congress, 1 p.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Immigration, Citizenship, Refugees, Border Security and International Law, hearing on the Executive Office of Immigration Review, 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Committee on Natural Resources, Subcommittee on Insular Affairs, oversight hearing on Identifying Labor Solutions for the Guam Military Build-Up, 2 p.m., 1324 Longworth.

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, Subcommittee on Domestic Policy, hearing on Necessary Reform to Pediatric Dental Care under Medicaid, 10 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings and Emergency Management, hearing on FEMA's Response to the 2008 Hurricane Season and the National Housing Strategy, 2 p.m., 2167 Rayburn.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs, Oversight and Investigations, hearing on Media Outreach to Veterans: An Update, 10 a.m., 2247 Rayburn.

Committee on Ways and Means, Subcommittee on Health, hearing on Health of the Private Health Insurance market, 10 a.m., 1100 Longworth.

Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, executive, briefing on CIA's Clandestine Service, 2 p.m., H–405 Capitol.

CONGRESSIONAL PROGRAM AHEAD

Week of September 23 through September 27, 2008

Senate Chamber

On *Tuesday*, at approximately 11 a.m. Senate will begin consideration of H.R. 6049, Renewable Energy and Job Creation Act, and consider certain amendments.

During the balance of the week, Senate may consider any cleared legislative and executive business.

Senate Committees

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry: September 24, to hold hearings to examine the nomination of Mark Everett Keenum, of Mississippi, to be a Member of the Farm Credit Administration Board, Farm Credit Administration for a term ending May 21, 2014, 9:30 a.m., SR–328A.

September 24, Full Committee, with the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Disaster Recovery, 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, 10 a.m., SR–328A.

Committee on Appropriations: September 23, Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies, with the Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government, to hold joint hearings to examine food marketing to children, 10:30 a.m., SD–192.

Committee on Armed Services: September 23, 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, 9:30 a.m., SD–106.

September 25, Full Committee, 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, 9:30 a.m., SD–106.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: September 23, to hold hearings to examine turmoil in United States credit markets, focusing on recent actions regarding investment banks and other financial institutions, 9:30 a.m., SD–G50.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: September 23, to hold oversight hearings to examine the transition to digital television, focusing on the February 2009 deadline, 2:30 p.m., SR–253.

September 24, Subcommittee on Interstate Commerce, Trade, and Tourism, to hold hearings to examine the imbalance in United States-Korea automobile trade, 10 a.m., SR–253.

September 24, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the safety and security of spent nuclear fuel transportation, 2:30 p.m., SR–253.

September 25, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine broadband providers and consumer privacy, 10 a.m., SR–253.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: September 23, to hold hearings to examine reasons that diesel fuel prices have been so high and what can be done to address this situation, 10 a.m., SD–366.

Committee on Environment and Public Works: September 23, to hold hearings to examine regulation of greenhouse gases under the Clean Air Act (Public Law 101–549), 10 a.m., SD–406.

September 24, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the Bush Administration's environmental record at the Department of the Interior and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), 2:30 p.m., SD–406.

September 25, Full Committee, to hold oversight hearings to examine the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) cleanup of the Superfund site in Libby, Montana, 10 a.m., SD–406.

Committee on Finance: September 23, to hold hearings to examine covering the uninsured, focusing on making health insurance markets work, 10 a.m., SD–215.

Committee on Foreign Relations: September 23, business meeting to consider Protocols to the North Atlantic Treaty of 1949 on the Accession of the Republic of Albania and the Republic of Croatia adopted at Brussels on July 9, 2008, and signed that day on behalf of the United States and the other Parties to the North Atlantic Treaty (Treaty Doc. 110–20), Amendments to the Constitution and Convention of the International Telecommunication

Union (ITU) (Geneva 1992), as amended by the Plenipotentiary Conference (Kyoto 1994), together with declarations and reservations by the United States as contained in the Final Acts of the Plenipotentiary Conference (Minneapolis 1998) (Treaty Doc. 108–05), Amendments to the Constitution and Convention of the International Telecommunication Union (Geneva, 1992), as amended by the Plenipotentiary Conference (Kyoto, 1994) and the Plenipotentiary Conference (Minneapolis, 1998), together with the declarations and reservations by the United States, all as contained in the Final Acts of the Plenipotentiary Conference (Marrakesh, 2002) (Treaty Doc. 109–11), Amendments to the Constitution and Convention of the International Telecommunication Union (Geneva, 1992), as Amended by the Plenipotentiary Conference (Kyoto, 1994) and the Plenipotentiary Conference (Marrakesh, 2002), Together with the Declarations and Reservations by the United States, all as Contained in the Final Acts of the Plenipotentiary Conference (Antalya, 2006) (Treaty Doc. 110–16), S. 2609, to establish a Global Service Fellowship Program, S. 3103, to amend the Iran, North Korea, and Syria nonproliferation Act to allow certain extraordinary payments in connection with the International Space Station, S. 1007, to direct the Secretary of State to work with the Government of Brazil and other foreign governments to develop partnerships that will strengthen diplomatic relations and energy security by accelerating the development of biofuels production, research, and infrastructure to alleviate poverty, create jobs, and increase income, while improving energy security and protecting the environment, S. 3426, to amend the Foreign Service Act of 1980 to extend comparability pay adjustments to members of the Foreign Service assigned to posts abroad, and to amend the provision relating to the death gratuity payable to surviving dependents on Foreign Service employees who die as a result of injuries sustained in the performance of duty abroad, S. Res. 598, expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the need for the United States to lead renewed international efforts to assist developing nations in conserving natural resources and preventing the impending extinction of a large portion of the world's plant and animal species, an original bill entitled, ''Security Assistance Act'', and the nominations of Brian H. Hook, of Iowa, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (International Organization Affairs), Sung Y. Kim, of California, a Foreign Service Officer of Class One, for the rank of Ambassador during his tenure of service as Special Envoy for the Six Party Talks, Gregori Lebedev, of Virginia, to be Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations for U.N. Management and Reform, with the rank of Ambassador and to be Alternate Representative of the United States to the United Nations, during his tenure of service as Representative of the United States to the United Nations for U.N. Management and Reform, Clifford D. May, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Broadcasting Board of Governors, C. Steven McGann, of New York, to be Ambassador to the Republic of the Fiji Islands, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador to the Republic of Nauru, the Kingdom of Tonga, Tuvalu, and the Republic of Kiribati, and other pending nominations, 2:15 p.m., S–116, Capitol.

September 24, Subcommittee on African Affairs, to hold hearings to examine Africa's management of its extractive industries, 9:30 a.m., SD–419.

September 24, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the nomination of James Franklin Jeffrey, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Turkey, 2:30 p.m., SD–419.

September 25, Subcommittee on Near Eastern and South and Central Asian Affairs, to hold hearings to examine the Middle East peace process, focusing on progress and prospects, 3 p.m., SD–419.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: September 23, Subcommittee on Employment and Workplace Safety, to hold hearings to examine investing in a skilled workforce, focusing on making the best use of taxpayer dollars to maximize results, 10 a.m., SD–430.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: September 23, Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Disaster Recovery, to hold hearings to examine after action reviews of Federal, State, and local activities to respond and recover from Hurricanes Gustav and Ike, 10 a.m., SD–562.

September 23, Subcommittee on Federal Financial Management, Government Information, Federal Services, and International Security, to hold hearings to examine reducing the undercount in the 2010 census, 10:30 a.m., SD–342.

September 23, Full Committee, business meeting to consider S. 3474, to amend title 44, United States Code, to enhance information security of the Federal Government, S. 3384, to amend section 11317 of title 40, United States Code, to require greater accountability for cost overruns on Federal IT investment projects, H.R. 2631, to strengthen efforts in the Department of Homeland Security to develop nuclear forensics capabilities to permit attribution of the source of nuclear material, H.R. 6098, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to improve the financial assistance provided to State, local, and tribal governments for information sharing activities, H.R. 3815, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to make full and efficient use of open source information to develop and disseminate open source homeland security information products, S. 3176, to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to authorize the President to provide mental health and substance abuse services, an original bill to establish a controlled unclassified information framework, H.R. 6073, to provide that Federal employees receiving their pay by electronic funds transfer shall be given the option of receiving their pay stubs electronically, to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide for 8 weeks of paid leave for Federal employees giving birth, S. 3350, to provide that claims of the United States to certain documents relating to Franklin Delano Roosevelt shall be treated as waived and relinquished in certain circumstances, S. 3477, to amend title 44, United States Code, to authorize grants for Presidential Centers of Historical Excellence, H.R. 5975 and S. 3317, bills to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 101 West

Main Street in Waterville, New York, as the ''Cpl. John P. Sigsbee Post Office'', H.R. 6092, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 101 Tallapoosa Street in Bremen, Georgia, as the ''Sergeant Paul Saylor Post Office Building'', S. 3309, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2523 7th Avenue East in North Saint Paul, Minnesota, as the Mayor William ''Bill'' Sandberg Post Office Building, H.R. 6437, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 200 North Texas Avenue in Odessa, Texas, as the ''Corporal Alfred Mac Wilson Post Office'', and the nominations of Ruth Y. Goldway, of California, to be a Commissioner of the Postal Regulatory Commission, and Carol Waller Pope, of the District of Columbia, and Thomas M. Beck, of Virginia, both to be a Member of the Federal Labor Relations Authority, 12 noon, S–216, Capitol.

September 23, Subcommittee on Oversight of Government Management, the Federal Workforce, and the District of Columbia, 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, 2:30 p.m., SD–342.

September 24, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine domestic partner benefits for federal employees, 10 a.m., SD–342.

September 24, Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Disaster Recovery, with the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, 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, 10 a.m., SR–328A.

September 24, Ad Hoc Subcommittee on State, Local, and Private Sector Preparedness and Integration, to hold hearings to examine the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) future preparedness planning, 2:30 p.m., SD–342.

September 25, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine ways to prevent nuclear terrorism, focusing on hard lessons learned from troubled investments, 9:30 a.m., SD–342.

September 25, Subcommittee on Federal Financial Management, Government Information, Federal Services, and International Security, to hold hearings to examine addressing cost growth of major Department of Defense (DOD) weapons systems, 2:30 p.m., SD–342.

Committee on Indian Affairs: September 23, business meeting to consider H.R. 5680, to amend certain laws relating to Native Americans, H.R. 2963, to transfer certain land in Riverside County, California, and San Diego County, California, from the Bureau of Land Management to the United States to be held in trust for the Pechanga Band of Luiseno Mission Indians, S. 3194, to transfer surplus Federal land administered by the Coast Guard in the State of Oregon, S. 3128, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to provide a loan to the White Mountain Apache Tribe for use in planning, engineering, and designing a certain water system project, S. 3355, to authorize the Crow Tribe of Indians water rights settlement, and S. 3381, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Commissioner of Reclamation, to develop water infrastructure in the Rio Grande Basin, and to approve the settlement of the water rights claims of the Pueblos of Nambe, Pojoaque, San Ildefonso, Tesuque, and Taos, 10 a.m., SD–628.

September 25, Full Committee, business meeting to consider H.R. 1294, to extend Federal recognition to the Chickahominy Indian Tribe, the Chickahominy Indian Tribe-Eastern Division, the Upper Mattaponi Tribe, the Rappahannock Tribe, Inc., the Monacan Indian Nation, and the Nansemond Indian Tribe, S. 514, to extend Federal recognition to the Muscogee Nation of Florida, S. 724, to extend the Federal recognition to the Little Shell Tribe of Chippewa Indians of Montana, and S. 1058, to expedite review of the Grand River Bands of Ottawa Indians of Michigan to secure a timely and just determination of whether the Bands are entitled to recognition as a Federal Indian tribe so that the Bands may receive eligible funds before the funds are no longer available, 2:15 p.m., SD–628.

Committee on the Judiciary: September 23, to hold hearings to examine equal pay for equal work, 10 a.m., SH–216.

September 23, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of C. Darnell Jones II to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, Mitchell S. Goldberg to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, Joel H. Slomsky to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, Eric F. Melgren to be United States District Judge for the District of Kansas, and Anthony John Trenga to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Virginia, 3 p.m., SD–562.

September 24, Subcommittee on Human Rights and the Law, to hold hearings to examine extracting natural resources, focusing on corporate responsibility and the rule of law, 10:45 a.m., SH–216.

September 24, Subcommittee on Terrorism, Technology and Homeland Security, to hold hearings to examine the Visa Waiver Program, focusing on mitigating risks to ensure the safety of all Americans, 2:30 p.m., SH–216.

September 25, Full Committee, business meeting to consider S. 3259, to amend title 11, United States Code, with respect to the priority of certain high cost credit debts, H.R. 3971, to encourage States to report to the Attorney General certain information regarding the deaths of individuals in the custody of law enforcement agencies, S. 3501, to ensure that Congress is notified when the Department of Justice determines that the Executive Branch is not bound by a statute, H.R. 1943, to provide for an effective HIV/AIDS program in Federal prisons, S. Res. 659, A resolution designating September 27, 2008, as Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Day, the nominations of Clark Waddoups to be United States District Judge for the District of Utah, Michael M. Anello to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of California, Mary Stenson Scriven to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of

Florida, Christine M. Arguello to be United States District Judge for the District of Colorado, Philip A. Brimmer to be United States District Judge for the District of Colorado, and Gregory G. Garre of Maryland, to be Solicitor General of the United States, George W. Venables to be United States Marshal for the Southern District of California, A. Brian Albritton to be United States Attorney for the Middle District of Florida, and Dennis Michael Klein to be United States Marshal for the Eastern District of Kentucky, all of the Department of Justice, and the authorization for subpoenas relating to the Department of Justice Office of Legal Counsel, 10 a.m., SH–216.

September 25, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine S. 3501, to ensure that Congress is notified when the Department of Justice determines that the Executive Branch is not bound by a statute, 10 p.m., SD–215.

Committee on Rules and Administration: September 25, business meeting to consider the nominations of Gracia M. Hillman, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the Election Assistance Commission, Donetta Davidson, of Colorado, to be a Member of the Election Assistance Commission, Rosemary E. Rodriguez, of Colorado, to be a Member of the Election Assistance Commission, and Gineen Bresso Beach, of New York, to be a Member of the Election Assistance Commission for the remainder of the term expiring December 12, 2009, 2:30 p.m., SR–301.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: September 23, business meeting to consider the nomination of Patrick W. Dunne, of New York, to be Under Secretary for Benefits of the Department of Veterans Affairs, 10 a.m., S–213, Capitol.

September 24, Full Committee, to hold oversight hearings to examine cooperation and collaboration by the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Defense on information technology efforts, 9:30 a.m., SR–418.

Select Committee on Intelligence: September 23, to hold hearings to examine the new Attorney General guidelines for domestic intelligence collection, 2:30 p.m., SH–216.

September 25, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the nomination of J. Patrick Rowan, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Attorney General, 2:30 p.m., SD–G50.

Special Committee on Aging: September 24, to hold hearings to examine ways to respect Americans' choices at the end of life, 10:30 a.m., SD–562.

House Committees

Committee on Agriculture, September 25, Subcommittee on Livestock, Dairy, and Poultry, hearing to review advances in animal health within the livestock industry, 10 a.m., 1300 Longworth.

Committee on Appropriations, September 24, Subcommittee on Legislative, on Capitol Visitor Center, oversight, 11 a.m., 2362A Rayburn.

Committee on Armed Services, September 23, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing on the Department of Defense's work with states, universities and students to transform the nation's foreign language capacity, 10 a.m., 2212 Rayburn.

September 24, full Committee, hearing on Consideration for an American Grand Strategy, 10 a.m., 2118 Rayburn.

Committee on the Budget, September 25, hearing on Budget Reform Proposals for the 111th Congress, 2 p.m., 210 Cannon.

September 26, full Committee, hearing on Federal Responses to Market Turmoil: What's the Impact on the Budget, 10 a.m., 210 Cannon.

Committee on Education and Labor, September 24, hearing on Child Labor Enforcement: Are We Adequately Protecting our Children? 11 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

September 25, full Committee, hearing on Safeguarding Retiree Benefits, 10 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, September 23, to mark up the following legislation: H.R. 1283, Arthritis Prevention, Control, and Cure Act of 2007; H.R. 3232, Travel Promotion Act of 2007; H.R. Calling Card Consumer Protection Act; H.R. 1157, Breast Cancer and Environmental Research Act of 2007; legislation to amend Part II of the Federal Power Act to address potential cybersecurity threats to the bulk power system; and H.R. 6568, Tom Lantos Pulmonary Hypertension Research and Education Act of 2008, 10 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

September 24, Subcommittee on Environment and Hazardous Materials, hearing on Hazardous Substance Releases and Reporting under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA) and the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act of 1986 (EPCRA), 10 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, September 24, hearing on The Future of Financial Services: Exploring Solutions for the Market Crisis, 2:30 p.m., 2128 Rayburn.

September 25, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing to Review of Continuing Security Concerns at DOE's National Labs, 10 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

September 25, full Committee, oversight hearing to Examine Recent Treasury and FHFA Actions Regarding the Housing GSE's, 12 p.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, September 23, Subcommittee on Western Hemisphere, hearing on the Hurricanes in Haiti: Disaster and Recovery, 10 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Committee on Homeland Security, September 24, Subcommittee on Intelligence, Information Sharing and Terrorism Risk Assessment, hearing on A Report Card on Homeland Security Information Sharing, 10 a.m., 311 Cannon.

Committee on House Administration, September 25, hearing on Ensuring the Rights of College Students to Vote, 1:30 p.m., 1310 Longworth.

Committee on the Judiciary, September 22, Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism and Homeland Security, hearing on the following bills: H.R. 6713, E-fencing Enforcement Act of 2008; H.R. 6491, Organized Retail Crime Act of 2008; and S. 3434, Combating Organized Retail Crime Act of 2008, 4 p.m., 2141 Rayburn.

September 23, Subcommittee on Immigration, Citizenship, Refugees, Border Security and International Law,

hearing on the Executive Office of Immigration Review, 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

September 24, Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights and Civil Liberties, and the Subcommittee on Elections of the Committee on House Administration, joint hearing on Federal, State and Local Efforts to Prepare for the 2008 General Election, 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

September 26, Subcommittee on Commercial and Administrative Law, hearing on Lehman Brothers, Sharper Image, Bennigan's, and Beyond: Is Chapter 11 Bankruptcy Working? 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Committee on Natural Resources, September 23, Subcommittee on Insular Affairs, oversight hearing on Identifying Labor Solutions for the Guam Military Build-Up, 2 p.m., 1324 Longworth.

September 24, Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife and Oceans, oversight hearing on recent trends concerning annual budgets for the National Wildlife Refuge System and implications for management activities, 10 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

September 25, Subcommittee on Water and Power, hearing on the following legislation: H.R. 883, Oglala Sioux Tribe Angostura Irrigation Project Modernization and Development Act; H.R. 6754, White Mountain Apache Tribe Rural Water System Loan Authorization Act; H.R. 6768, To authorize the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Commissioner of Reclamation, to develop water infrastructure in the Rio Grande Basin, and to approve the settlement of the water rights claims of the Pueblos of Nambe, Pojoaque, San Ildefonso, Tesuque, and Taos; and legislation to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to establish a program to facilitate the transfer to non-Federal ownership of appropriate reclamation projects or facilities, 10 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, September 23, Subcommittee on Domestic Policy, hearing on Necessary Reform to Pediatric Dental Care under Medicaid, 10 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

September 24, full Committee, hearing on Implementation and Enforcement of the Clean Water Act, 10 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

September 24, Subcommittee on Government Management, Organization, and Procurement, hearing on Passing the Baton: Preparing for the Presidential Transition, 2 p.m., 2247 Rayburn.

September 24, Subcommittee on Information Policy, Census and National Archives, hearing on How Information Policy Affects Competitive Viability in Minority Contracting, 2 p.m., 2154 Rayburn.

September 24, Subcommittee on National Security, and Foreign Affairs, hearing on Oversight of U.S.-Pakistan Relations: From Ad Hoc and Transactional to Strategic and Enduring, 2 p.m., 2203 Rayburn.

September 25, Subcommittee on Domestic Policy, hearing on Tumors and Cell Phone use: What the Science Says, 2 p.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Committee on Rules, September 22, to consider H.R. 5244, Credit Cardholders' Bill of Rights Act of 2008, 5 p.m., H–313 Capitol

Committee on Small Business, September 24, Subcommittee on Contracting and Technology, hearing on Small Business Recovery from the Midwest Disasters of 2008, 2 p.m., 1539 Longworth.

September 25, full Committee, hearing on Small Business Competition Policy: Are Markets Open for Entrepreneurs? 10 a.m., 1539 Longworth.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, September 23, Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings and Emergency Management, hearing on FEMA's Response to the 2008 Hurricane Season and the National Housing Strategy, 2 p.m., 2167 Rayburn.

September 24, full Committee, to mark up the following: H.R. 6707, Taking Responsible Action for Community Safety Act; GSA Capital Investment and Leasing Program Resolutions; U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Survey Resolution; and other matters, 11 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

September 24, full Committee, hearing on National Mediation Board Oversight of Elections for Union Representation, 2 p.m., 2167 Rayburn.

September 25, Subcommittee on Aviation, hearing on Runway Safety: An Update, 10 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs, September 23, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing on Media Outreach to Veterans: An Update, 10 a.m., 2247 Rayburn.

September 24, Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity, to continue oversight hearings on G.I. Bill Implementation, 1 p.m., 340 Cannon.

Committee on Ways and Means, September 23, Subcommittee on Health, hearing on Health of the Private Health Insurance market, 10 a.m., 1100 Longworth.

September 24, Subcommittee on Oversight, hearing on Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, 11 a.m., 1100 Longworth.

Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, September 23, executive, briefing, 2 p.m., H–405 Capitol.

September 24, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, executive, to consider pending business, 10 a.m., H–405 Capitol.

September 24, Subcommittee on Terrorism, Human Intelligence, Analysis and Counterintelligence, executive, to consider pending business, 3 p.m., H–405 Capitol.

September 25, full Committee, executive, to consider pending business, 1:30 p.m., H–405 Capitol.

September 24, Subcommittee on Terrorism, Human Intelligence, Analysis and Counterintelligence, briefing on Hot Spots, 8:45 a.m., H–405 Capitol.

Select Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming, September 25, hearing on The Future of LIHEAP Funding: Will Families Get The Cold Shoulder This Winter? 9:30 a..m., room to be announced.

Joint Meetings

Joint Economic Committee: September 24, to hold hearings to examine the current economic outlook, 10 a.m., SD–106.

Joint Economic Committee: September 25, to hold hearings to examine ways to reduce the number of American families living in poverty, 10 a.m., SD–562.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

10 a.m., Tuesday, September 23

Senate Chamber

Program for Tuesday: After the transaction of any morning business (not to extend beyond 1 hour), Senate will begin consideration of H.R. 6049, Renewable Energy and Job Creation Act, and consider certain amendments.

(Senate will recess from 12:30 p.m. until 2:15 p.m. for their respective party conferences.)

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

9 a.m., Tuesday, September 23

House Chamber

Program for Tuesday: To be announced.

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