

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

FINANCIAL OVERSIGHT

HON. VIRGINIA FOXX

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, I submit the following articles for the RECORD:

OVERSEERS PLAN FOR UNPRECEDENTED TASK (By Joseph J. Schatz and Phil Mattingly)

If the House clears the financial bailout package, the federal government within weeks will be wielding new authority to buy hundreds of billions of dollars worth of mortgages.

And thanks to provisions added by lawmakers during the past two weeks, Congress would be ready to effectively oversee the program.

At least that's the plan.

But in order to work, both the program itself and the oversight entities that are supposed to hold it accountable might require a significant infusion of financial markets expertise—perhaps from firms that have collapsed during the recent turmoil on Wall Street.

The process of managing, implementing and contracting out a huge program—in many ways akin to an investment bank located in the Treasury Department—would present Congress with a unique oversight challenge. Some suggest lawmakers would be hard-pressed to keep track of what's going on.

"It's almost a retail operation, and you can't constantly be coming back to some congressional board for oversight or something like that," William Gale, director of the Brookings Institution's economic studies program, said during an Oct. 1 discussion on the bailout package. "Mainly what's going to happen, is Treasury is going to do it, and they'll report back to the public now and then. But I just don't see a strong role for oversight in all this, despite what people say."

If the House follows the Senate's lead and clears the package, the Treasury Department wants to begin buying financial institutions' shaky assets "as quickly as possible." White House spokesman Tony Fratto said Thursday. "It's a complicated thing that they'll be trying to put in place, and I'll let them explain it. . . . I think it's at least weeks."

At its core, the bill would set up a Troubled Assets Relief Program (TARP) at Treasury with authority to purchase mortgages or mortgage-related securities. As requested by Treasury Secretary Henry M. Paulson Jr., Treasury could decide whether those purchases occur through an auction process or directly from a financial firm.

"There's a lot to work out and plan in terms of managing that process," said Paul Wachtel, an economics professor at the Stern School of Business at New York University. "Developing a bureaucracy that can do so well is not a simple problem."

"I think whomever is elected [president] in a month or so ought to designate his secretary of the Treasury pretty quickly," House Financial Services Chairman Barney Frank, D-Mass., said Thursday on CNBC.

OUTSIDE HELP NEEDED

The Treasury Department might contract out a great deal of the work to stressed fi-

ancial institutions—a possibility that some watchdogs see as raising conflicts of interest. The legislation would waive the normal federal contracting process.

"For all of the oversight, there may not be much in the form of accountability," said Gary D. Bass, founder and executive director of OMB Watch. "You have to consider the possibility that some of the people who got us into this in the first place are the people who will be getting these jobs. Does it mean Goldman Sachs is now going to be arm-and-arm with the federal government?"

And as it assembles its oversight operation, Congress might also need to bring in help from Wall Street.

The legislation passed by the Senate and awaiting House action would set up three oversight functions.

The first would be a board composed of the Treasury secretary, the chairman of the Federal Reserve, the commissioner of the Securities and Exchange Commission, the Housing and Urban Development secretary and the Federal Housing Finance Agency director. That panel would review such things as appointments, how the Treasury Department determines which assets to buy and how the purchases are made.

The bill would also create a bipartisan panel of two House members and two senators that would submit reports to Congress on the program's transparency, effectiveness and market impact.

But most of the oversight responsibility would fall on the Government Accountability Office, an arm of Congress. The bill would empower the GAO's top official, the comptroller general, to set up an office within Treasury at Treasury's expense to conduct detailed oversight including yearly audits. The CAO would have access to all records, books and accounts.

That oversight office would be an enormous undertaking likely to require a large number of new personnel with significant financial acumen.

All three oversight bodies would issue reports to a newly established inspector general appointed by the president. That person would have a \$50 million budget and would coordinate all audits and investigations.

"You would have to hire people with the kinds of expertise [the government agencies] do not have at the current time," said NYU's Wachtel, noting that could mean an influx of Wall Street finance experts. "The kind of people who understand the structure of these securities would be helpful," Wachtel said. "That understanding is not widespread. . . . That's one of the reasons we got to where we are."

Some outside observers are impressed by the accountability Congress has tried to write into the legislation.

"They tried to build some accountability into this process while still allowing for some free-form experimentation with the program itself because they're not sure exactly how it's run," Thomas Mann, a senior fellow at Brookings, said at the Oct. 1 roundtable.

[From CQToday, Friday, Oct. 3, 2008]

OVERSIGHT PROVISIONS

OVERSIGHT BOARD

A Financial Stability Oversight Board would review the Treasury Department's use

of the authority granted to it by the bill and the effect of the department's actions on financial and housing markets. The board would also make recommendations to Treasury regarding use of its authority and would report any suspected fraud, misrepresentation or malfeasance to the special inspector general for the program. It also could appoint a credit review committee to evaluate how Treasury exercises its authority to buy troubled assets.

The board would consist of the chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, the Treasury secretary, the director of the Federal Housing Finance Agency, the chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission and the secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development. The board would report to appropriate congressional committees.

The bill also would create a bipartisan panel of two House members and two Senate members that would submit regular reports to Congress dealing with the program's transparency, effectiveness and market impact.

GAO OVERSIGHT AND CONGRESSIONAL REPORTS

The bill requires the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to conduct oversight of the activities and performance of the program and to report every 60 days to Congress.

Treasury would have to report to Congress 60 days after it begins to exercise its new authority and every 30 days thereafter. Reports would include an overview of actions taken by the department, the actual obligation and expenditure of the funds provided for administrative expenses and a detailed financial statement. After Treasury buys \$50 billion of troubled assets, it would have to provide another report describing all of the transactions made during the reporting period, the pricing mechanism for the transactions, and justifications for the price paid for and the other financial terms associated with transactions.

Treasury would review the current state of the financial markets and the regulatory system and submit a report on its findings to Congress.

INSPECTOR GENERAL

An inspector general's office would be established to conduct, supervise and coordinate audits and investigations of the program. The inspector general—nominated by the president and confirmed by the Senate—would submit a quarterly report to Congress summarizing its activities and the activities of the department under the bill, which would provide \$50 million for the office.

[From Investor's Business Daily, Oct. 3, 2008]

[GOVERNMENT IS TOO BIG NOT TO FAIL

(By Ernest S. Christian and Gary A. Robbins)

After years of faking it, the federal government has finally hit bottom or, depending on how you look at it, ascended to its level of maximum destructive incompetence.

So here we sit in the autumn of '08, almost 79 years to the day since the market crash of 1929, with the smell of panic again in the air. An alarmed president and Congress are flailing away, desperately trying to fix a financial crisis originally caused and made worse by government meddling. And with the election coming, the increasingly incongruous Barack Obama looms in the foreground.

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

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

As if Washington were not already doing too many things, almost all badly, and in the process doing far more harm than good, Mr. Obama wants to give government a vast array of additional assignments that it is not competent to handle and that taxpayers cannot afford.

FEDERAL MEDDLING

In the current instance of the bailout, even if Washington does finally find some way of re-lubricating the credit markets that its mistakes almost stopped, the systemic problem of inept governmental interference in all aspects of the economy will remain—and indeed will be magnified by the rescue plan itself. The more crisis Washington causes and the more “emergency” powers it assumes, the bigger and more tangled are the webs it spins.

After Congress spends the next year or so “fixing” the problems in the financial industry—and casting blame on everyone but itself—Washington likely will have all capital markets and credit transactions under its thumb. It would then be able to specify throughout the economy who gets financing, what for, when and how much.

Just imagine an Obama-Pelosi-Reid administration (OPRA) allocating credit and investment among companies according to how green they are, who their shareholders are and whether some federal oracle thinks they are just and fair. Never mind quality and efficiency or ability to repay. Similar “let’s pretend” standards for allocating credit are exactly what led to the home mortgage debacle in the first place.

With other made-in-Washington crises already on track to occur—think energy, entitlements, debt and the dollar—soon every aspect of American life may be under strict federal supervision, with a trajectory pointed downward.

The more government interferes in private matters, the more the economy and society as a whole take on the debilitating characteristics of government. Costs go up, efficiency and quality go down, output falls, corruption and waste increase.

Washington is already increasing its participation in the health care industry. That is the reason costs are so high. Inevitably, it will take complete control and, when it does, quality will plummet.

Government has been messing about in the housing industry for decades. Obviously, it has already made a hash of it, but the worst is probably yet to come. Washington’s energy policy has long been to restrict supply and raise prices. Now the government also has a plan to bring all energy consumers under its supervision and control. It is called cap and trade.

Because of destructive federal regulations and taxes on U.S. plant and equipment as well as on exports, America no longer has an economy that primarily makes and sells things. By default, manufacturing is being displaced by a “knowledge” industry—and most Yankee ingenuity is devoted to creating innovative financing techniques such as derivatives and securitized subprime mortgages. Like government, work consists of shuffling paper (electronically, of course).

OUR WAY OF LIFE

Through its power over education and communications, Washington already influences the creation and dissemination of knowledge. Once it takes over the financial industry, nothing will be left standing in the way of the federal government’s dominance. States and localities are mere administrative units and dispersing agents for Washington. Government has won its war against religion, sidelining churches.

In partnership with affiliated labor unions and a few public-private corporations much

bigger and worse than Fannie or Freddie, Washington will more than ever be able to participate in all aspects of the economy in a manner that far more resembles the corporatist (or fascist) regimes of Europe in the early 1930s than American capitalism.

American capitalism is not just an economic theory. It is a way of life where rewards are based on achievement, not identity or class, and is therefore inextricably bound up with individual freedom and American exceptionalism.

The job of the next president and Congress, if it can possibly rise to the occasion, is first stop the destructive advance of government, then reverse it.

APPOINTMENT OF CHIEF HUMAN CAPITAL OFFICER

SPEECH OF

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, September 27, 2008

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 2816, a bill that will alter how the Chief Human Capital Officer is appointed at the Department of Homeland Security.

This bill will give the Secretary of Homeland Security authority similar to other Federal agencies where a determination is made to place a careerist or a political appointee in the Chief Human Capital Officer position. This authority is particularly important as DHS makes its first transition to a new administration. Undoubtedly, there will be numerous staffing challenges ahead and the DHS Secretary must have a Chief Human Capital Officer to depend on to meet the Department’s goals.

The job of the Chief Human Capital Officer requires unique qualifications. Not only must this individual develop and maintain a cadre of national security personnel, but he or she must also ensure integration throughout the new Department and its many components.

The men and women of the Department are some of the hardest working, most selfless individuals in the Federal workforce. Their mission contains little room for error. This is why it is so important that the Department provide a positive workplace that puts employees first. Over the past few years this has not always been the case and low employee morale has plagued the Department and limited its effectiveness.

The 2006 Federal Human Capital Survey conducted by the Office of Personnel Management found that DHS was rated “dead last” in job satisfaction among its peers and received very low marks on leadership and management capabilities. And in the recent DHS 2007 Employee Survey, employees cited their dissatisfaction with the Department’s pay, performance and promotion practices. Moreover, there have been numerous documented incidents regarding mismanagement within some of the major DHS components. These factors contribute to a fractured workforce and low morale.

These are problems that must be addressed by the next Chief Human Capital Officer. Addressing employee concerns must be his or her first priority.

One of the major sources of low morale is the MAX-HR system, a so-called “pay-for-performance” system. MAX-HR and its proposed

“follow-on system” have been repeatedly rejected by my Committee in legislation and, many Members of Congress, for the past two years. The damage that DHS’s relentless pursuit of such a system has done to morale is immeasurable.

The next Chief Human Capital Officer has the chance to make some great strides and improvements at the Department. He or she must work to address the employee concerns and dissatisfaction with a commitment to providing proper training, career development and the tools necessary for its employees to do their jobs. Also at the top of the Chief Human Capital Officer’s priority list should be recruiting the best and brightest for DHS, including individuals with diverse backgrounds and a patriotic spirit to fill its ranks.

Given the extensive investment we have made in developing TSA and its workforce, I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge that the TSA workforce does not have the same rights and protections that are afforded to their colleagues at DHS. As the eyes and ears in our airports, TSA workers need to have whistleblower protections and collective bargaining rights to be able to report security concerns without fear of losing their jobs. Moreover, granting basic employment rights is critical to recruiting our Transportation Security workforce. We know firsthand what low morale can do to the health, recruitment, and retention of the DHS workforce.

It is clear from the Committee’s record of work that more can be done to support human capital efforts at the Department. And I am pleased to say that this bill is one of those needed measures of support. I look forward to working with my colleagues and the Department to continue to build a strong workforce at DHS. And I also take this opportunity to commend the men and women of the Department for their tireless work and dedication to the mission.

HONORING MAUREEN GAVIN FOR THE 2007–08 OUTSTANDING TEACHING OF THE HUMANITIES AWARD

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Mr. MARCHANT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Maureen Gavin of Southlake, Texas, who was awarded the 2007–08 Outstanding Teaching of the Humanities Award on behalf of Humanities Texas. This award honors K–12 humanities teachers in the state of Texas who make exemplary contributions in teaching, curriculum development and extracurricular programming.

Mrs. Gavin, a former sixth grade English teacher at Eubanks Intermediate School in Southlake, currently works with Morningside Elementary School in Fort Worth.

In the words of Mrs. Gavin, “All good thinking begins with good questioning, and as a humanities teacher it is my responsibility to provide provocative questions that allow my students to dig deep within themselves as they learn about our world, past and present, and how they fit into it”. In this spirit, Mrs. Gavin brings to the classroom a passion for literature, language, and the ever-growing continuum of knowledge.

One example of this passion was displayed when Mrs. Gavin's students read the book *Maniac Magee* by Jerry Spinelli, the story of a homeless orphan who makes a positive difference in the lives of other. With the guidance and encouragement of Mrs. Gavin, her students created a "Kids Helping Kids" initiative that ultimately raised \$2,000 to support kids in need. This is just one shining example of how the passion of Mrs. Gavin's teaching translates to a world far larger than the walls of a classroom.

Among Mrs. Gavin's many accomplishments include: Carroll Independent School District (CISD) Teacher of the Year, Eubanks Intermediate School Teacher of the Year, EPISD Teacher of the Year Top Ten Finalist, Carlos Rivera's Teacher of the Year, W.W. Bushman Teacher of the Year, presenter CISD parent University, creator of the sixth grade language arts curriculum, former member of the CISD language arts vertical team, former language arts department chairperson, and many, many more.

Madam Speaker, it is a special honor to present Mrs. Maureen Gavin the Outstanding Teaching of the Humanities Award. Educators in the humanities like Mrs. Gavin advance not just the knowledge of life, but the critical importance of reflection, wide-angle perspective, and the wisdom of a larger world. As her former school's Member of Congress, I am especially proud that we have teachers like her who enlighten our students in the arts, history, and languages; ultimately emboldening our nation's cultural framework as well as our future.

MERCURY EXPORT BAN ACT OF
2008

SPEECH OF

HON. THOMAS H. ALLEN

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, September 27, 2008

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to add to my other remarks about S. 906, the "Mercury Export Ban Act of 2008." The prohibitions pertaining to conveyances, sales, or distribution by Federal agencies contained in Section 3 and the prohibition on exports in Section 4 of S. 906 apply to "elemental mercury." As the principal sponsor of this legislation in the House of Representatives I wish to reaffirm the legislative history and my clear intent that the term "elemental mercury" as used in the bill does not apply to articles, manufactured consumer products, or other products that contain elemental mercury.

RECOGNIZING THE HONORABLE
BUD CRAMER AND THE HONORABLE
TERRY EVERETT ON
THEIR RETIREMENT FROM CONGRESS

HON. BOB GOODLATTE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to take the time to recognize the retirement of my friend and colleague from Alabama: TERRY

EVERETT. TERRY has served the people of the Second District of Alabama with honor and distinction for the past eight terms. He has been a faithful public servant fighting for farmers, veterans, and conservative values.

TERRY has served on four committees including Agriculture, Armed Services, Veterans Affairs, and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. However, I would like to highlight TERRY's extraordinary work for the agriculture community. As a farmer himself, TERRY brought real world experience to the committee, experience that we see less and less from our members. The country as a whole has become more suburban and urban, and the members who represent it have followed. He knew firsthand how the laws we passed in the Agriculture Committee impacted the livelihood of our producers.

Since coming to Congress in 1993, TERRY has been a strong and consistent voice for not only the producers of Alabama, but the entire Nation. Agriculture is Alabama's largest industry and TERRY served as the Chairman of the Subcommittee on Specialty Crops and Foreign Agriculture Programs during the 2002 Farm Bill. He also currently sits on that subcommittee and the Subcommittee on Conservation, Credit and Energy and Research.

The peanut farmer knew no better friend than Congressman EVERETT. He served as a co-chair of the House Congressional Peanut Caucus. Under his leadership on the 2002 Farm Bill, the peanut industry moved from a 60-year-old Depression-era supply management program to a thriving industry that could respond to market signals and bring peanut farmers into the 21st century.

During the 2008 Farm Bill, TERRY expanded his reach and authored a provision to help producers who were suffering from drought. This provision provided a cost-sharing component for producers to build irrigation ponds for their crops during periods of drought. Without this provision, many producers in the South would not have been able to cover the cost of an irrigation pond project. This was yet another example of TERRY taking the lead on an issue that was critically important to the livelihood of producers across the Nation.

His leadership and experience will be missed. But, we do wish him and his wife Barbara all the best for a wonderful retirement.

IN SUPPORT OF H.R. 6064, THE
"NATIONAL SILVER ALERT ACT"

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I support the National Silver Alert Act. I also urge my colleagues to support this bill. It is necessary.

Thousands of vulnerable older adults go missing each year as a result of dementia, diminished capacity, foul play or other unusual circumstances. The Alzheimer's Foundation of America estimates that over five million Americans suffer from Alzheimer's disease, and that 60 percent of these are likely to wander from their homes. Alzheimer's disease and other dementia related illnesses often leave their victims disoriented and confused and unable to find their way home. According to the Alz-

heimer's Association, up to 50 percent of wanderers risk serious illness, injury or death if not found within 24 hours. The problem can be exacerbated greatly by national disasters, such as Hurricane Katrina, that can, in a matter of hours, increase the number of missing persons by the thousands.

At least eight States, along with non-profit organizations such as the National Center for Missing Adults, Project Lifesaver International and the Alzheimer's Foundation of America, have developed programs to address various aspects of the problem of missing adults, but the need for a coordinated national approach, similar to the Amber Alert Program for children, still exists. In addition, financial support is needed for existing and new local and State programs.

The Missing Alzheimer's Disease Patient Alert Program, administered by the Department of Justice, is the only Federal program that currently provides grant funding to locate vulnerable elderly individuals who go missing. Authorization for this program ceased in 1998, but Congress has continued to appropriate some monies for it through fiscal year 2008, when it appropriated \$940,000. Another Federal law, Kristen's Act, had authorized annual grants in the amount of \$1 million for fiscal years 2001 through 2004 to assist law enforcement agencies in locating missing adults and for other purposes. Between fiscal years 2002 through 2006, Kristen's Act grants were made through the Edward Byrne Discretionary Grants Program, primarily to the National Center for Missing Adults, a non-profit organization. In 2006, Congress appropriated \$150,000 for this purpose.

A. H.R. 6064, THE "NATIONAL SILVER ALERT ACT"

Importantly, today I urge my colleagues to support another important piece of legislation, H.R. 6064, the National Silver Alert Act. H.R. 6064 sets forth a comprehensive national program. It directs the Attorney General to establish a permanent national Silver Alert communications program within the Department of Justice to provide assistance to regional and local search efforts for missing seniors. The bill requires the Attorney General to assign a Department of Justice officer as a Silver Alert Coordinator.

The Silver Alert Coordinator acts as a nationwide point of contact, working with States to encourage the development of local elements of the network, known as Silver Alert plans, and to ensure regional coordination. The bill requires the Coordinator to develop protocols for efforts relating to reporting and finding missing seniors and to establish voluntary guidelines for States to use in developing Silver Alert plans. The bill requires the Coordinator to establish an advisory group (1) to help States, local governments and law enforcement agencies with Silver Alert plans, (2) to provide training and educational programs to States, local governments and law enforcement agencies, and (3) to submit an annual report to congress. The bill also requires the Coordinator to establish voluntary minimum standards for the issuance of alerts through the Silver Alert communications network.

H.R. 6064 directs the Attorney General, subject to the availability of appropriations, to provide grants to States for the development and implementation of programs and activities relating to Silver Alert plans. The bill authorizes \$5 million for fiscal year 2009 for this purpose. The bill also authorizes an additional \$5

million for fiscal year 2009 specifically for the development and implementation of new technologies. The Federal share of the grant may not exceed 50 percent and amounts appropriated under this authorization shall remain available until expended.

B. MY PAST AMENDMENTS ON ELDER JUSTICE BILLS

In similar elder legislation, namely the Elder Justice Act and the Elder Abuse Victims Act, I co-sponsored amendments with Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California to provide funding to State, local, and non-profit programs to locate missing elderly. Specifically, my amendment would allow a voluntary electronic monitoring pilot program to assist with the elderly when they are reported missing. In these particular bills, my amendment would allow 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.

C. ELDER LEGISLATION IS IMPORTANT

Elder legislation such as the legislation before us today and the prior elder bills that I mentioned are important. As elder Americans enter their twilight years, we must do more to protect and ensure their safety. Nothing reminds me more of the necessity of this kind of legislation than my very own experiences in Houston, Texas. A few years ago, the family of Sam Kirk, a native of Houston, Texas, called me to help look for him. Mr. Kirk was elderly and suffered from dementia. He had wandered off and could not be located for several days. His family looked for him for many days but could not find him. In an act of desperation, they called on me to lend my services to help them find him. I helped his family look for him and we found him. When we found Mr. Kirk, he was dehydrated and in need of medical attention. We searched for hours and days to find him. It was worth the time and effort we spent to find him alive and well. Legislation that helps America find and take care of its lost and missing elders is extremely important.

SAMMY KIRK AMENDMENT

I fought hard to get an amendment to this bill, H.R. 6064, the National Silver Alert. The amendment would authorize a voluntary electronic monitoring program to be used to assist in the location of elderly persons. Specifically, the amendment requires the Attorney General, after consultation with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, to award grants to States and units of local government to carry out programs to provide for voluntary electronic monitoring services to elderly individuals to assist in the location of such individuals in the event that such persons are reported missing. It is authorized for \$2 million for each of the fiscal years 2009 through 2014. The amendment is named after Mr. Sammy Kirk, a former constituent of the 18th Congressional District who suffered from Alzheimers and was lost. I, along with his family, searched for him for 3 days only to find him dead near the bayou. The Sam Kirk amendment ensures that other senior Alzheimer patients do not suffer the same fate as Mr. Kirk.

I believe that my amendment and these bills help elderly people. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

HONORING THE GRAND OPENING OF THE CEDAR HILL GOVERNMENT CENTER

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Mr. MARCHANT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the grand opening of the Cedar Hill Government Center in Cedar Hill, Texas. The grand opening for this new facility was held on Tuesday, September 30, 2008.

A community known for its beautiful natural landscape and rolling hills, Cedar Hill is now home to one of the most innovative and efficient government centers in the country. Cedar Hill has always been a community committed to providing the best for its citizens, and the new Government Center is yet another example of that commitment.

The center houses the City of Cedar Hill and the Cedar Hill Independent School District. Built with native Texas materials such as limestone, clay tile and mesquite wood flooring, the centralized facility represents the spirit of Cedar Hill and the great state of Texas.

A model of forward thinking leadership and architecture, this collaborative facility uses 23,000 square feet out of 115,887 square feet specifically for shared-use space and public gatherings. Local residents benefit from the centralized facility's easy access, convenience, and efficiency. The partnering use of facilities not only benefits the community in the long-run, but it also saved taxpayers considerable construction costs.

City and School District officials selected the architecture firms of Holzman Moss and Wiginton Hooker Jeffry and Hunt Construction provided construction oversight. The architects were able to maximize the distinctive character of Cedar Hill, preserving many native trees, utilizing the beautiful surroundings, and preparing for future walking trails so visitors can fully enjoy the natural habitat even further.

Madam Speaker, it is with great honor that I congratulate Mayor Rob Franke, City Council members, President of CHISD Dan Hernandez, school board members, and the residents of Cedar Hill on the opening of this facility. The Government Center stands a true symbol of the fabric of this great community. I look forward to seeing the positive impact this center will have on the community and I am extremely proud to represent Cedar Hill in the 24th District of Texas.

IN HONOR OF STAFF SERGEANT ANTHONY L. MASON, TEXAS NATIONAL GUARD

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Ms. GRANGER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the courage of a brave and dedicated hero of the state of Texas and of our Nation.

Staff Sergeant Anthony L. Mason, known as Luke to his family and friends, was a soldier in the Texas National Guard and a true American hero. Luke gallantly and selflessly gave

his life in the service of his country on September 18, 2008, when his helicopter went down near Tallil, Iraq.

It was his second tour in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Assigned to 2nd Battalion, 149th Aviation, 36th Combat Aviation Brigade as a helicopter engineer, Luke did his part during a time of war, a fact that speaks volumes about his character and patriotism.

As a Staff Sergeant, he was a leader and mentor to the younger members of his unit. His fellow soldiers admired him for his professionalism, technical knowledge, and his approachable character.

During his civilian life, Luke was a friend to many. His positive influence is evidenced by his community's response to his death and the support they have readily offered to his family.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Staff Sergeant Mason's wife, his four daughters, his parents, and all of his family and friends. His community and Nation honor his memory and we are grateful for his faithful and distinguished service to America.

Staff Sergeant Mason will not be forgotten. His memory lives on through his family and the legacy of selfless service that he so bravely imprinted on our hearts.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I submit the following:

Requesting Member: Rep. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH.

Bill Number: H.R. 2638.

Account: Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, Army Account.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: MILSPRAY Camouflage Technologies.

Address of Requesting Entity: 1985 Swarthmore Ave, Lakewood, NJ 08701.

Description of Request: The Force Implementation Phase of this project is the final phase of "Project Kryptolite—Field Deployable Multifunctional Stealth Coating." During Phase II, a complete turnkey "armor enhancement" application system will be forward deployed to Iraq or other ARL-designated theater of operation. The completely integrated stealth coating system will be applied, in theater, to MRAP, Stryker, and other armored vehicles at the direction of Army and Marine Corps commanders. The Stealth Coating System addresses both infrared and thermal signature reduction as well as blast mitigation.

This system can act as an "armor enhancement" material and be applied over existing MRAP, and similar tactical vehicle, armor systems.

This armor enhancement approach would increase the level of blast resistance and substantially improve survivability. The use of this armor enhancement system will substantially reduce injuries and deaths resulting from IEDs, EFPs, and blast fragments. The material, and complete field deployable application system, will be forward deployed. MRAPs, Strykers, and other tactical vehicles will have the Kryptolite Armor Enhancement applied to them.

Proposed Funds Utilization: Logistics Support: \$100,000 System/Personnel Deployment Costs.

Salaries/Wages: \$575,000 5–7 project technical personnel.

Equipment: \$200,000 Lab, Test, Production, Application.

Testing Ballistic/Blast/Performance/Labs: \$200,000.

Facility Costs: \$50,000.

Material: \$75,000.

Total: \$1,200,000.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE LATE
ELINOR GUGGENHEIMER

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise to pay tribute to the late Elinor Guggenheimer, an outstanding New Yorker who devoted herself to her city and her country throughout her life. It is with both profound sadness but also an enduring sense of gratitude for the tremendous inspiration that she provided that I note Elinor Guggenheimer's passing last Monday at the age of 96.

Elinor Guggenheimer was not just a leader, but a pioneering figure in the history of the movement for women's equality. A graduate of Barnard College, following the end of World War II she launched into a career of activism on behalf of women, children, and the elderly. She developed a well-deserved reputation as a tireless crusader for better and more child care options for working parents, stronger consumer protections, and the advancement of women into all sectors of society, including government and elective office.

In 1961, Elinor Guggenheimer became the first woman to serve on the New York City Planning Commission, where she focused on helping to guide City policies on parks and prisons. As part of municipal government's anti-poverty efforts, she was also named by Mayor Robert F. Wagner to the Head Start Committee of New York City. She later became one of the first women to seek citywide office in New York, running for President of the New York City Council in 1969. She went on to become the City's Commissioner of Consumer Affairs in the administration of Mayor Abraham Beame in the 1970's, earning a reputation as a fearless advocate who unmasked fraudulent merchants and inspired consumers to boycott overpriced goods.

But it was perhaps through her grass-roots activism that Elinor Guggenheimer made her greatest impact. In 1948, she founded the Day Care Council of New York. She went on to establish the Child Care Action Campaign, the National Committee for the Day Care of Children, and the Staten Island Children's Campaign. She became perhaps the most prominent advocate in the nation for better child care, not just for the convenience of working mothers, but for the welfare of their children.

A tireless activist, Elinor Guggenheimer also founded the New York Women's Forum to help women establish social and professional networks. She went on to found the New York Women's Agenda and the National Women's Political Caucus. In those roles, Elinor

Guggenheimer inspired generations of women—including a young schoolteacher named CAROLYN MALONEY—to engage in the political process and to run and hold public office.

Elinor Guggenheimer dedicated her life to serving others. In addition to her remarkable career as an activist, she was a philanthropist and humanitarian. Her efforts were credited as indispensable in securing the acquisition of the fabled Temple of Dendur by the Metropolitan Museum of Art, located just a few blocks from her home on Manhattan's Upper East Side. She also served as Chair of the Women's Division of the United Jewish Appeal—Federation of New York and as an officer at its predecessor organization, the Federation of Jewish Philanthropies.

Throughout her whirlwind career as an activist, Elinor Guggenheimer remained devoted to her family. She was devoted to her late husband Randolph, who died in 1999; to her sons, Charles and Randolph, Jr.; and to her three grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my distinguished colleagues join me in recognizing the enormous contributions to civic and political life made by Elinor Guggenheimer, a true pioneer and civil rights activist in the finest traditions of our great republic.

INTRODUCTION OF "DERIVATIVES
MARKET REFORM ACT"

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Mr. MARKEY. Madam Speaker, today I am re-introducing the "Derivatives Market Reform Act." This bill is largely based on legislation that I first introduced on July 14, 1994 as H.R. 4745, and then subsequently reintroduced in 1995 (as H.R. 1063), and introduced again in 1999, as H.R. 3483.

I am reintroducing the bill again today, on the same day that Congress is passing emergency legislation to respond to the crisis caused by Wall Street's irresponsible and risky use of derivatives, because I believe that if Congress had adopted this type of legislation, we might have been able to avoid some of the turmoil that has recently affected our Nation's financial markets.

In 1992, as Chairman of the House Telecommunications and Finance Subcommittee, I asked the General Accounting Office to undertake an investigation into the derivatives markets, including the size of the markets for these financial instruments, their economic rationale, and associated risks. In 1994, the GAO submitted its report to the Subcommittee, entitled "Financial Derivatives: Actions Needed to Protect the Financial System." This report contained a number of important recommendations for the financial services industry, Federal financial regulators, and for the Congress. The GAO suggested that Congress needed to extend Federal authority to currently unregulated derivatives dealers, improve coordination among Federal regulators with responsibilities over key participants in this market, and restructure the regulations applicable to the derivatives markets.

My legislation was aimed at responding to the GAO's recommendations by providing a

framework for improved supervision and regulation of previously unregulated derivatives dealers, assuring appropriate protections for their customers, and establishing certain reporting requirements for hedge funds. During the 103rd Congress, the Subcommittee held five oversight hearing on key issues relating to the derivatives market. As Chairman of the legislative Subcommittee with jurisdiction over the Securities and Exchange Commission, it was my intention to move forward with derivatives legislation in the 104th Congress.

Unfortunately, the Democrats lost control of the House of Representatives in the 2004 elections, and the new Republican Majority that took control of the House in January of 2005 had little interest in increasing financial regulation. Indeed, one of the first bills that the House passed as part of Speaker Newt Gingrich's "Contract with America" was H.R. 1058, the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act. This legislation was ostensibly aimed at curbing "frivolous" securities class action lawsuits, but in fact was drafted in such a way to make it more difficult for defrauded investors to sue those whose fraud or recklessness had caused them harm. During House floor consideration of that bill, I offered an amendment (House Amendment 270), which would have exempted securities fraud cases involving derivatives from the bill's harsh restrictions. Unfortunately, my amendment was defeated by a voted of 162–261.

Following the derivatives-related collapse of the hedge fund Long-Term Capital Management, I joined with Senator Byron Dorgan to ask the GAO to undertake another investigation into the derivatives markets, focusing this time on the role that derivatives played in the collapse of the hedge fund, Long-Term Capital Management. The GAO's report on this matter, entitled, "Long-Term Capital Management: Regulators Need to Focus Greater Attention on System Risk," identified a need for Federal financial regulators to better coordinate their efforts to identify and respond to risks across markets and industries, and has called for Federal oversight over currently unregulated derivatives dealers who may have significant risk exposure to hedge funds and other highly leveraged entities. These recommendations came in addition to those made by the President's Working Group on Financial Markets earlier in 1999 that legislation be adopted which would require some public reporting by hedge funds regarding their investments.

The "Derivatives Dealers and Hedge Fund Disclosure Act of 1999" that Senator DORGAN and I are introduced back then responded to GAO's and the regulators' recommendations for reforms in the aftermath of the LTCM affair.

Again, the Republican-controlled Congress took no action to strengthen derivatives regulation. Instead, Congress passed two bills that made the situation worse. First, the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act of 1999 effectively tied the SEC's hands when it came to overseeing the derivatives activities of banks. Second, the Commodities Futures Modernization Act of 2000 largely exempted derivatives from any effective oversight or regulation by the Commodities Futures Trading Commission.

And so, with no action on legislation to strengthen derivatives regulation, with Congress instead taking steps to make it more difficult for federal financial regulators to oversee these markets, the foundation was set for our current crisis.

This crisis was, of course, exacerbated by the failure of the financial regulators to effectively use the tools that they still had at their disposal to avert a meltdown. In recent weeks we have read how the Federal Reserve turned a blind eye to the growing systemic threat facing our financial system. We have read how the SEC failed to use its broker-dealer holding company risk authority to oversee and respond to this crisis. We have read about how they weakened capital rules that allowed securities firms to take on far too much leverage. And in the weeks and months to come, we will all learn a lot more about the causes and consequences of this crisis.

The bill that I am reintroducing today is aimed at opening a dialogue on solutions. I have made some modifications in the text to try to address some of the harmful deregulatory provisions enacted into law in recent years. But I know that the bill may need further refinement. I offer it as a baseline for how we might begin thinking about fixing the mess on Wall Street. There may be additional ideas that could improve the bill. There may be changes needed to ensure that these provisions are fully effective. I look forward to talking with my colleagues, and with outside stakeholders, about how we can begin to address this problem. Because we do need to act.

I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. JAMES
FELDMAN

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Dr. James Feldman, a profoundly respected, inspiring and beloved figure to countless students, colleagues, friends and family. His career at Baldwin Wallace College Conservatory of Music in Berea spanned thirty-two years, during which time he molded young talent in music theory, composition and performance as well as coaching, mentoring and encouraging students in every aspect of life.

James Feldman was born and raised in Rochester, New York. His passion from childhood was music. He earned his MA from the Eastman School of Music at the University of Rochester. He was awarded his PhD in Music Theory from Kent State University and became a full professor at BW.

Jim has always strived to live in accordance with the ethical principles of Judaism and has been active in religious community life. He met his wife, Charlotte, while playing piano at their synagogue in Rochester. Together with Charlotte and their two sons, Benjamin and Joel, he moved to Berea in 1975 to begin his teaching career at BW. He was active in Beth Israel-West Temple co-writing and producing yearly musicals with Charlotte that elicited enthusiastic reviews citing their ingenuity and delicate sense of humor.

Dr. Feldman was diagnosed with ALS in the fall of 2007. He braved a difficult teaching semester and went on disability in 2008.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in tribute to Jim Feldman, who has dedi-

cated his life's work to his students and his family.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Mr. DUNCAN. Madam Speaker, consistent with House Republican Earmark Standards, I am submitting the following earmark disclosure information for project requests that I made and which were included within the House Amendment to the Senate Amendment for H.R. 2638, the "Consolidated Security, Disaster Assistance, and Continuing Appropriations Act, 2009."

Requesting Member: Congressman JOHN DUNCAN.

Account: Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, Air Force.

Project Amount: \$1,600,000.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: University of Tennessee, 328 Ferris Hall, 1508 Middle Drive, Knoxville, TN 37996.

Description of Request: This funding will be used to explore novel energy harvesting methods, including bio fuels, hydrogen-based systems, miniature nuclear batteries, etc.

Requesting Member: Congressman JOHN DUNCAN.

Account: Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, Defense-Wide.

Project Amount: \$1,600,000.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Diamondview Glass Ceramic, 110 West Old AJ Highway, Jefferson City, TN 37760.

Description of Request: This funding will be used for the rapid development of an innovative ceramic crystallite reinforced glass system for light-weight, low-cost ballistic windows for architectural use for threats including small arms and explosions.

Requesting Member: Congressman JOHN DUNCAN.

Account: Military Construction, ANG.

Project Amount: \$8,000,000.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: McGee Tyson ANG Base, located at 320 Post Avenue, McGee Tyson ANG Base, TN 37777.

Description of Request: The funding will be used to replace the current KC-135 Squadron Operations Facility located at the 134th Air Refueling Wing, McGee Tyson Air National Guard Base. The Squadron Operations are currently housed in a facility that is antiquated and not properly laid out to allow for the smooth flow of KC-135 operations.

BREAST CANCER AWARENESS AND
BOCA RATON COMMUNITY HOS-
PITAL'S LYNNE CANCER INSTI-
TUTE

HON. RON KLEIN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize the month of October as Breast Cancer Awareness Month, and to commend the Boca Raton Community Hospital for its renewed efforts to fight breast cancer and to raise awareness of this disease.

Breast cancer claims the lives of thousands of our mothers, daughters and sisters each year. The disease is the second most common type of cancer and the fifth most common cause of cancer death. Yet, if discovered early breast cancer can be treated and the victim's chances of survival greatly increased.

Currently, 61 percent of breast cancers are diagnosed at a localized stage, due largely to early detection by mammography screening and improvements in treatment.

In October, the Boca Raton Community Hospital hosts its 5th annual Go Pink Cancer Awareness Luncheon and later this year, the hospital will open the Eugene and Christine Lynne Cancer Institute at the Sandler Pavilion. This 98,000-square-foot facility will house oncology, chemotherapy and clinical research that will lead the fight against cancer in my South Florida community.

With over 20 oncology physicians, the Institute will treat over 3,000 patients each year. These outstanding physicians and early detection programs will allow more breast cancer patients and their families win the battle against this disease.

Like many other families in my community, mine has been affected by breast cancer. This month allows each and every one of us to remember those who died from this disease and celebrate the triumph of those who have survived. I look forward to continuing the fight against cancer here in Congress and at home in South Florida.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SECURITY
CLEARANCE OVERSIGHT AND AC-
COUNTABILITY ACT

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, today I'm proud to introduce the Security Clearance Oversight and Accountability Act and I'm pleased that the Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Intelligence Community Management of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, Mr. ISSA, has joined me as a co-sponsor of this legislation. We have spent this Congress conducting oversight of the security clearance process.

Security clearances are determinations that a person is trusted to have access to our nation's secrets. They are the gateway to serving our nation in national security, homeland security, and many foreign policy positions. In recent decades, the number of federal government employees and contractors requiring clearances expanded. This was especially true after the tragic attacks on September 11, 2001. We also realized the importance of sharing information and promoting collaboration across government agencies.

Sadly, our security clearance system was still cumbersome and outdated. We were using a cold-war system in the Internet age, where the process was primarily paper-based, and relied on investigators going door-to-door to talk to neighbors. It did not take advantage of the vast stores of data collected on people on line to verify their trustworthiness and it did not use electronic tools to speed the process.

In 2004, Congress passed the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act, which

contained many provisions to improve the security clearance process. The law called for uniform policies and unity of responsibility for security clearances across the Federal Government. It required that security clearances issued by one agency be accepted by all agencies. To make that possible, it called for an integrated data base and for the evaluation of available information technologies. Finally, it set forth specific targets for the length of time that security clearance processes should take, and required annual progress reports.

During this Congress, our subcommittee has undertaken a thorough review of the process. We had round-table meetings with representatives of industry and with representatives of the Intelligence Community agencies. We carefully reviewed all reports submitted in response to the Intelligence Reform Act as well as GAO reports on security clearance reform in the Department of Defense. We held a series of open hearings with Administration witnesses and GAO to discuss accomplishments and areas where progress was lacking.

We found that though the Act has resulted in significant improvements in the clearance timelines, significant work remains to be done. The law requires full reciprocity of clearance investigations and adjudications, but provides no tools for measuring the implementation and success of such measures. The clearance data as it is reported to Congress does not provide adequate insight into the improvements that have been made. Aggregated data covers up poor performance by averaging it with excellent performance.

We provided the results of our oversight in an ICM Subcommittee Report which will be filed with the House. I'm pleased that all members of the Subcommittee were supportive of the Report, and it was reported out of committee on a unanimous voice vote.

This provision is designed to remedy the shortcomings we discovered in our report. It takes a new approach to reform, by requiring agencies to report to Congress annually on certain key metrics related to the security clearance process. These metrics would enable Congress and HPSCI to perform effective oversight over the security clearance process, would allow both branches to track improvements from year to year, and would allow agencies to judge the effectiveness of each other's security clearance process, improving confidence in the system. In a few areas where adequate metrics have not been developed, the Administration is required to propose metrics to Congress.

I hope that we will move this legislation as soon as possible, given the strong bipartisan support that it enjoys. It will improve our insight into the security clearance process, and by doing so, improve the process itself.

The security clearance process is key to our national security establishment and we must make sure that it works as efficiently as possible. An effective security clearance system keeps out those who pose a security risk, while quickly identifying those who are trustworthy to work in the system. For too long it has been a troubled system and I'm hopeful that it is getting back on track and this legislation would allow us to know for sure.

ACTION ON SEX ED

HON. JANE HARMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Ms. HARMAN. Madam Speaker, I've seen my home state of California struggle with the Nation's highest teen pregnancy rate—the sad result being thousands of young women dealing with the catastrophic effects pregnancy can impose on their lives. They often lose out on the opportunity to obtain a high school diploma, a college degree or a promising career. For too many, dreams like these are lost at an early age.

In the early 1990s, California took on the challenge to fight this epidemic and focused hard on prevention. After a decade of implementing robust initiatives, the state had lowered the rate by nearly 40 percent. Much of the success is credited to better and more accurate comprehensive sex education.

Results like this are worth fighting for and this is why initiatives like Planned Parenthood's campaign—Sex Ed Week of Action—is vital to raise awareness about safe practices within our communities. These are tough, personal issues for all parents and families but as a mother and grandmother, I agree that they must be addressed.

California is making strides, but there is much more to be done nationwide. As a longtime champion of comprehensive sex education, I've voiced my opposition against unproven abstinence-only education here in Congress. It is an outrage that since 1996, the Federal Government has pursued an ideological and myopic path, investing more than a \$1 billion in abstinence-only programs. This has been a huge waste—and the studies prove it.

A report commissioned by the Department of Health and Human Services concludes that students receiving abstinence-only education are no more likely to abstain or delay sexual activity than students not receiving such instruction.

California also recognized that this is a bad investment for our teens and took a commendable step forward by rejecting these funds from the Federal Government. The medical community agrees too. According to the American Medical Association, the American Public Health Association and the American School Health Association, scientifically sound comprehensive sex education is the only approach that produces results—not more unwanted pregnancies.

Empowering teens to make smart choices requires education that is proven to work—logical, right? The evidence is clear, comprehensive sex education is the best path to reducing unintended pregnancy, which is the goal we all share. We can't fail our teens by letting politics and ideology interfere with this basic right to information.

HONORING HOWARD BAKER

HON. NORMAN D. DICKS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Mr. DICKS. Madam Speaker, on September 24th I was pleased to attend a ceremony

sponsored by the U.S. Capitol Historical Society at which the 2008 Freedom Award was presented to former Senate Majority Leader Howard Baker, who served in the United States Senate for 18 years. Each year the Society presents this prestigious award to recognize the work that is done under the Capitol dome to defend freedom and preserve the institution of Congress as a representative body. At the start of each Congress, all of us as Members of Congress take an oath to support and defend the Constitution in our role, as the Founders intended, as defenders of the peoples' freedom. As a means of reminding the Congress of this solemn responsibility, the U.S. Capitol Historical Society bestows the Freedom Award annually upon a Member who personifies this spirit and who has demonstrated throughout his or her career a dedication to the institution of Congress and to the cause of freedom. Senator Baker's remarks at the ceremony were particularly relevant and moving, and I would like to take this opportunity to share his speech with my colleagues by entering his remarks into the RECORD:

REMARKS OF HOWARD H. BAKER, JR., U.S. CAPITOL HISTORICAL SOCIETY FREEDOM AWARD, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2008

It is a great honor to be with you this evening, and it is an especially great honor to have been introduced by my dear friend and former colleague Bob Byrd.

In an unusual—perhaps even unprecedented—set of circumstances, Senator Byrd and I served as each other's majority and minority leaders for 8 very eventful years in the late 1970s and early 80s.

And while there are some things Senator Byrd and I disagree on, one thing on which we're in absolute agreement is that being majority leader is better.

My service in the Senate leadership was the culmination of three terms in the United States Senate. For much of my adult career I have served in Congress, or my family has, so some would describe me as a congressional brat—if so I am proud of it.

Having walked the halls of Congress with so many of its legendary figures—most definitely including Robert C. Byrd—and having worked on so many momentous issues with them, I have a special appreciation for the history of the Capitol that this Society does so much to preserve and protect and disseminate to an interested public.

And so it is particularly meaningful to me to be honored by the Capitol Historical Society this evening.

President Lincoln—who also served in Congress, though not, as you may suspect, with me—once wrote in a Message to Congress in the depths of the Civil War, "We cannot escape history. The fiery trial through which we pass will light us down in honor or dishonor to the last generation."

The genius of our system of government is not that it requires a race of supermen to run it but that ordinary people can do extraordinary things for their fellow citizens when they have to. This very week, the Congress, in particular must face a new challenge on policy and legislation to stabilize and rescue our country's economic system.

To succeed it must be in the finest traditions of our legislative process, worthy of Webster and Clay, Johnson and Dirksen, Kennedy and Kassebaum, maybe even Baker and Byrd.

In earlier times, we dealt with Vietnam, Watergate, civil rights, the first environmental protection laws, Social Security reform, the cold war and much else on similar terms and with ultimate success.

I am sure that the men and women of the 110th Congress—Democrats, Republicans,

and Independents—will rise to the challenge of the moment and validate our powerful claim to the value of bipartisanship when it must serve the public interest.

Senator Byrd and I engaged in partisan warfare more than either of us would like to acknowledge today, but even in the midst of such warfare, we knew we were serving an important political purpose: giving voice to the full range of public opinion on matters of national importance.

That is the basis for the Senate's claim to being the "world's greatest deliberative body." America's Founders did not design the Senate as a model of efficiency but as a vessel of democracy, into which the Nation's passions could be poured to cool, and from which the Nation's collective wisdom could be discerned.

The two-party system, which the Founders did not design and from which many of them would have recoiled, has had a similarly steadying influence on our national life.

Two broad-based political parties have over the centuries become very effective means of communicating the public's views to their government, particularly through the legislative branch.

Partisanship has its place—and it is an honorable and useful place—in public life, and those who disdain it often do not understand its value in venting the full expression of our citizens' demands and dissents.

But the greatest of America's Founders—George Washington—feared "factions" above all, and I share his fear that political hostility can overcome the better angels of our nature in some future hour of national peril.

Too often in today's Washington, I see a refusal to hear, much less respect, a differing point of view. I see a refusal to even try to understand the other person's argument. This is new, in my experience, and it is not healthy.

Robert Kennedy was a young lawyer who served as minority council in the Army-McCarthy hearings. I was chosen by Ray Jenkins, a great Tennessee trial lawyer, to assist him in the hearings. By the way, my principal responsibility was reading the daily transcripts! Robert Kennedy and I became quick friends because we had much in common—we were within days of each other in age, had World War II experience, and we shared an enthusiasm for convertibles, although his Cadillac put my Ford to shame.

When we returned to Washington years later as Senators ourselves, just after the assassination of President Kennedy and in the early years of the Vietnam war, we and our colleagues—including Bob Byrd—knew that some things were more important than partisanship.

Having served in the waning days of World War II, we knew that the capacity for calamity in human affairs was almost limitless—and we knew how much the rest of the world looked to the United States for leadership and example.

The men and women of today's Congress know about war, and terror, and now you know how quickly a strong economy can spiral out of control without constant vigilance.

These are sobering events in momentous times, and it is useful for the ordinary men and women serving in this Capitol today to know that others before them rose to similar extraordinary challenges and rescued their country from harm.

"What is past is prologue," the National Archives reminds us. "Study the past." That is what the United States Capitol Historical Society has been encouraging us and enabling us to do for many years.

I thank you for that valuable service. I am humbled by your tribute. And I am honored to be in your company tonight.

HONORING LOUIS DE LA PARTE

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Ms. CASTOR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to praise the lifetime achievements of distinguished Tampa lawyer and Florida legislator Louis de la Parte. Mr. de la Parte was honored for his unselfish compassion and courage to voice his beliefs on causes, even against popular opposition. He was a noble public servant and lived to help his family, friends, and community.

Mr. de la Parte was born in Ybor City, Tampa, and grew up with his mother, a homemaker, and his father, who ran a men's clothing store, whom Louis helped out during the summer. His grandmother lived in public housing in Tampa, and his large family came from a modest background. He used his experience growing up around people less fortunate than he to help out his community and voice the opinions of those who could not be heard. He graduated from Jesuit High School in Tampa in 1946 and received his bachelor of arts degree in psychology from Emory University in 1950. His articulate leadership and natural ability for persuasion led him to earn his juris doctor from the University of Florida.

After law school he joined the Air Force and started a family. He worked as a prosecutor but soon discovered that many of the problems that he was prosecuting could be avoided through science and the more effective delivery of mental health services. This revelation led Mr. de la Parte to run for public office. He served as a Democratic member of the Florida House of Representatives from 1962 through 1966 and the Senate from 1966 through 1974. He served his final year in the legislature as senate president.

During his time in office, he built the Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services to assist the poor, mentally disabled, elderly, and sick. He avidly promoted environmental legislation and educational programs in prisons.

A dedicated family man, Mr. de la Parte was deeply loved by his family. His wife and two children would follow him to work sometimes, carrying his briefcase for him. Mr. de la Parte loved to have big family dinners on Sundays, and to take his family on travels all around the world, particularly to those places he had been while serving in the Air Force. The de la Parte family is a Tampa treasure.

Mr. de la Parte worked in private practice with his son for 4 years. He retired in 1990, when he began to develop the early symptoms of Alzheimer's disease. To congratulate his dedication to progress in the area of mental health, in 1996 the Florida Mental Health Institute at the University of South Florida was named after Mr. de la Parte.

Madam Speaker, Louis de la Parte was a man of the highest regard who dedicated his life to the public good. He will be greatly missed by the State of Florida. My thoughts are with his wife, Helen, his children, Peggy and L. David, and the entire de la Parte family.

HONORING THE KIWANIS CLUB OF ASTORIA—LONG ISLAND CITY

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to pay tribute to the Kiwanis of Astoria—Long Island City for its outstanding work in supporting philanthropic and community organizations serving the people of western Queens.

This year, the Kiwanis Club named as its Man of the Year Panagiotis Manolas, M.D., Chief of Surgery at Mount Sinai Hospital of Queens. Born and educated in Greece, Dr. Manolas immigrated to America to complete his studies. Certified by the American Board of Surgery, he has developed a highly successful multi-specialty practice in general, breast and laparoscopic surgery. Named a "New York Super Doctor" and one of the "Best Doctors in New York", he is devoted to his patients, often providing his services pro bono or on a sliding scale.

The Kiwanis Club is naming as its Women of the Year several deserving honorees. These include: Rose Anne Alafogiannis, past president of the Kiwanis Club and member of Queens Community Board #1, the Astoria Civic Association, SHAREing & CAREing, and a Lector for the Immaculate Conception parish;

Donna Furey, an Astoria native, Kiwanis Club member, and attorney specializing in elder law who who serves as a member of the board of St. John's University School of Law Alumni Association and the Queens County Women's Bar Association and who has dedicated herself to helping local seniors;

Roberta Gualtieri, a life-long Astoria resident who has served countless hours as a volunteer at the Steinway Senior Center, the Kiwanis Club, the 114th Police Precinct, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Roman Catholic Church, St. John's Hospital emergency room, and with literacy programs for underprivileged youth;

Laura Jean Hawkins, a longtime community activist and lecturer who served for many years as Chief of Staff to former Assemblyman Denis Butler and advocate for non-profit groups like SHAREing & CAREing, a breast and ovarian cancer support group;

Teresa Jarnich, a member of the Kiwanis Club of Astoria—Long Island City and a volunteer with its Christmas Auction and Anti-Crime programs;

Christine Lolas, an Athens native who immigrated to the U.S. to launch her career in the banking industry. She is active in the Kiwanis Club, the 30th Avenue Business Association, and serves on the Advisory Board of SHAREing & CAREing;

Anna Kril, the founder of SHAREing & CAREing, Inc. She serves on the Board of Directors of the New York City Health & Hospitals Corporation, on the Executive Board of the Community Advisory Board of Elmhurst Hospital Center, as Chairperson of the Health Committee of Queens Community Board #1 in Queens, and as a member of the Kiwanis Club;

Vera Martucci, who, although widowed at an early age, still devoted herself to serving others by volunteering to assist immigrants through the International Ladies Garment

Workers Union and at St. John's Hospital's emergency department, the Steinway Senior Center, and P.S. 7 and P.S. 126;

Charlene Perno, a Registered Nurse who serves on the Board of SHAREing & CAREing, as coordinator of New York Hospital of Queens' health fair, and who provides health education to local high schools;

Linda Ann Vinci-Perno, an Astoria native who has volunteered for the Boy's Club of Queens, Ladies Auxiliary, President of St. Margaret Mary Rosary Society, and the Long Island chapter of Cancer Care; and

Eartha Washington, who serves as Chair of the Board of Elmhurst Hospital and is active with the New York City Department for the Aging Advisory Board, SHAREing & CAREing, the Kiwanis Club, and the Astoria Civic Association.

I ask that my distinguished colleagues join me in paying tribute to these outstanding individuals for their extraordinary commitment to serving others.

HONORING DR. JAMES P. COMER

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure and honor that I take this time to recognize one of the most influential and renowned individuals to emerge from Northwest Indiana. Dr. James P. Comer, M.D., M.P.H., has made many distinguished contributions to the field of child psychiatry throughout his prestigious career, and I take this time to welcome him back to Northwest Indiana, where he will serve as the keynote speaker for the 2008 Parent University on Saturday, October 11, 2008, at East Chicago Central High School in East Chicago, Indiana. This extraordinary event is sponsored by the School City of East Chicago, the City of East Chicago, the Lake Shore Chamber of Commerce, and Purdue University.

Dr. Comer was born in East Chicago, Indiana. In 1956, he completed his studies at Indiana University and went on to receive his M.D. in 1960 from Howard University College of Medicine. From there, he went on to complete his M.P.H. degree from the University of Michigan School of Public Health in 1964. Following this, he went on to Yale University, where he was trained in psychology at the School of Medicine's Child Study Center. Today, Dr. Comer serves as the school's Maurice Falk Professor of Child Psychiatry. As part of his preparation for his remarkable career, Dr. Comer also completed a one-year residency at the Hillcrest Children's Center in Washington, D.C.

While his contributions to his field are many, Dr. Comer is quite possibly most well known for the founding of the Comer School Development Program in 1968. The goal of this program is to promote the collaboration of parents, educators, and the community to improve social, emotional, and academic outcomes for children that will help them to achieve greater success in school. His approach to focusing on teamwork has been utilized throughout the country at more than 500 schools to improve their educational environments.

As if his work in research and teaching, not to mention the founding such an influential program, were not impressive enough, Dr. Comer is also the author of nine books and the writer of more than 150 articles for Parents Magazine and more than 300 other articles on children's health and development and race relations. He has also worked as a consultant for the Children's Television Workshop, which produces Sesame Street. Throughout the years, Dr. Comer has also committed himself to service on many local, collegiate, and national boards, and he has been recognized with an abundance of prestigious awards and accolades for his work, including an astonishing forty-six honorary degrees.

Madam Speaker, Dr. Comer has made extraordinary contributions to his field and to school systems throughout the United States. His dedication and devotion to the youth of our nation are to be admired. I respectfully ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring Dr. James Comer for his lifetime of contributions to the American way of life through his work in the area of child psychiatry.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF
WILLIE HERD RUSHTON

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, the city of Mobile and indeed the entire nation recently lost a true American hero, and I rise today to honor the memory of Willie Herd Rushton and pay tribute to his memory.

Many Americans came to know Mr. Rushton last year as his courageous story, along with those of other Mobilians, was told in the Ken Burns documentary series, "The War."

Born in Nadawah, Alabama, Mr. Rushton grew up on a saw mill farm in Atmore. After graduating from high school, he moved to Mobile to work at the Coca-Cola Bottling Plant. He was drafted in the spring of 1943, just a year after getting married.

He signed on with the Marines and was shipped to the Pacific in July 1943. His son was born just one month later, a son he would not see for more than two years. Assigned to the 11th Depot Company, he served in the South Pacific from July 1943 until October 1944. He and his unit—a unit that sustained the highest casualty rate of any black Marine unit—took part in the invasion of Peleliu along with the 1st Marine Division.

Mr. Rushton himself was wounded in the leg by shrapnel from a mortar round while on the island. Following his discharge in November of 1945, Mr. Rushton was awarded the Purple Heart as well as the Good Conduct Medal for his valor in service. He worked at Sears, Brookley Field and the United States Postal Service, where he stayed for 43 years. During his career with the Postal Service, his colleagues affectionately referred to Mr. Rushton as "The Chief."

Madam Speaker, I rise to ask my colleagues to join me in remembering a true American hero and friend to many throughout Alabama, as well as a wonderful husband and devoted father. Mr. Rushton will be deeply missed by his family—his wife, Evelyn Bush

Rushton; his two sons, Willie Herd Rushton Jr. and Derrick Rushton; his daughter, Deborah Rushton Campbell; his brother, John Lee Jones; his six grandchildren; and his six great grandchildren—as well as the many countless friends he leaves behind.

Our thoughts and prayers are with them all at this difficult time.

HONORING THE SERVICE AND
HEROISM OF THE 630TH TANK
DESTROYER BATTALION

HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Mr. McCOTTER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor and acknowledge the heroes of the 630th Tank Destroyer Battalion upon their 32nd reunion.

Activated on December 15, 1941 at Fort Jackson, South Carolina, the 630th Tank Destroyer Battalion; often called the "Fightingest," distinguished itself in battle during World War II. On July 24, 1944, the Battalion landed on Omaha Beach in Normandy, France and was attached to the 28th Infantry Division XIX Corps.

The men of the 630th Tank Destroyer Battalion fought valiantly in the European Theater during the war. From December 15, 1944 and December 31, 1944 the Battalion participated in actions against enemy forces in some of the most difficult operations known to warfare. The Battalion bravely liberated France, Luxembourg, and Belgium and provided critical support to allied victory in the Battle of the Bulge; proving the resistance and stamina of the American soldier was unbreakable. The heroism of the 630th Tank Destroyer Battalion was undoubtedly critical in bringing victory and peace to Europe. Tragically, many of these heroes never returned home, however their memory will live on forever in the hearts and minds of those they left behind. Beginning in 1963, and annually since 1992, the veterans and their families have reunited thus growing into an extended family of friends.

Madam Speaker, the soldiers of the 630th Tank Destroyer Battalion are heroes and champions of American freedom. As we recognize the outstanding contribution these veterans and those lost in battle have made for the cause of freedom, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring their many years of selfless service to their community and our country.

IN MEMORIAM OF A TRAIL-
BLAZING AFRICAN AMERICAN
JOURNALIST

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the lifelong accomplishments of the late Nancy Hicks Maynard, a pioneering advocate for greater diversity in the newsrooms of this country's newspapers. She was a native daughter of Harlem, where her mother nurtured her love for journalism, where she first

noted the incredible power of the press and decided its black-and-white pages desperately needed more color. Both as a strategist working to draw minorities to newsrooms, and as a groundbreaking journalist in her own right, she paved the way for women and African Americans in an industry home to few of either group. She rose from New York Post copy girl to reporter by age 20 and soon thereafter became a member of the New York Times' metropolitan staff—the youngest and first African American woman to do so. There, she covered New York and Washington science, health, education, and domestic policy issues until 1977. At Long Island University, she earned her bachelor's degree and studied journalism, and later, she earned a law degree from Stanford University.

But her love affair with journalism did not end at the written word. In 1983, she and her husband, Robert C. Maynard, purchased the declining Oakland Tribune, which then became the only major daily with African American owners. She and he founded the Maynard Institute for Journalism Education, where they ran a summer program aimed at training minority reporters. Cultivating a broader cultural perspective for American media became the cause of her life. She served as a role model to aspiring journalists of all colors and genders, an exemplar of what dedication to a cause and a strong work ethic can accomplish.

That tenacity and sense of purpose will be missed, but because of her work, her dream of a diversified newsroom has, and will continue, to concretize.

CAMPUS SAFETY ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, September 7, 2008

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 6838, "Center to Advance, Monitor, and Preserve University Security Safety Act of 2008", introduced by my colleague Congressman BOBBY SCOTT of Virginia.

Sadly, this legislation is in reaction to the numerous tragedies occurring at colleges and universities, including the disastrous events that occurred at Virginia Tech and Northern Illinois University. The Virginia Tech shooting resulted in the slaying of over 30 members of the Virginia Tech family and many others being wounded.

The shooting that occurred on the campus of Northern Illinois University on February 14, 2008 also killed and injured several individuals on the campus. Unfortunately, because these events were the first of their kind for the schools, they were not fully knowledgeable on how to respond.

CAMPUS SAFETY ACT

This legislation will assist all institutions of higher education and states receive the best information possible on campus safety.

This legislation establishes and organizes a National Center for Campus Safety (Center) which will:

1. Provide quality education and training for campus public safety agencies of institutions of higher education and the agencies' collabo-

orative partners, including campus mental health agencies;

2. Foster quality research to strengthen the safety and security of the institutions of higher education in the United States;

3. Serve as a clearinghouse for the identification and dissemination of information, policies, procedures, and best practices relevant to campus public safety, including off-campus housing safety, the prevention of violence against persons and property, and emergency response and evacuation procedures;

4. Develop protocols, in conjunction with the Attorney General, the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Secretary of Education, State, local, and tribal governments and law enforcement agencies, private and nonprofit organizations and associations, and other stakeholders, to prevent, protect against, respond to, and recover from, natural and man-made emergencies or dangerous situations involving an immediate threat to the health or safety of the campus community;

5. Promote the development and dissemination of effective behavioral threat assessment and management models to prevent campus violence;

6. Coordinate campus safety information (including ways to increase off-campus housing safety) and resources available from the Department of Justice, the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Education, State, local, and tribal governments and law enforcement agencies, and private and nonprofit organizations and associations;

7. Increase cooperation, collaboration, and consistency in prevention, response, and problem-solving methods among law enforcement, mental health, and other agencies and jurisdictions serving institutions of higher education in the United States;

8. Develop standardized formats and models for mutual aid agreements and memoranda of understanding between campus security agencies and other public safety organizations and mental health agencies; and

9. Report annually to Congress and the Attorney General on activities performed by the Center during the previous 12 months.

The Center will train campus public safety agencies, encourage research to strengthen college safety and security, and serve as a clearinghouse for the dissemination of relevant campus public safety information. By having this information, institutions of higher education will be able to easily obtain the best information available on ways to keep campuses safe and secure and how to respond in the event of a campus emergency.

TEXAS

The good state of Texas has 214 institutions of higher learning alone, with Texas Southern University, University of Houston, and Texas Technical University to name just a few.

With so many institutions comes, so many different standards of campus safety regulations.

CONCLUSION

This legislation would consolidate the information from the various colleges and universities so that the standards for collaboration in prevention, response, and problem-solving methods among law enforcement, mental health, and other agencies is consistent throughout the nation. What is done at Prairie View A&M University is also done at UCLA, is done at New York University, and is done at the University of Florida.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 6838 and ensure that our colleges and universities are safe places for our young people to study and learn.

TRIBUTE TO ELLEN LANER

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my good friend and constituent, the late Ellen Laner of Mission Hills, Kansas, who passed away on September 28th.

Ellen Laner led a long and productive life, which served to make Johnson County, Kansas, a much better place for her neighbors and friends. Ellen was a committed and passionate community volunteer who also was very politically engaged. She was named Citizen of the Year by the United Community Services; twice named Volunteer of the Year by the Johnson County Mental Health Association; received the Hannah B. Solomon Award from the National Council of Jewish Women; awarded the Stand Up, Speak Out Award from the Mainstream Coalition; helped in the establishment of Johnson County Community College and served as a member of its Board of Trustees; had many years of service in the Kansas League of Women Voters, eventually serving as President; was very active in the establishment and growth of the Mainstream Coalition and served as President; volunteered as a Board Member of the Johnson County Library Foundation; was an active volunteer for Planned Parenthood of Kansas City and Western Missouri, working as its Resource Development Director and for a short time was its Executive Director; and was a founder of the Johnson County Coalition for Prevention of Child Abuse, now known as Sunflower House.

Ellen Laner was born in Little Rock, Arkansas, the daughter of Noland and Isabel Blass. She came to the Kansas City area in 1950 after her marriage to S. Harvey "Bud" Laner, who preceded her in death in 1980. She was a member of the New Reform Temple and Oakwood Country Club, and loved golf, bridge, dogs, and professional sports. She is survived by her son and daughter-in-law, Joel and Marsha Laner, and their three children, Allison Laner, Blass Laner and Duncan Laner of Kansas City, Missouri. She also is survived by her brother and his wife, Gus and Patricia Blass of Little Rock, and their children, Gus Blass, III, and his wife, Becky; by her sister Constance Blass O'Neill and her husband, Chris; her sister-in-law, Barbara Phillips of Little Rock and her children, Beverly Wittenberg and Peter Phillips and her great-nieces and nephews.

Ellen Laner's civic accomplishments range far and wide, and our community owes her a great deal for her leadership in making Johnson County the strong and caring community that it is today. I was a part of the same generation of many young women, educated in colleges across the Nation in the 1960s, who ended up in Johnson County as the wives of the young men who worked in various professions and businesses in the Kansas City metropolitan area. Motivated by the political turbulence of the 1960s, we wanted to do more for

our community and Nation, in addition to raising our families. Ellen's leadership in the League of Women Voters inspired both men and women to use our education to volunteer, seek public office, and take leadership roles in improving our government, our libraries, and our public schools, and the lives of those who were not as fortunate as us. Many of the women who have served Johnson County so exceptionally well as mayors, city council members, school board members and legislators were motivated, supported and inspired by Ellen Laner.

Madam Speaker, we were fortunate to know Ellen Laner, and we are so very grateful for what she contributed to our lives. I am grateful to this House for giving me the opportunity to share this tribute with my fellow Members of Congress and with the American people.

THE WEBCASTER SETTLEMENT ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, September 27, 2008

Mr. BERMAN. Madam Speaker, I would like to make clear that no provision of H.R. 7084 should be construed to opine on what entity or entities can be considered a "receiving agent" under 17 U.S.C. Section 114(g)(4). I understand that there is ongoing litigation pertaining to the qualifications of a receiving agent and I would not want H.R. 7084 to influence a court's ultimate decision on this matter.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. VITO FOSSELLA

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

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

Bill Number: H.R. 2638.

Account: Military Construction, Army Reserve National Guard.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: New York National Guard.

Address of Requesting Entity: 330 Old Niskayuna Road, Latham, NY 12110.

Description of Request: \$2.955 million will be used for the establishment of an additional Civil Support Team. This team, located within the New York City metropolitan area, ensures that the top terrorist target in the country, New York City, has an immediate and prepared asset, ready at a moments notice, if a chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, high explosive, CBRNE, incident were to occur.

LETTER TO REPRESENTATIVE
McCOTTER FROM THE LITHUANIAN
AMBASSADOR TO THE
UNITED STATES, AUDRIUS
BRŪZGA

HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Mr. McCOTTER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to place into the RECORD a letter from

Ambassador Audrius Brūzga of Lithuania regarding House Concurrent Resolution 255.

EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Washington, DC, September 29, 2008.

Congressman THADDEUS McCOTTER,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN: I am aware that on September 25, 2008 the United States House of Representatives passed the House Concurrent Resolution 255: Expressing the sense of Congress regarding the United States commitment to preservation of religious and cultural sites and condemning instances where sites are desecrated.

I write to express my astonishment and utter surprise that such a Resolution was submitted for vote at the time when the process of finding a solution to the issue of the former Šnipiškės Jewish cemetery is at its final stages and all the interested parties are in agreement of the necessary steps and actions.

You may well be aware that on June 25 through July 5 geophysical investigation was carried out by a contractor company from Israel Geotec on 14 chosen areas. Alongside with the geophysical investigation, archeological investigation was carried out by the Lithuanian Cultural Heritage Department.

On September 22nd, based on the results of the said investigations the Lithuanian Minister of Foreign Affairs Petras Vaitiekūnas, Head of the Government working group for the preservation of the former Jewish cemetery in Šnipiškės, presented recommendations to the Government of Lithuania on further steps regarding the preservation of the former Šnipiškės cemetery. One of the recommendations of the working group is for the competent Lithuanian institutions—Vilnius City Municipality, Governor Administration of Vilnius County, the Ministry of Culture—with the participation of the representatives from the Jewish community and the owners of the territory of former cemetery—to organize an open international competition for the monumentalization of the former Šnipiškės Jewish cemetery site.

Furthermore, the former Jewish cemetery in Šnipiškės has gained legal protection in compliance with the decision of the Department of Cultural Heritage under the Ministry of Culture. The Register of Cultural Heritage of the Republic of Lithuania guarantees the permanent preservation of the former cemetery site.

During the whole process, the Lithuanian Government has demonstrated commitment to resolving the controversy over former Jewish cemetery in Šnipiškės by involving Lithuanian and international experts, historians, geophysical survey experts, cartographers and archeologists, and International Jewish communities, as well as allocating appropriate resources for research and analyses. The Government of Lithuania has worked closely and will continue to work with the representatives of the Committee for the Preservation of Jewish Cemeteries in Europe and with other Jewish organizations, in search of a mutually acceptable solution.

Mr. Congressman, Jewish culture, history, sacred sites and traditions are part of Lithuania's national heritage. Sadly, during the period of Nazi and Soviet occupations (1940-1991) much of this has been lost or decimated. It takes time and painstaking efforts to undo the damage. Allow me to assure you that the Government is committed to the preservation of all of the cultural heritage in Lithuania and is doing so in a manner which is consistent with rule of law and justice. It is disappointing when this is not appreciated by the colleagues in the U.S.

Lithuania and the United States are close allies. We share the freedom agenda and we stand together in defence of our shared values. I am certain that we will continue to cherish our strong bonds of partnership.

I avail myself of this opportunity to renew to you the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,

AUDRIUS BRŪZGA,
Ambassador.

INTRODUCTION OF THE IMMIGRATION
OVERSIGHT AND FAIRNESS
ACT, H.R. 7255

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Madam Speaker, on any given day, roughly 30,000 immigration detainees are held in a mix of federal, state, local and private detention facilities. Explosive growth in the number of non-citizens in immigration detention across the country has resulted in sometimes shameful conditions of confinement and repeated incidents of detainee abuse.

Although federal immigration authorities adopted detention standards in 1998 and 2000, you wouldn't know it today. These non-binding standards, which cover access to medical care, the separation of violent and non-violent suspects, and access to a lawyer, have not been enforced.

It is long past time that Congress make the federal government abide by its own detention standards. That is why today I am introducing the Immigration Oversight and Fairness Act of 2008.

The bill establishes long-overdue legally binding detention standards for all immigration detention facilities.

The Immigration Oversight and Fairness Act also establishes legally binding standards for Customs and Border Patrol stations which, though not technically detention facilities, house immigrants for a few hours or a few days before their transfer to immigration authorities.

Finally, the Immigration Oversight and Fairness Act treats those detainees who a judge determines are not a flight risk or a threat to society in a more humane and rational way. Under this bill, these individuals would be placed in a proven program of supervised release instead of in a detention facility where the federal government must expend enormous resources to feed, house and watch over them.

Madam Speaker, I look forward to the House considering these critical reforms of the immigration detention system in the next Congress.

ATCHISON COUNTY COURTHOUSE

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to the Atchison County Courthouse which will recognize the 125th Anniversary of

the Courthouse on October 28th, 2008. A special ceremony will take place to honor the history and tradition of the County Courthouse that has existed since 1863.

The Atchison County Courthouse is located in the county seat Rock Port, Missouri. Atchison County is named after former United States Senator, David Rice Atchison. The Courthouse is home to various county government offices and is the location Atchison County residents venture to conduct county business.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing the Atchison County Courthouse, an architectural blessing to the citizens of Atchison County. It is truly an honor to serve my home county, Atchison County Missouri in the United States Congress.

IN HONOR OF DEDICATED PUBLIC
SERVANT ASSEMBLYMAN GENE
MULLIN

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, as happens too often in this age of legislative term limits, the state of California is losing a wise, dedicated and accomplished public servant. Assemblyman Gene Mullin, who was first elected on November 5, 2002 to represent the 19th District of California, will retire at the end of this year.

Assemblyman Mullin represents a district that I, too, once served. I know the people there and I know that no one could serve them better than Gene. I cannot overstate my fondness and admiration for this man. He went into public service for the right reason: To serve. Any conversation with Gene is never about Gene. While many are called "selfless", with most it's just a word. Gene truly does put others first—constituents, family, students, even strangers. All who come into contact with him know that when Gene Mullin gives you his word, you can take it to the bank.

Gene served his community long before they chose him to represent them in the legislature. For 32 years, he taught government and coached basketball at South San Francisco High School. In the 1970s, he was tapped by city leadership to serve on the town's Planning Commission, where he was instrumental in attracting Genentech to the city in 1976. This started a bio-tech boom in South San Francisco and is a major reason why the city is on better financial footing than other municipalities. In 1979 the City Council named Gene Mullin "Citizen of the Year."

In 1995, Gene Mullin joined the South San Francisco City Council, where he served for seven years, including two terms as Mayor. Upon his election to the Assembly, Gene quickly made a name for himself as a quick study, hard worker and consensus-builder. He retires as Chairman of the Assembly Committee on Education and previously served as Chair of the Committee on Housing and Community Development.

Assemblyman Mullin has worked to ensure education funding for students and teachers. He authored bills to restore the \$500 million borrowed from the California State Teachers

Retirement System and has pushed programs to assure the quality of child care services. He has also been instrumental in efforts to provide affordable housing for all Californians.

Prior to his government service, Gene was a gifted and much-loved educator. Not only do many of his students still mention him as a favorite teacher and role model, but he was honored as San Mateo County's Teacher of the Year in 1991 and the California Teachers Association's 1996 State Teacher of the Year in Politics.

Gene Mullin graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science from the University of San Francisco in 1960 and holds a Lifetime Secondary Teaching Credential, also from USF.

Madam Speaker, our state is in serious need of dedicated and intelligent public servants in our legislature. Gene Mullin will be sorely missed in Sacramento, but our loss is his family's gain. A dedicated father, husband and grandfather, Gene can now spend more time with his lovely and vivacious wife, Terri, his two children, Jennifer and Kevin, and three grandsons, Austin, Jonathan and Colton.

Gene has lived his entire life in the Bay Area and we are all richer because of it.

HONORING SISTER JUDY GARSON
FOR HER LEADERSHIP OF THE
LITTLE SISTERS OF THE AS-
SUMPTION FAMILY HEALTH
SERVICES

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Sister Judy Garson for her 24 years of service with the Little Sisters of the Assumption Family Health Services. Sister Judy has been an extraordinary leader, ably directing the expansion of the services provided by the Little Sisters of the Assumption Family Health Service and ensuring that the organization continues to be a vital force in the community. After nearly a quarter of a century in dedicated and effective service to others, Sister Judy Garson is embarking on a well-deserved retirement.

The devotion of the Little Sisters of the Assumption to the well-being of families with children in East Harlem is truly remarkable. Since its founding five decades ago this year, the Sisters' Family Health Service has offered community-based health services to historically underserved local residents of "El Barrio". Through a broad range of services, including parenting classes, summer day-camp trips for children in the community, and day-care services, the Little Sisters of the Assumption have made an enormous and enduring difference in countless lives.

In her nearly quarter century of service at Little Sisters of the Assumption Family Health Services, Sister Garson has seen its full-time staff expand from 30 to more than 60 employees. Under her guidance, the Little Sisters of the Assumption Family Health Services has evolved into a highly successful, independent organization that will continue to serve the East Harlem community for generations to come. During her distinguished tenure at the Little Sisters of the Assumption Family Health

Service, Sister Judy Garson has been at the forefront of the valiant effort to combat HIV and AIDS in a community that has widely been considered an epicenter of this lethal epidemic. With courage and compassion, she reached out to those suffering from HIV and AIDS at a time when misinformation and a lack of public awareness created an impenetrable stigma around those infected with the virus. Her educational outreach offered a shining example of her distinguished and effective service.

Perhaps the most remarkable facet of Sister Garson's 24 years of service with the Little Sisters of the Assumption Family Health Services is the patient and considerate attention that she pays to each and every family in her organization's care. She and her staff do more than identify clients' problems and offer assistance; they take the extra step to help families obtain enduring ways to overcome the obstacles in their lives.

Sister Judy Garson's leadership skills were apparent from the beginning of her career. After completing her bachelor's degree, Sister Judy accepted a prestigious position in Rome as one of five board members responsible for the administration of the Society of the Sacred Heart and its numerous chapters in more than 33 countries around the world. She drew upon the invaluable experience she gained at the Vatican when she returned to the United States, where she brought to bear her inspirational and effective leadership and management skills in our nation's greatest city.

In recognition of her outstanding contributions to the well-being of the people she has served and her extraordinary leadership of the Little Sisters of the Assumption Family Health Services, I ask that my distinguished colleagues join me in honoring Sister Judy Garson, an outstanding and compassionate leader who has dedicated her life to serving others.

NATIONAL GUARD AND RESERVISTS DEBT RELIEF ACT OF 2008

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 3197, the "National Guard and Reservists Debt Relief Act of 2008." This bill is important because it liberalizes the debt relief standard for those persons who are most deserving, our nation's heroes that serve in the National Guard.

This bill is important because the President has made it more difficult for people to claim bankruptcy. Specifically, the Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention and Consumer Protection Act of 2005 (2005 Bankruptcy Act) was signed into law by President George W. Bush on April 20, 2005. The 2005 Bankruptcy Act is the most comprehensive overhaul of bankruptcy law in more than 25 years. The 2005 Bankruptcy Act makes particular changes to the consumer bankruptcy. The changes to consumer bankruptcy included, among other things, the establishment of a means testing mechanism to determine a debtor's ability to repay debts. Under this test, a chapter 7 bankruptcy case is presumed to be an abuse if it appears that the debtor has income in excess of certain thresholds.

S. 3197 would exempt certain qualifying reserve component members of the Armed Services and National Guard members from the means test's presumption of abuse. This bill responds to the fact that some who serve in the National Guard and the Reserves encounter financial difficulties and that they should not be subject to the additional proof requirements of the means test.

Members of the armed services, National Guard, and reservists find themselves in a precarious economic situation. Before they are deployed they have stable employment and they expect a set amount of money. However, deployment brings with it change in livelihood and lifestyle. When a spouse is deployed, the spouse that remains behind must now work, find baby sitters, and are subject to a myriad of life-altering financial changes. Sometimes houses have to be sold and deployment can cause all sorts of financial hardships. Simply put, the armed services, National Guard, and reservists should not be penalized.

I cosponsored the House version of this bill H.R. 4044, and I urge my colleagues to support it. This bill makes sense because often armed services personnel and reservists receive high compensation when they are away on hazardous tours or combat zones. However, when these individuals return, their income is not as high. Therefore, it is unfair to subject these individuals to the means test. Simply, the means test is whether the person has the means to pay his or her debts. Hazard pay and temporary high pay for combat work is not necessarily a good indicator of person's means or ability to pay. These individuals are serving our country and have legitimate financial concerns. I do not believe that they should be penalized. I believe we should help our armed services personnel for giving so much to fight for and protect this country. The least we can do is help them.

I firmly believe that we should celebrate our National Guard and reservists, and I remain committed, as a Member of Congress, to ensuring that we demonstrate our respect for them. The National Guard and reservists have kept their promise to serve our Nation; they have willingly risked their lives to protect the country we all love.

As the great British leader Winston Churchill famously stated, "Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few."

We must always remember the debt that we owe our National Guard and reservists that are willing to lie down their lives for us and render the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom and security. Our gratitude must continue to be unwavering.

In the words of President John F. Kennedy, "As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them." It is not simply enough to sing the praises of our Nation's great veterans; I firmly believe that we must demonstrate by our actions how proud we are of our American heroes.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

MANUFACTURERS KNOW ALL ABOUT ECONOMIC COLLAPSE

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I want to share with our colleagues a commentary from the recent edition of *Manufacturing & Technology News* by its editor Richard McCormack. He writes that manufacturers in this country know about economic collapse because that sector of our economy has been on the downward slide for years and that their experience should be a lesson for this Nation's leaders who are trying to find a way to turn around the economy. His article follows:

[FROM THE *MANUFACTURING & TECHNOLOGY NEWS*, SEPT. 30, 2008]

COMMENTARY: MANUFACTURERS KNOW ALL ABOUT ECONOMIC COLLAPSE

(By Richard McCormack)

It is sad what has happened to the United States.

For years, as editor of *Manufacturing & Technology News*, I have heard dozens of domestic manufacturing company CEOs talk about an impending "collapse" of the U.S. economy. These were the men who were in the unenviable position of having to close their companies or shut down factories and watch as most all of their competitors did the same thing.

These were the men who implemented Six Sigma, lean, ISO 9000, and the Baldrige National Quality and Shingo Prize criteria. They were leaders who agonized over having to move the world's most efficient production capacity from the United States to Mexico and China in order to stay in business, because no matter how good they were, it wasn't good enough to survive. They could compete with other companies, but they could not compete against other COUNTRIES—countries that cheated in every way imaginable.

These manufacturing company CEOs were men who loved their employees. Who grew up with their employees. Who knew their families. Who knew in their hearts the economic, cultural, moral and physical destruction that was being wrought upon their communities.

U.S. manufacturing company CEOs died many deaths, watching as Wall Street mavericks and their economic ideological apologists in the U.S. federal government, in Congress and their high-paid agents in Washington, D.C., forced hundreds of thousands of dedicated, hard-working Americans into the street, to fend for themselves in a game that was rigged against them.

Has the financial class driven through the heartland of America lately? Have they not taken AMTRAK between New York City and Washington, D.C., passing through the industrial back lots of Baltimore, Wilmington, Philadelphia, Trenton and Newark? Have they not seen an American landscape stretching for thousands of square miles that looks like it has been bombed out?

There are places in America that are "healthy," but these places are even worse: shopping and strip malls located on the edges of America's deteriorating towns and cities, lined with vast parking lots and national chain stores: Applebees, Home Depot, Wal-Mart, Wendy's, Days Inn, Outback Steak House. They are soul-less places—"Anywhere USA"—as depressing as the crumbling inner city cores of hundreds of American cities and towns. This is what has

become of America. Wall Street had a lot to do with this. As part of the financial bailout bill, they needed to include a provision on teaching ethics and civics.

The heroic men running companies that made durable goods wept on the phone when I called to ask about why they closed their factory after it had been in operation for 80 years or more.

These people were not selling financial paper or making products that were obsolete and no longer in demand, like buggy whips. And yet when I speak with economists about manufacturing, they invariably rationalize the loss of America's wealth-generating sector by claiming the companies that are dying are making "buggy whips." It is wrong and it is infuriating. We're talking about the United States economy, which has just suffered a massive financial heart attack.

I remember writing about the manufacturing job situation in early 2004. It was the 35th consecutive month of manufacturing employment layoffs, with the latest BLS figure coming in at 135,000 production workers being told to go home and not ever come back. This was a crisis. I wondered why in the hell not a single person in the Bush administration and only a handful of people in Congress cared about the collapse of the wealth-generating sector of the American economy. As is happening with the financial sector today, manufacturing five years ago was being disassembled in front of their eyes. There were no bailouts—manufacturers weren't looking for them—there weren't even bromides.

I remember thinking as Bush invaded Iraq that it was America's last great hurrah. As America's military hardware was being shipped to the Middle East, America's industrial base was being shipped in the opposite direction to China. The war was happening at the same time that "outsourcing" became a big story in the media. But the business press got bored and started covering the incredible run-up of housing prices. "Whoop-ee," said all the journalists and economists. "Who needs industry when we've got finance and housing!"

But the manufacturing industry's plight continued. I wanted to rename my publication "One Outrage After Another." I was constantly questioning whether I should continue writing all the stories of companies dying, of industries leaving, of workers being laid off, of trade deficits skyrocketing, of China cheating, of the perverse reaction among Washington elites to rationalize the destruction. I wondered if I was the problem. If being Irish meant fixating on the negative. But I had covered manufacturing through the 1990s, and the story wasn't depressing. I even wrote a book about U.S. companies' adoption of the Toyota Production System and lean manufacturing and the good it was doing. It was not me. It was the story that could not be ignored.

I got to know other people who couldn't sleep at night fretting over what was happening to the United States industrial base. These were patriotic people who started to coalesce around these issues, who were utterly perplexed by the federal government's total unwillingness to act on behalf of American producers and their workers.

The government knew what was going on. But its political appointees made nonsensical ideological arguments concerning "free trade" and "free markets." "We've got a war going on, we can't support U.S. manufacturing" was a refrain I heard over and over again by political appointees at the "Commerce" Department and White House.

Manufacturers weren't looking for a hand out or a bailout. They only wanted one thing: for the United States government to put the interests of American producers

above the interests of foreign countries, foreign producers, importers and the multinational companies that were taking advantage of mercantilist practices in China. American manufacturers wanted the U.S. government to put the interests of American producers ahead of the law firms representing foreign shipping companies, the lobbyists representing Wall Street and, again, the multinational companies that were swimming in record profits by sending their production offshore; all while the critical manufacturing sector was left for dead. "Good riddance," said the financial elite and its power structure: "those jobs sucked anyway."

Those same free-market, capitalist, anti-government, anti-regulation ideological zealots are now begging—demanding—that taxpayers give them a trillion dollars for destroying the American economy.

I never once reported about the dire warnings of an economic meltdown—about the inevitable financial catastrophe being caused by the asymmetrical global trade imbalances that were mounting by the day. I had my own 401k to worry about along with three older children, and I was not going to be a reporter who stoked the possibility of economic Armageddon.

I guess I was wrong. I guess I should have been reporting on the impending collapse because President George Bush, Treasury Secretary Hank Paulson and Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke sure haven't had any such reservations about scaring the bejesus out of us.

What strikes me as particularly sad, however, is the clear FACT that in all of the discussion about bailing out the financiers and their agents who killed the American economy, there has not been one mention of the real reason for America's collapse, nor of what is needed to start the long process of restoring the country back to some semblance of economic health.

The housing bubble and sub-prime loans are only part of the problem.

The real culprit is the fact that almost everything Americans buy is made somewhere else. The country continues to ship all of its wealth overseas. Did the economic policy makers not watch the opening ceremony of the Olympic Games in Beijing? Have they not seen the 200-story skyscrapers going up in Dubai?

The core of America's economic problems stem from the trade deficit and the elimination of tens of thousands of factories and millions of jobs that were creating the wealth the country needed to pay for everything. Without that wealth, the financial sector invented playthings and the nation borrowed until it could borrow no more.

Oh, but wait! The answer to the problem is to borrow more to bailout the people who over borrowed. The Paulson proposal, unexpectedly defeated on Monday September 29 in a harrowing live television broadcast, was to allow the U.S. government to payoff bad debts by going deeper into debt. It did not sit well with anybody.

September 29, 2008, will be an important day in the history of the American Republic. It is the day the American era ended. Watching the live pictures on CNBC of the traders in the pits watching the television monitors above their heads as the vote on the House floor was tallied was like watching New Yorkers standing in horror as they watched the burning World Trade Center towers in 2001. The congressional vote count was simulcast with the Dow, and they were crashing in unison. There was shock in the eyes of the traders, and a panic among the CNBC broadcasters, who couldn't believe what they were witnessing. These men and women are consummate professionals and are not prone

to panic. But there they were barking out: "What's happening with gold?" "Look at the oil markets!" The market did what the towers did and what our President predicted: it collapsed. For the second time in seven years, the energy was visibly drained out of Lower Manhattan and the country at large, as it realized a scary new era had begun.

Yet, there is still NOT ONE mention from anyone in power—especially not the two presidential candidates, nor of a single congressional leader—of what is really needed to bailout the United States.

The only way out of this mess is for the United States do everything it can to make the country what it was until 30 years ago: a nation that valued manufacturing.

The U.S. economy long ago collapsed around domestic manufacturers. Now it's collapsing around the financial wizards who either forget or didn't know that their livelihoods depended on a robust industry and workers making livable wages.

As someone who works in Washington, attends press conferences, government meetings, congressional hearings and who asks questions of the power elite, I can assure you from first-hand experience that the United States government did not do a single thing—nothing—to re-set the global ground rules to allow U.S. industry and its millions of workers to be competitive. In fact, all the rules were changed to favor the foreign and financial interests. The country is now paying the real price of saving a few bucks at Wal-Mart.

The United States government and its elected representatives long ago stopped representing the interests of American workers and American producers. If there is any silver lining in the historic House vote on the Bailout Plan on September 29, it is that maybe Congress has woken up to the power of the people. Unfortunately it was the wrong time to wake up. "The people" must now pay the consequences of their elected representative's somnambulism. They must now prepare to confront the "dire" consequences caused by decades of Wall Street's short-term focus on quarterly profits at the exclusion of everything else.

The country has a lot to learn from American manufacturers and their workers, and it will not like what's coming one bit.

IN RECOGNITION OF GOODWILL INDUSTRIES OF GREATER NEW YORK AND NORTHERN NEW JERSEY ON THE OCCASION OF ITS COMMUNITY CONNECT ACTION DAY

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I ask that my distinguished colleagues in this House join me in saluting Goodwill Industries of Greater New York and Northern New Jersey. This outstanding institution has proudly and effectively served residents with disabilities and disadvantages living in the New York City metropolitan area since its founding in Brooklyn in 1915. Throughout its illustrious history, Goodwill Industries has carried out its critical mission, which is to "enhance the quality and dignity of life for individuals, families and communities."

Last year, Goodwill Industries of Greater New York and Northern New Jersey provided services to more than 120,000 people, placing

13,000 in jobs. Over the course of the last five years, it helped to connect 53,000 persons with employment opportunities. In 2007, it served more than 9,500 persons with disabilities, and placed almost 2,800 of them in jobs. Goodwill Industries of Greater New York and Northern New Jersey employs more than 1,800 people with disabilities, and its youth programs provide education, recreation and enrichment to 9,400 children and their families. And, as the Member of Congress representing the neighborhood of Astoria in the Borough of Queens, I am proud of Goodwill Industries' long-term commitment to serve the Two Coves community of Astoria, where its headquarters are located.

This year, the Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Company is celebrating its 150th anniversary by supporting family-strengthening initiatives across the nation. Northwestern Mutual is working in tandem with Goodwill Industries International to achieve this laudable goal. With 184 member and affiliate Goodwill agencies around the world serving 1.1 million individuals and placing 140,000 in employment, the program promises to be an outstanding success.

This month, Goodwill Industries of Greater New York and Northern New Jersey and the Northwestern Mutual Foundation are co-sponsoring a Community Connect Action Fair at Lighthouse Park on Roosevelt Island in New York City to help connect New York families with employment and community resources while providing healthy, entertaining activities for children and adults alike.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my distinguished colleagues rise to join me in saluting the tremendous contributions of Goodwill Industries of Greater New York and Northern New Jersey to the civic good of the communities it serves, and to recognize the vital support for those efforts provided by the Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Company and its Northwestern Mutual Foundation. All Americans owe these great institutions a debt of gratitude for their selfless and compassionate efforts to serve others.

HONORING THE 33RD ANNIVERSARY OF BISHOP GEORGE W. BROOKS

HON. MELVIN L. WATT

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Mr. WATT. Madam Speaker, I am pleased today to recognize the 33rd anniversary of Bishop George W. Brooks as Senior Pastor and Chief Elder of Mount Zion Baptist Church in Greensboro, NC.

Since becoming the pastor of Mt. Zion Baptist Church in 1975, Bishop Brooks has proven to be an inspirational leader in Greensboro, our nation and around the world.

Under his leadership, the Mt. Zion Baptist Church has flourished from 35 members in 1975 to over 5,000, and 42 ministries that work to address some of the fundamental needs of its congregation, the Greensboro community and people abroad. Examples of these ministries include daycare and after-school programs that serve 200 children daily, homeless outreach, health and wellness care and the One In Christ Bible College. Internationally, Bishop Brooks and his congregation have established churches and schools in

West Africa, South Africa and the Philippines, including the first Bible School in a South African prison to reduce recidivism. In the midst of all his accomplishments, Bishop Brooks is also an outstanding husband, father and grandfather.

Bishop Brooks is also the co-founder of the Welfare Reform Liaison Project, a program that has been recognized by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for empowering welfare recipients with the skills to become self-sufficient.

Madam Speaker, we are often reminded and we all agree that government can't solve all our problems. It's great to know that we're getting help on the ground from faith and other non-government organizations. Bishop Brooks and Mt. Zion Baptist Church are certainly doing their part. I'm sure my colleagues join me in wishing Bishop George W. Brooks and the Mt. Zion Baptist Church congregation a happy 33rd pastoral anniversary and best wishes for years to come.

HELPING AMERICAN WORKERS

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Madam Speaker, we cannot allow the understandable focus on Wall Street to distract us from the struggles facing America's working families. The families of more than 5,000 New Mexico workers who are still looking for jobs in our struggling economy could soon face destitution. On this day when we consider legislation providing \$700 billion in taxpayer dollars to bail out Wall Street, we must do something to help the working families and to make our economy start producing jobs again.

The Unemployment Insurance extension bill we are voting on today does what is right for New Mexico workers who need a helping hand so their families can make ends meet while they look for jobs in our struggling economy. It also does what's right for every New Mexico family concerned about our state's economy, because it will boost economic growth so we can start producing jobs again. Experts consider extending unemployment insurance to be one of the quickest and most efficient ways to make the economy produce jobs again, since the benefits go to workers who need the money and will spend it quickly. Moody's Investor Service's Economy.com Chief Economist Mark Zandi estimates that every \$1 increase in UI benefits results in a \$1.64 infusion of economic activity.

Numbers released today by the Bureau of Labor Statistics show that America has lost jobs for 9 straight months. New Mexico's unemployment rate rose from 4.1 percent to 4.6 percent in August, the last month for which numbers are available. It is up from 3.1 percent in January. Since the beginning of the year, the economy has lost 760,000 jobs. The job loss in September was the largest one-month jobs loss in 5½ years, more than twice the average of the previous 8 months.

These numbers make two things clear. First, the Bush administration's economic policies have failed, and we need to go in a new direction. Second, American workers need our support. They are suffering because of economic

policies they had nothing to do with. As I continue to work for real reforms to fix our financial system, I will not forget New Mexico's working families.

HONORING TEXAS STATE REPRESENTATIVE PAUL MORENO

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Mr. REYES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my fellow El Pasoan, Texas State Representative Paul Moreno, an institution in El Paso and the State of Texas and the longest serving Hispanic elected official in the United States.

After over 4 decades of public service and a distinguished career defending and championing the rights of the poor and disenfranchised, he has left his mark on American politics.

Born in 1931, Paul Moreno grew up in the Segundo Barrio of South El Paso. After high school, he proudly served 6 years in the United States Marine Corps and saw combat in Korea, earning the Presidential Unit Citation, the Silver Star, the Bronze Star, the National Defense Service Medal and the Korean Service Medal.

After his military service, Paul went on to earn his bachelor's degree from Texas Western, now the University of Texas at El Paso, and he also attended the University of Texas at Austin School of Law.

Representative Moreno first won election to the Texas House in 1967. During his tenure, he has always been a passionate and outspoken advocate for the poor, the disabled, and the underdog. He fought on behalf of the next generation of Texans and vigorously supported improving education, economic opportunities for our youth and health care for our children. He has been a staunch advocate on behalf of teachers, and for over 40 years has been a champion of working families. In short, Paul Moreno has been a voice for the people, and many consider him to be the "Conscience of the Texas House."

Representative Moreno has worked with 8 governors and many speakers of the House, and currently presides as the dean of the Texas House. Even though his voice may no longer echo in the halls of the State Capitol in Austin when his term is over at the end of this year, it will continue to guide those who strive to live up to the example of public service that he has set for us all. He will be missed.

T4

HON. ERIC CANTOR

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

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

T4

The next generation!

As great as any others who have come before!

An Army Man . . .

Who, with but his great heart here now so stands!

Part Titanium, Part Man . . . The New Prototype, of an Army Man!

Who's Tours DeForce . . .

All in his life's force, with his tours of duty while all out on death's course . . .

A Freedom Fighter, the kind our hearts and souls so here ignite here . . . with all of his great life's force!

Special Forces . . .

And 107th Cav, those great men of honor who freedom so enforce this!

With great acts of daring and might, with all of their most superhuman feats . . . are but freedom's voice!

Where do you go?

When your face and body, have been blown and shattered here so?

How do you rebuild with no back left still? For it's all found so deep down inside, in what a heart can will!

Piece by Piece, as this T Man has grown . . .

Day by Day, Hour by Hour . . . as all have so found out what his soul can shower! As he stands alone!

To find the courage on battlefields of honor, in operation rooms he towers! All in courage's finest hour!

Eggleston, a doctor's son . . .

A sure fine one, as is this America's Son . . . Terminating evil this one!

A Virginian who so shines, for all of us so in time . . . as we watch his heart . . . his fire . . . burn like The Sun!

For all of those who go off to war . . .

Are but the greatest of all Americans so sure, who for us all . . . our very freedom do so insure!

For all that we have, all in this land of the free . . . is but bought and paid for, by all these fine heroes sure!

The people who hate war the most!

Are but all of those Magnificent Brave Heart's, who must face death . . . and lose their comrades close!

And leave their loved ones behind in tears, with sleepless nights here . . . all so that we can have the most!

In life, all is possible in what you feel . . .

All in what you so stand for, your ideals . . . deep down inside ones heart so real . . .

That let's you go off to war, to face heartache and death . . . and evil to endure and rebuild, and not yield!

Like T4 . . .

Bodies can grow and rebuild, with but hard work, courage and iron wills . . . with titanium and more . . .

But, without a heart . . . one can not so live and endure . . . only with, these special forces within like T4!

Dedicated to Charles Eggleston.

Grew up in Richmond, Va. E6 Staff Sergeant Special Forces and 107th Cav.

He was injured in Mousal, Iraq, in an IED blast. Legs, back and face reconstructed with titanium.

IN HONOR OF CAPTAIN ROBERT VALLEJO II

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Captain Robert Vallejo II who was killed on September 18, 2008, while serving our country.

Captain Robert Vallejo II was a captain in Texas National Guard. He and six other Guard members lost their lives while on duty aboard

a Chinook helicopter near Tallil, Iraq. The soldiers were assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 149th Aviation, 36th Combat Aviation Brigade based in Grand Prairie, Texas. Captain Robert Vallejo II will be remembered for his commendable and selfless service to this great nation.

Captain Robert Vallejo was born in Beeville, Texas, and later moved to Fort Worth. He was a member of the ROTC program at Texas Christian University, where he graduated in 2005 with a Communication Studies degree before being accepted to flight school at Fort Rucker, Alabama. He dreamed of being a pilot and he put his passion into practice when he joined the Texas National Guard.

Madam Speaker, it is my honor to recognize such a brave man as Robert Vallejo II. I am proud to have had the chance to represent him in Congress. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family and friends of this American hero.

HONORING THE MARINO-CAPPELLO
FAMILY

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I am pleased that this week the Senate has followed the House in passing the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008, H.R. 6893. This landmark legislation will make significant improvements to child welfare through numerous provisions, including reauthorizing the Adoption Incentive Program and increasing education oversight for youth in foster care.

I would also like to recognize Voice for Adoption, an organization that works to improve our adoption policies. There are 129,000 children in foster care who are waiting to be adopted, and many families who wish to adopt. These numbers may sound daunting, but Voice for Adoption positively illustrates the need to adopt through the Adoptive Family Portrait Project. This program promotes adoption by matching Members of Congress with a photo of an adoptive family from their district or State.

It has been my privilege to participate in this project for the second year in a row and I have decided to display the photo in my DC office for an entire year. The 2008 theme emphasizes the importance of sibling connections for youth in foster care and adoptive placements.

I am honored to recognize the Marino-Cappello family. Sandy Marino and her husband Sam Cappello were moved when they learned about the many waiting children in the New Jersey foster care system. Five adoptions later, they have been blessed with Kirby, who was adopted as an infant from South Korea; Percy, Maya and Violet, who are birth siblings adopted separately as infants; and Helena, adopted at seven months. Caring for medically-fragile, drug-affected infants has stretched the Marino-Cappello family to new limits. They deserve praise for their willingness to provide permanent, loving homes for children in foster care, despite challenges.

H.R. 6893 will help families like the Marino-Cappellos to better provide for the special

needs of children adopted from foster care. I applaud the passage of this much-needed legislation.

IN RECOGNITION OF JAMES F.
LONERGAN ON THE OCCASION OF
HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE
NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT
OF EDUCATION

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to James F. Loneran, a distinguished New Yorker who has selflessly devoted himself to his community and our nation. His contributions to the civic life of New York City are being recognized this month as he begins his retirement after many years of dedicated public service at the New York City Department of Education's Division of School Facilities, which he served with distinction as its Chief Executive Officer.

After serving in the United States Navy in Vietnam, James F. Loneran joined the New York City Department of Corrections. At the Department of Corrections, he served as Stationary Engineer, Senior Stationary Engineer and Supervisor of Mechanics. In 1989, he joined the New York City Department of Education and rose through its ranks, serving as Deputy Director of Facility Maintenance, School Plant Manager, Assistant Director, Director, Senior Director and ultimately Chief Executive Officer of the Division of School Facilities. As the Chief Executive Officer, he supervised 9,000 employees and managed a \$1 billion budget with effective leadership and consummate skill. Dedicated to education and self-improvement, he also earned a master's degree in urban affairs.

He made the School Facilities Mission Statement his mantra: "To provide a safe, warm, clean setting that is conducive to the education and nurturing of our children in the most economic and efficient manner possible and to provide a school environment that allows students to realize their full potential and to improve the quality of life in the community we serve."

James F. Loneran views our public schools as cornerstones of the community, symbols of prestige in the community, and harbingers of a better future. He dedicated himself to making every school in his purview a "beacon of light" for the surrounding community. He was relentless and untiring in his efforts to improve the "circle of quality" that are our public schools. He fought against complacency, warning his co-workers that efforts to improve school facilities were never completed, and urging them on with the words, "We must do it for the children."

Born in the Bronx in 1951 into a family of four boys and six girls, James and his family moved to the Borough of Queens in 1953. He is devoted to his wife, Joanne Loneran, a teacher at Public School 24Q. Together they were blessed with two children, James III, 28 years old, a manager with the Social Security Administration, and Kelly, 26 years old, an attorney.

In keeping with his energetic, can-do disposition, James F. Loneran is not so much

retiring as moving on to other activities. He is earning a second master's degree, in pastoral theology at St. John's University, and will continue to serve as a certified lay minister at Holy Trinity Parish and as a Eucharist minister. He will also remain very active in several veterans' and civic associations, including Vietnam Veterans, American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Building Owners Management Association, Taxpayers Association, and the Whitestone Booster Association.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing the contributions to our civic life made by James F. Loneran on the occasion of his retirement from a distinguished career as a dedicated and effective public servant.

EXTENSION OF QUALIFIED GREEN
BUILDING AND SUSTAINABLE
DESIGN PROJECT BONDS AU-
THORITY

HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I support extending authority for the issuance of qualified green building and sustainable design project bonds. I fought for the inclusion of this extension in this bill because of its importance to Atlanta. I fought for this extension because I believe the use of these bonds helps finance cutting-edge, environmentally conscious redevelopment projects like the Atlantic Station project in Georgia. Over and over again businesses and developers are seeing that going green improves their bottom line. Projects like Atlantic Station and green initiatives must be commonplace in the future.

The authority to issue qualified green building and sustainable design project bonds was set to expire in 2009. Unfortunately bond applications were not even approved until 16 months after the legislation creating the authority to issue these bonds passed in 2004. The delay caused setbacks because the technology and engineering behind these projects are groundbreaking. To make up for that lost time, this bill extends the authority to issue qualified green bonds through September 30, 2012. In addition, this legislation clarifies that amounts in a reserve account may be released to the project five years after the date of issuance of the last bond issue issued with respect to the project. This will make sure that all funding can be made available to these projects in a more timely and efficient manner. While this legislation makes small but important changes, it does so without altering any other aspect of this enormous program, such as the tax-exempt status of these bonds.

I am proud to support this effort and the good work occurring right in the 5th District of Georgia. The Atlantic Station project has been good for Atlanta. It is in the national spotlight. Major efforts like this are necessary to show cities across America there is a better way forward for our environment and our communities. I appreciate the work of my colleagues and the Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, Chairman RANGEL, for helping make sure these projects are given the opportunity to succeed. I look forward to continuing to work with him on this and welcoming him to

Atlanta to witness firsthand the result of this investment.

INTRODUCTION OF THE PROTECTING HOSPITAL OUTPATIENT AND COMMUNITY CLINIC SERVICES ACT OF 2008 (H.R. 7219)

HON. JOHN M. McHUGH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Mr. MCHUGH. Madam Speaker, on September 29, 2008, I introduced legislation, the Protecting Hospital Outpatient and Community Clinic Services Act of 2008 (H.R. 7219), which would prohibit the U.S. Secretary for Health and Human Services (HHS) from taking any action before April 1, 2009, to implement a proposed regulation related to the redefinition of Medicaid outpatient hospital services. This initiative was developed by HHS' Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and was published on September 28, 2007 (72 Federal Register 55158).

The proposal is designed to limit the definition and scope of Federally reimbursable Medicaid outpatient services provided in a hospital clinic or facility as well as those offered in a rural health clinic. CMS has stated that it is unable to determine the fiscal impact of the rule and that they believe this measure would not significantly alter current practices in most states. However, the National Association of State Medicaid Directors (NASMD) reports that the proposed regulation "would significantly affect the Medicaid program in every state." According to one source, in New York State alone, health care providers would lose over \$452 million. It is important to note that this estimate, large as it is, excludes the costs encountered by hospital settings. By way of example, New York's 23rd Congressional District, which I have the privilege of representing, would lose over \$2.6 million in Federal funding. Moreover, even after attempting to fully analyze this complex regulation, New York State is still unable to fully assess the total magnitude of its impact.

Needless to say, such a loss of funding would have a devastating impact upon the health care infrastructure, and thus the residents, of Northern and Central New York. Specifically, several constituent providers have estimated the proposed rule would not only reduce their ability to provide critical services to some of our nation's most vulnerable individuals but also literally force these providers out of business.

As stated above, CMS readily admits, it does not fully understand the impact of its actions. The State of New York has documented that the proposal would result in significant negative consequences. In the face of such circumstances, prudence demands that the rule's actual consequences be thoroughly examined, and well understood, before its implementation. H.R. 7219 would provide CMS, and Congress, until April 1, 2009, to closely examine the proposed rule and act accordingly. Thus, I urge my colleagues to join with me to enact this legislation before the conclusion of the 110th Congress.

IN SUPPORT OF TITLE H.R. 6503, TO AMEND THE VIOLENT CRIME CONTROL AND LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 1994 TO REAUTHORIZE THE MISSING ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE PATIENT ALERT PROGRAM

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, thank you for your leadership in bringing this bill to the floor. I support H.R. 6503, to amend the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 to reauthorize the Missing Alzheimer's Disease Patient Alert Program. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Thousands of vulnerable older adults go missing each year as a result of dementia, diminished capacity, foul play or other unusual circumstances. The Alzheimer's Foundation of America estimates that over 5 million Americans suffer from Alzheimer's disease, and that 60 percent of these are likely to wander from their homes. Alzheimer's diseases and other dementia related illnesses often leave their victims disoriented and confused and unable to find their way home. According to the Alzheimer's Association, up to 50 of wanderers risk serious illness, injury or death if not found within 24 hours. The problem can be exacerbated greatly by national disasters, such as Hurricane Katrina, that can, in a matter of hours, increase the number of missing persons by the thousands.

H.R. 6503 reauthorizes the existing Missing Alzheimer's Disease Patient Alert Program. The bill authorizes \$5 million for each fiscal year through 2015 for competitive grants to nonprofit organizations. The money may be used to pay for the "costs of planning, designing, establishing, and operating locally based, proactive programs to protect and locate missing patients with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias and other missing elderly individuals." The bill states a preference for "national nonprofit organizations that have a direct line to patients, and families of patients, with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias."

When I consider the necessity of this bill, I am reminded about the time when I was personally called upon by a constituent in the 18th Congressional District in Texas. A few years back, the family of Mr. Sammy Kirk, enlisted my help in searching for Mr. Kirk. Mr. Kirk was an elderly man, suffering from Alzheimer's and he had wandered away from his family in Houston. He was lost. His family called me to help search for him. I, along with his family, searched many hours and many days. In total, I searched for 3 days for Mr. Kirk. Finally, Mr. Sammy Kirk was found. He was found and he was dead. He wandered many miles away from his family and was found dead along the bayou. It would have been so much easier, and his life could have been spared if there was an electronic monitoring service that could have been used to help keep Mr. Kirk close to his family and it would have certainly aided in our search for Mr. Kirk. An innocent, yet vulnerable, life could have been saved. This bill is necessary and I encourage my colleagues to support it.

IN RECOGNITION OF LIFETIME TELEVISION'S CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE FIGHT AGAINST SEXUAL ASSAULT

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Lifetime Television for its vigorous and effective educational programs that help promote efforts to combat the epidemic of sexual assault that has afflicted our nation. Among other measures, Lifetime Television mounted an extraordinary campaign to inform its millions of viewers about the Debbie Smith Act that was enacted into law in 2004 as part of the Justice for All Act. A reauthorization bill passed both the House and Senate this year and awaits the President's signature.

Founded in 1984, Lifetime Television is a national leader in women's television that now serves 96 million households across America. One of the top-rated basic cable television networks in the world, Lifetime is committed to offering the highest quality entertainment and information programming, and educating viewers about a wide range of issues affecting women and their families.

Lifetime Television and its top leadership have also been remarkable in their commitment to serving their viewership through public education and outreach efforts. Countless not-for-profit and community-based organizations have benefitted from Lifetime's commitment to addressing critical issues in our society, increasing public awareness of violence against women, breast cancer, race relations, school bullying and AIDS. Many Members of Congress and government decision-makers from both sides of the aisle have praised Lifetime Television for helping to use its expansive reach as the most popular women's television network in the world to help generate support to enact sound public policies.

Lifetime Television's educational outreach efforts played an instrumental role helping to pass the Debbie Smith Act in 2004. Their educational efforts helped generate a groundswell of support from the public.

I was honored to name that bill after a courageous, determined advocate named Debbie Smith when I first introduced it in the 107th Congress. A rape survivor, she had been invited to testify before the House about the lack of resources to test DNA samples collected in rape and sexual assault cases. Her compelling testimony and relentless advocacy were instrumental in garnering support for the bill. The legislation increased federal spending on DNA evidence processing to \$151 million annually from fiscal year 2005 through 2009, and created a new grant program providing resources to sexual assault examiners and acquiring forensic equipment. It was called "the most important piece of anti-rape legislation that Congress has ever passed" by the Rape Abuse and Incest National Network, or RAINN.

Lifetime has maintained that degree of commitment throughout the course of its Emmy Award-winning "End Violence Against Women" campaign over the last seven years. Lifetime Television later dramatized Debbie Smith's inspirational activism in an original

movie, "A Life Interrupted: The Debbie Smith Story."

Madam Speaker, I rise to request that my distinguished colleagues join me in recognizing Lifetime Television for its tireless efforts to educate and inform the American public about important issues confronting women in our society and to achieve equality and justice for women all over the world.

COMMEMORATING THE LIFE AND
PUBLIC SERVICE OF STAN
MAYFIELD

HON. ADAM H. PUTNAM

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Mr. PUTNAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and public service of Stan Mayfield—a native Floridian, civic leader, and defender of the taxpayer. Florida lost a dear friend on September 30, 2008, when Stan Mayfield's hard fought battle with cancer came to an end.

As a businessman, school board member, and a state legislator, Stan's community leadership is a testament of his commitment to public service. However, his greatest role was that of husband and father. I extend my deepest and most heartfelt sympathies to his wife, Deborah, and their three sons—Evan, Samuel, and Coleman, at this difficult time.

Stan's community involvement was expansive, from his service on the Indian River County School Board to his tenure in the Florida State House of Representatives. Stan was known for his tenacity to hold government accountable for greater transparency, and his determination to cap spending and fight for lower taxes, but his passion for greater infrastructure, conservation, and Indian River County is what his friends and colleagues will remember.

Most recently, Stan was preparing for a new chapter in his life after winning his primary election for Indian River County Tax Collector. A model of strong perseverance, Stan refused to allow his illness to deter him from public service and doing what he loved—serving people. It was this motivation and resolve that Stan put toward every challenge that truly exemplifies his character.

My thoughts and prayers are with Stan's loved ones, his friends, and his many colleagues who served with him throughout his many years in public service.

RECOGNIZING THE HONORABLE
BUD CRAMER AND THE HONORABLE
TERRY EVERETT ON
THEIR RETIREMENT FROM CONGRESS

SPEECH OF

HON. SPENCER BACHUS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 24, 2008

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, the people of Alabama will be losing two outstanding public servants at the end of this session with the retirements of Congressman BUD CRAMER and Congressman TERRY EVERETT.

During the time that I have served in the House, I have been honored to call them both colleagues and friends. They have served the constituents in their own districts extraordinarily well, and have been a key part of securing the reputation of the Alabama delegation as a group that works together on a bipartisan basis for the good of our State.

Congressman CRAMER has had a long and distinguished record of service. One great legacy is his stalwart support of our space and missile defense programs. Whenever questions on those programs came up in the House, we looked to BUD CRAMER for his knowledge and guidance. As a result of his efforts, facilities in the Fifth District like NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center, the U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Command, and the Redstone Arsenal have become not just important employers in Alabama but true national assets.

We admire and respect BUD CRAMER for another reason: his great compassion for children and deep concern about the tragedy of child abuse. Each year, the National Children's Advocacy Center in Huntsville that he founded teaches thousands of people how to recognize and help at-risk children.

For years, it has been my pleasure to work with Congressman TERRY EVERETT of the Second District. He has always been the type of representative who makes this House work. He holds firm to his principles, but works across the aisle to find solutions.

With his duties on the Armed Services and Intelligence Committees, Congressman EVERETT developed a well-earned reputation for expertise in defense and intelligence issues. Whenever my staff or I had a question about these matters, our response was: "Ask TERRY what he thinks." His support of the excellent work being done at Fort Rucker and the Maxwell-Gunter Air Force Base has benefited both the constituents in his district and the people of our country by strengthening the national defense.

All of us in the Alabama delegation have been privileged to work with BUD CRAMER and TERRY EVERETT. While we'll no longer be congressional colleagues, we will always remain friends. Both of these leaders, I know, will continue to have much to share with their communities and our State of Alabama in the years ahead.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in order to state for the record an explanation of my absence and how I would have voted on several of the bills that were considered by the House of Representatives while I was in Texas helping the relief and recovery effort after Hurricane Ike damaged my district and communities so hard.

As my colleagues and those in the gallery know, Hurricane Ike made landfall along the Upper Texas Coast early in the morning of Saturday, September 13. The effects of this storm stretched from Alabama to Texas, with the 11 counties that I represent landing right in the middle of the storm's path. The resulting

damage was widespread and in some cases very significant. Many of the people that I represent are still without power and for many, especially in Orange County, life will never be the same. Their homes were completely flooded and many will never be livable again. It is a testament to the hardworking and self-reliant people of southeast Texas that they are already picking up the pieces and helping themselves and others in the recovery. I want to thank those first responders, the local governments, the State of Texas, and selfless individuals that have helped during the evacuation and recovery process.

We have worked tirelessly since Hurricane Rita to ensure that Texas' first responders were better prepared for the next time a hurricane hit the Texas coast. I have spent my time since September 13, meeting with individual citizens, FEMA, officials from Texas and local communities, utility providers and others to identify shortcomings, offer help and support, and ensure the best level of service is provided now and the next time a hurricane strikes Texas or we are affected by some other emergency situation.

While I was working in Texas after Ike made landfall, the House voted on several important pieces of legislation for which I would like to register my views.

First, H.R. 6899, the Comprehensive American Energy Security and Consumer Protection Act; despite the bill's name, H.R. 6899 would actually harm our nation's energy security, and accordingly, I would have voted against passage of the bill.

This bill opens a sliver of our offshore resources to development, while permanently closing off the rest. In fact, the Department of Interior's Mineral and Management Service calculated that this bill would ban most of our nation's outer continental shelf oil and gas natural resources from development. This bill is the equivalent of cracking open the gate, bolting the front door shut and then throwing away the key. It is the wrong energy policy for our country.

Moreover, in addition to this bait-and-switch approach to the offshore moratorium on energy exploration, the bill neglects to provide for revenue sharing among the states for offshore leasing. Without a revenue sharing incentive from the federal government, states are highly unlikely to allow the drilling that our country desperately needs. This is not the energy solution the American people want, and Congress should not replace the current temporary ban on offshore exploration with a permanent one.

House Democrats also offered another gimmick on energy policy instead of providing real relief at the pump to my constituents recovering from Hurricane Ike and all Americans. H.R. 6604 was billed as a way to cut speculation in energy markets, while in reality it did nothing but paper over Democrat's inaction on offering real solutions to America's energy problems. I voted against largely the same bill this summer and would have done so here as well. This bill was nothing more than window dressing and a thinly veiled attempt to placate the American public. In reality, it does little more than insult the intelligence of the American public; but the American public won't be fooled.

But Democrats are starting to buckle to pressure from the American public. In the House-passed stop-gap funding bill, the

House lifted the moratorium on off-shore oil exploration and oil shale production. If the moratorium is lifted in the Senate as well, America will be one step closer to energy relief.

Lastly, the House passed legislation last week to uphold the landmark Supreme Court's decision in *DC v. Heller*. *DC v. Heller* upheld the 2nd Amendment rights of residents of Washington, DC that had been trampled on for over 30 years. I would have proudly supported the Childers amendment to H.R. 6691 and supported the amended bill on final passage. As a matter of fact I am a co-sponsor of legislation very similar to the Childers Amendment, H.R. 1399, the District of Columbia Personal Protection Act. I am glad to see that the House has taken a bi-partisan step to protect the Constitutional right to keep and bear arms.

I look forward to working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to continue providing relief to those suffering from Hurricane Ike and I appreciate the speed with which this Congress has acted to help provide that relief thus far. However, just as we learned after Hurricane Rita, this process will be on going and it will take the continued effort of Congress, Texas, local communities and individual citizens to complete the recovery effort. I ask that all Americans continue to offer their thoughts and prayers to those along the gulf coast.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF WAYLAND
BAPTIST UNIVERSITY

HON. RANDY NEUGEBAUER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of a fine educational institution in the 19th Congressional District of Texas. This year, Wayland Baptist University, located in Plainview, Texas celebrates its 100th anniversary of excellence in education.

Wayland Baptist University is a 4-year university with a total of 14 campuses and a student body of more than 6,000. Founded in Plainview in 1908 by Dr. James Wayland, the University has become one of the largest Southern Baptist institutions of higher education in the country.

Throughout its 100 years, Wayland Baptist University has seen much progress and growth. While maintaining its commitment to providing a quality Christian education, Wayland has been at the forefront of change. It was among the first universities in the country to admit women and minority students, offer distance learning programs, and to create programs directed toward military students.

Wayland places a strong emphasis on student success and provides an excellent learning environment. The school offers a wide variety of disciplines, from fine arts to engineering, as well as a wide variety of extracurricular activities. Athletics at Wayland provide a constant source of pride for the community, producing more than 800 All-Americans and 100 individual national championships in the last century.

Dynamic vision and devotion to students are the true marks of an exceptional educational institution. On this occasion of its 100th anni-

versary, I congratulate Wayland Baptist University and look forward to watching this institution thrive in the years to come.

TRIBUTE TO ST. JOHN'S HEALTH
SYSTEM

HON. ROY BLUNT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Mr. BLUNT. Madam Speaker, today I rise to congratulate St. John's Health System in Springfield, MO, for their work to improve the quality of health care services provided to our seniors. St. John's Health System was recently recognized by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services for their outstanding commitment to improving Medicare patient outcomes as participants in a new chronic disease management demonstration program.

Nearly 70 percent of all deaths in America are attributable to chronic diseases. Chronic diseases like heart disease, cancer, and diabetes are some of the most common diseases but they are also the most preventable diseases. Working to prevent these diseases from being acquired in the first place should be our top priority. Managing these diseases so that adverse outcomes are minimized should be next on the list.

Unfortunately, most of the health insurance programs that the Federal Government operates do not place the same prioritization in its payment policies. We don't encourage individuals to seek preventative care and we barely reward individuals who change their lifestyles when diagnosed. We pay in the end with the final bill, but the Federal Government doesn't pay for the course of treatment that will deliver better health outcomes and a longer, more productive life. Ultimately all Americans pay the price for the high costs of chronic diseases.

Over the past 2 years St. John's Health System has participated in a national demonstration program. The results of this project will help to identify new, innovative models to deliver higher quality health care. St. John's was one of only five physician groups that achieved benchmark quality performance for all measures used during the evaluation. I am pleased that St. John's is being recognized nationally for their excellent care for the citizens of southwest Missouri. I hope that, following St. John's leadership, the final results of the demonstration program will bring meaningful changes in delivery of health care services for all of our seniors.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE VET-
ERANS OF OSS GREEK OPER-
ATIONS GROUP II ON THE OCCA-
SION OF THEIR RECEIVING THE
BRONZE STAR MEDAL FOR
VALOR

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the brave men of the Office of Strategic Services' Greek Op-

erations Group II who fought to liberate occupied Greece during World War II. This month, these heroes are being awarded the Bronze Star Medal for Valor for their service in defense of freedom.

In February 1943 at the height of World War II, the Greek government in exile sought help from the United States for Andartes, the Greek Resistance against Nazi occupation. In response, the Office of Strategic Services (OSS), the forerunner of the CIA) formed top-secret Greek Operations Groups (OGs) from the 122nd Infantry Battalion. After undergoing rigorous training, almost 200 largely Greek-born or Hellenic-American soldiers launched their secret mission, undeterred by warnings that most would not likely survive the perilous fighting behind enemy lines. Chosen for their fluency or near-fluency in Greek, their physical fitness and ability to endure arduous service in rugged mountain terrain, and their intense motivation to oust the Nazi occupiers from the land of their ancestors, these teams were inserted behind enemy lines. From April to September 1944, the men of OG II fought alongside the Greek Resistance, delaying and harassing the Nazi withdrawal, eliminating enemy troops, and destroying their equipment in order to weaken the final defense of Germany against the Allies.

Operations Group II, led by Lt. John Giannaris, operating chiefly out of the tiny remote village of Pappas, conducted military operations primarily against the railroad in the mountains between Lamia and Domokos. During a four-month period the team participated in 14 missions during which they destroyed three locomotives and 31 railway cars, blew up 7,400 yards of rail line, and inflicted 675 casualties on the enemy. On September 8th, 1944, as the group approached a heavily patrolled area, it came under point-blank enemy machine gun fire.

OG II member Michalis Tsirmulas was hit. Under a withering assault, Lt. Giannaris ordered a withdrawal while himself crawling to aid Tsirmulas, only to learn he had been killed. After being severely wounded, Lt. Giannaris narrowly escaped capture, passing within earshot of German soldiers hunting him down. He was found by two local shepherdesses, who cared for him and contacted his men. In a daring daylight escape, Lt. Giannaris was spirited to safety in a British aircraft.

The story of the Greek-American OGs was highly classified for more than 40 years. The full account of these soldiers and their accomplishments was unknown even to the surviving participants. After fighting in Greece ended, most of them went on to other assignments in Europe and Asia. They returned home never knowing the enormous impact their mission had on events in Greece. Most never spoke of their experience with the O.S.S for many years, even to their families. Many years later, Giannaris, since promoted to Captain, recommended his men for an award. The Defense Department agreed and authorized the Bronze Star Medal for valor.

Recently, a search began for survivors and descendants of the deceased of OSS Greek OG II, undertaken by Dr. Robert Perdue, OG II historian and a retired agricultural research scientist. This month at a ceremony in Astoria, New York, the 22 enlisted men of OG II will be honored at a ceremony. One surviving enlisted member of OG II will attend as will families of six deceased members of the Group,

with all receiving the Bronze Star Medal from Captain Giannaris.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing the extraordinary bravery and devotion to their country of the courageous men of OSS Greek Operations Goup II on the occasion of their receiving the Bronze Star Medal for Valor.

TYRIK JOHNSON

HON. TRAVIS W. CHILDERS

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Mr. CHILDERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life of young Tyrik Johnson of Coldwater, Mississippi. At the tender age of four, Tyrik was taken from this earth in a tragic accident on September 26, 2008. Tyrik was a bright, fearless little boy and he will be missed by all who knew him in his short life. The loss of someone so young is a cruel tragedy and his community will be the lesser for his passing. Tyrik is survived by his loving mother, Adrienne Johnson, and his caring great-grandparents, Marshall and Jean Johnson, all of Coldwater, Mississippi. I ask my colleagues to join me in extending condolences to Tyrik's family and keeping all of his loved ones in our thoughts and prayers.

REMARKS IN HONOR OF CAPTAIN ROBERT VALLEJO II, TEXAS NATIONAL GUARD

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Ms. GRANGER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the courage of a brave and dedicated hero of the state of Texas and of our Nation.

Captain Robert Vallejo II was a soldier in the Texas National Guard and a true American hero. Robert gave his life in the service of his country on September 18, 2008, when the helicopter he was co-piloting went down near Tallil, Iraq.

Assigned to 2nd Battalion, 149th Aviation, 36th Combat Aviation Brigade as a pilot, Captain Vallejo did his part during a time of war, a fact that speaks volumes about his character and patriotism.

Robert graduated from Brewer High School in 1998 and graduated from Texas Christian University as part of the Reserve Officer Training Corps in 2005. After graduation from college, he attended flight school at Fort Rucker, Alabama. Becoming a pilot fulfilled his longtime dream of flying. Becoming a military pilot fulfilled his desire to, as his mother put it, "be a part of history and leave his mark."

He served as a soldier for nine years and was on his first overseas tour when he died.

Shortly after Robert's death, his family learned that the baby his wife is expecting in January would be a boy. Captain Vallejo's son will be named Robert Cale Vallejo III and will learn of his father through his family and friends, who described Robert as a kind, outgoing, and intelligent man with a wonderful sense of humor.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Captain Vallejo's wife, sisters, parents, and all of his family and friends. His community and nation honor his memory and we are grateful for his faithful and distinguished service to America.

Captain Vallejo will not be forgotten. His memory lives on through his family and the legacy of selfless service that he so bravely imprinted on our hearts.

TRIBUTE TO HORTENSIA "GUERA" ABRIL

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Mr. BACA. Madam Speaker, I stand here today to honor a loving mother, supportive wife, adoring grandmother and doting great-grandmother, Hortensia "Guera" Abril.

Born in Nuevo Leon, Monterey, Mexico, she eventually moved to Colton, California where she grew up to become a longstanding, influential member of the community. A fulfilled homemaker thanks to her care, compassion and love for her family, Guera also proudly belonged to Colton's San Salvador Catholic Church. In addition to supporting her husband, Ray "Sonny" Abril, who served on the Colton School Board for many years, she too played an active role in the community as a longtime PTA member, well-respected and loved by all.

In addition to being survived by her husband Sonny of 53 years, her memory will be carried on by her three sons, Nick, Michael (Stella) and Dominic; her three daughters, Melinda Medina (Mike), Becky Gonzales (Reuben) and Nellie Carners (Joe); and one brother, Norberto Gasca. Guera will be sorely missed by 19 grandchildren, 16 great-grandchildren and many nieces, nephews and friends as well.

As a longtime friend of Ray's, I would like to express my greatest sympathies for his family's loss. She meant everything in the world to him and will truly be missed. Let us take a moment to remember this great woman and her admirable dedication to instilling positive change and leading an exemplarily life, one whose footsteps we all hope to follow. The thoughts and prayers of my wife Barbara, my family and I are with his family at this time.

God Bless Hortensia "Guera" Abril for love of country and mankind.

THE 2008 ANGELS IN ADOPTION

HON. NANCY E. BOYDA

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Mrs. BOYDA of Kansas. Madam Speaker, This year, I have the great pleasure of seeing one of the finest constituents of Second District of Kansas honored as an Angel in Adoption. This award was given by the Congressional Coalition on Adoption, of which I am proud to be a member. The story of the Second District's Angel in Adoption, Michelle Reed, is a story of hard work, commitment, and humility. It is a story that I am proud to share today.

In addition to adopting two children from Kazakhstan, Michelle has become an advo-

cate for international adoption by facilitating support groups and by serving on the board of Two Hearts for Hope. Michelle is truly an Angel in Adoption.

Michelle's story begins in 2004 when a cousin and a friend announced that they were adopting children from Korea and China. To support her loved ones, she began looking into the process. As Michelle says, "My husband and I had not discussed adopting. We had two children. My son, Jonas, was just starting high school in the fall and our daughter, Libby, was in middle school. The pictures of the children available for adoption were endless on the Internet. I began to think that we could give a home—a family—to one of these children."

In March of 2004, the Reeds signed an agency contract to adopt their son Jess, who was 3 at the time, from Kazakhstan. They traveled to Kazakhstan in November 2004 and lived there for 6½ weeks. In May 2005, they signed a contract to return for a little girl that they met on their first trip who was also 3 years old. They left in October, 2005 and returned home in December with a new daughter, Jsera.

When Michelle returned from her adoption journey in Kazakhstan, she started working to help other families. "After our first adoption, we both became passionate about helping those that were thinking of adoption." She is now the moderator of three Internet groups that provide support for families that are in the process of adopting internationally or integration assistance for those that have already adopted. They try to facilitate heritage knowledge, for example, by teaching parents to cook their child's native foods. Michelle and her family also hosted an exchange student from Kazakhstan this year who taught them so much about their children's heritage.

Michelle is also a board member of the newly formed organization, Two Hearts for Hope, which raises donations to send supplies to orphanages in Kazakhstan. Most of the supplies she works so hard to find are those that many of us take for granted, like shoes and warm clothing. "The facilities aren't perfect—there are broken windows and sometimes there's no heat. Because it's just south of Siberia, the need for warm clothing is magnified."

When speaking about her visits to Kazakhstan she said, "Once you leave those other children behind, you are not allowed to forget them." The love, warmth, faith and passion for helping others that Michelle possesses shines through when you meet her. I am pleased to say that once you meet Michelle, you are not allowed to forget her or the joy she has brought to others.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EARL POMEROY

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Mr. POMEROY. Madam Speaker, on September 29, 2008, I missed rollcall vote No. 673. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner:

Rollcall No. 673 "nay."

A CHILD IS MISSING ALERT AND
RECOVERY CENTER ACT

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, thank you for your leadership in bringing this very important bill to the floor. I support this bill and urge my colleagues to do the same. This bill is good and it is necessary.

The bill is sponsored by Mr. KLEIN and has bi-partisan support. It has 21 cosponsors, including the following Judiciary members: Chairman CONYERS, Chairman SCOTT, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. NADLER, Mr. WEXLER, Mr. COHEN, Mr. JOHNSON, Ms. SUTTON, and Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.

A child goes missing every 40 seconds. The successful recovery of missing children often requires a quick response. In 1997, Sherry Friedlander, the founder of A Child is Missing (ACIM), saw the need for a rapid-response program to persons who go missing, especially in situations that do not involve abductions. In response to this need, she established ACIM, a national non-profit organization that offers free assistance to law enforcement 365 days of the year, 24 hours per day. The program is not limited to children, but extends to elderly persons (suffering from senility or Alzheimer's), mentally challenged or disabled individuals and college students.

When law enforcement receives a call regarding a missing person, the first-responder can immediately call ACIM for help. The officer provides critical information to ACIM, such as the person's age and description and the last time/place seen. ACIM uses that information to record a message that, within minutes, is sent via phone to 1000s of locations within a radius of the last sighting of the person. Through their computer mapping system, ACIM also can identify "hot spots," such as water or wooded areas.

ACIM complements the Amber Alert program by providing different services. While Amber Alert focuses on children who are abducted, ACIM covers all "persons" who go missing, including situations where criminal intent may not be at issue. Amber Alert uses television and highway signs to broadcast information about the abducted child and the related vehicle, while ACIM uses a rapid response telephone alert system and covers cases where there is no vehicle involved. The ACIM notification system often can respond more quickly than the Amber Alert program.

ACIM would use the requested money to operate and expand the existing ACIM office in Florida, to develop Regional Centers for on-site training and communication with local law enforcement, to maintain and expand their computer and phone technologies, and to assist the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, the AMBER Alert Coordinator, and appropriate law enforcement agencies with training.

H.R. 5464 authorizes \$5 million annual grants for 2009 through 2014 to A Child is Missing Alert and Recovery Center (ACIM) to assist law enforcement in the rapid recovery of missing children and other individuals.

I support this bill and I urge my colleagues to support it also.

HONORING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF AMERICAN LEGION POST 88 AUXILIARY

HON. JIM COOPER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Mr. COOPER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the accomplishments of my hometown American Legion Post 88 Auxiliary.

First, the Post Auxiliary has been a great help to my constituents and me monitoring legislation that benefits veterans and their families.

But Unit 88 also works directly to support our troops overseas. The Post Auxiliary had several mailings of care packages each worth more than \$1,500 to servicemen and woman to let them know how proud all of Nashville is of them for giving their time, efforts and sometimes their lives to support our freedom. Besides the care packages, they sent over 900 pocket flags for our service people to carry with them. And the troops appreciate it. Besides many e-mails and thank you letters, the 732nd Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron sent a proclamation and flag thanking the Post for their efforts.

The Post Auxiliary works diligently to care for our veterans after they return from overseas as well. They visit veterans in the Veteran's Hospital in Nashville and in Murfreesboro, TN each month to give them goodie bags and visit with them. And they held a Christmas party at each facility to let the veterans know how much our country cares for and supports them. They participated in "Operation Stand Down," a 3-day event to assist homeless veterans, by serving meals and donating clothing.

Funds were raised to send veterans' children backpacks for school and we gave needy veterans' children gifts and food at Christmas.

As I'm sure everyone is familiar with, the American Legion sells poppies every May in time to honor our veterans on Memorial Day. This year, the Post 88 Auxiliary raised over \$1,300 and then hosted a fashion show to raise an additional \$2,000.

Finally, beyond the work supporting our troops and veterans, the Post Auxiliary also serves our local community. The Post 88 Auxiliary raised funds to send 16 girls to Girls State where they learn about government and legislative processes. In December, they held a party for handicapped children complete with live music by the Timeline Band who was generous enough to donate their time. In February, the Post Auxiliary held an essay contest that had over 200 submissions on the theme "America: Home of the Brave, the Land I Love."

And as in every year since 9/11, the Post Auxiliary held a September 11 Memorial Ceremony to remember all those who lost their lives in that terrorist attack.

I'm proud to represent Post 88 Auxiliary. They are the best of Tennessee as well as the country.

TRIBUTE TO HAROLD MEEK

HON. KEVIN MCCARTHY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Harold Meek, a community leader and entrepreneur from Bakersfield, CA, on his retirement after over 35 years with the Three-Way Automotive Group.

Born in Oklahoma, Harold moved to Bakersfield in 1958 to work with his brother, Leo, in the automotive industry. After 17 years with his brother's dealership, Harold joined Three-Way Chevrolet, later the Three-Way Automotive Group, in 1973. With his business prowess and entrepreneurial skill, he became General Manager just 2 years later, was made a partner shortly thereafter, and, in 1996, was appointed president/dealer operator.

Under Harold's leadership, the Three-Way Automotive Group, which recently celebrated its 50th anniversary by opening a second Chevrolet dealership at the Bakersfield Auto Mall, has been internationally recognized and awarded numerous industry awards for outstanding service. For the past 7 years, Three-Way Chevrolet has been the number one Retail Volume Chevrolet Dealer in California and was the number one Retail Chevrolet Dealer in the world in June and July of 2005. In addition, Harold has received the prestigious Time Magazine 2003 Quality Dealer Award and, for the last 8 years, the General Motors' Jack Smith Dealer of the Year Award, all a recognition of his commitment to exceptional sales performance and superior customer service. Over his long career, he has also served on or chaired numerous State and regional automotive industry dealership associations.

A successful entrepreneur in Bakersfield, Harold has also been active in the local community. Harold has served on the Greater Bakersfield Chamber of Commerce, the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, the Kern County Law Enforcement Foundation, and is a charter member of the Bakersfield Better Business Bureau. He also is a strong advocate for and has supported numerous civic and charitable organizations. Harold has supported and been involved in more than 250 civic and charitable organizations in the community, including numerous youth and sports programs as well as the American Cancer Society, the Bakersfield Women's Business Conference, the Kern County Fair, Relay for Life, Link to Life, the YMCA, and the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

A dedicated Republican, Harold has been active in local, State, and national Republican politics. He has served on the steering committees of numerous gubernatorial and presidential campaigns in California, and has managed several local campaigns, including city council, county supervisor, and sheriff's races. Harold also served as campaign chairman for former California State Assembly member from 1988 to 2000.

Harold exemplifies the entrepreneurial spirit and a dedication to community that has made this country great. I wish Harold the best in this new chapter of his life, and I know he looks forward to spending more time with his wife Kay; children Joi, Mark, and Vivienne; and grandchildren Clint, Cody, Jordan, and Julia.

IN HONOR OF GRAYCE BOGDEN
NOTEBOOM ARNOLD

HON. GABRIELLE GIFFORDS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Ms. GIFFORDS. Madam Speaker, I am honored today to acknowledge the inspiring life of Grayce Bogden Noteboom Arnold, a woman who made great contributions to cultural development in my district and to the community of Patagonia, Arizona.

Grayce Bogden Noteboom Arnold arrived in Patagonia in 1976. Her route to Arizona from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, took her first to Guadalajara, Mexico, where her husband, John Patton Arnold, had been commissioned by Popular Mechanics and the American Automobile Association to publish the first motor tourist guide of Mexico in the mid-1950s. Mexican President Luis Echevarria later recognized this guide as opening "the gateway" to motorized travel in Mexico.

Grayce and John also built one of the first prototype house cars (recreational vehicles) by converting a 1949 Ford panel truck, nicknamed "La Tortuga". When they returned to the United States from Guadalajara, Grayce, John and their two children, John David and Elaine, settled in Nogales, Arizona. Subsequently, they moved to Tucson where Janie was born and John Senior passed away in 1972. During all this time Grayce had been developing her artistic talent. She took sand cast candle lessons from famed Tucson artist Ted DeGrazia.

In 1976, Grayce moved into the Miner's Old Home in Patagonia, which had been built in 1905 as the residence for the chief mine engineer Mr. McDonald. The house was in very poor condition and was extensively remodeled to provide living quarters and ultimately became home to Grayce's Gift and Candle Shop and Museum. Grayce's reputation as an artist and entrepreneur flourished. Her contributions include designing Patagonia's first 3 postcards and her civic involvement to promote Patagonia as a tourist destination. Over the years, her notable business contacts included film stars Faye Dunaway and Joanna Cassidy.

Visitors to Grayce's shop see immediately that it is more than a place of business. It is part museum, art gallery, and gift and candle shop. They also receive a personalized guided tour and explanation of the artistic renderings. The guest book contains entries from thousands of people from all walks of life from around the world who have left their names and cheerful comments about their visit. Grayce's artistic collection includes her award-winning sand cast candle dioramas. The Tree Spirit, Cocoon, Desert Storm and other creative masks are the centerpiece of her artistic creations. Two of the masks have been featured on postcards which she designed. One of Grayce's greatest sculptures is her rendition of a Tarahumara man in traditional dress squatting in contemplation. At Grayce's you will find unique southwestern arts, crafts from indigenous Mexican cultures including the Tarahumara, Yaqui, and Seri Indians.

People who knew Grayce are inspired that a person of her age was so full of life, physically active and ran her own business until age 97. Grayce would be the first to tell you that age is irrelevant as she did belly dancing,

remarried and launched her artistic career in her 60s. She always told her children to never stop dreaming, to be creative and to help others.

Grayce has been an inspiration to all of us. She stands as a wonderful example of the significant contributions that women in the west make to the cultural and economic development of our communities.

HONORING SSGT LLOYD LEE ELLIOTT, USAF 8TH AIR FORCE—34TH BOMB GROUP

HON. MARY FALLIN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Ms. FALLIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend SSGT Lloyd Lee Elliott, USAF of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, for his service to the United States of America.

SSgt Lloyd Lee Elliott, USAF, distinguished himself in service to our country from August 13th, 1943, to October 15th, 1945. SSgt Lloyd Lee Elliott served as a tail-gunner on a B-17 Bomber completing 33 missions over Germany.

There are many paths which are set before us in life, many times paths which are not desirable to pursue. Answering the call of his country, this young man followed the path before him not knowing if it would lead him safely back home. Believing in the freedom of the United States and in defending our rights, Staff Sergeant Elliott distinguished himself in service to our country.

Each person who has served our country has many experiences which can be shared. We share today with Staff Sergeant Elliott our thanks and our gratitude for his service. He is one of many who have sacrificed; answering the call to make the United States of America what it is today.

Once again, I want to commend SSGT Lloyd Lee Elliott, USAF.

POLISH AMERICAN HERITAGE
MONTH

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Mr. EMANUEL. Madam Speaker, this month I proudly join the thousands of Polish Americans living in Chicago in a celebration of Polish history, culture, and pride during Polish American Heritage Month.

This year, Polish Americans celebrate the 400th anniversary of the arrival of the first Poles to America's first settlement in Jamestown, Virginia. The first five Polish settlers traveled to Jamestown aboard the English ship, the Mary and Margaret, at the invitation of Captain John Smith and the London Company. They arrived on October 1, 1608 and distinguished themselves as America's first tradesmen. Poles, alongside other ethnic groups, were among the pioneers who helped to establish this country as the land of hope and opportunity. Their work ethic helped create the foundations of modern America.

The celebration of this milestone coincides with another important historical landmark: the

90th anniversary of the reinstatement of Polish independence. In 1918, after 123 years of occupation and generations of struggle by the Polish people, Poland reappeared on the map of Europe after World War I.

The United States is grateful to Poland for its friendship and commitment to the democratic ideals of liberty and human rights. Poland is a strong ally of the United States, and I am dedicated to continuing the strong record of cultural and economic ties between our two nations.

My hometown of Chicago has a thriving and active Polish American community. Madam Speaker, I am honored to join the citizens of my district, as well as those of Polish descent around the country in recognizing, remembering, and celebrating Polish American Heritage Month.

CONGRATULATING PREVENT
BLINDNESS WISCONSIN

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Mr. KIND. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Prevent Blindness Wisconsin and to celebrate its 50th anniversary of service. Prevent Blindness is a non-profit, volunteer organization that has provided free vision screenings for over five million Wisconsin children and adults since 1958.

This year alone, Prevent Blindness Wisconsin recruited, trained, and certified nearly 2,000 volunteers who helped screen more than 220,000 children and 3,000 adults statewide. Through their hard work, they were able to help diagnose hundreds of children who suffered from significant vision abnormalities, which, left untreated, could have resulted in permanent vision loss.

Prevent Blindness has a wonderful history of helping children from families in need, at-risk adults, and the community to help screen, treat, and prevent vision problems from worsening. Their volunteers join together with local eye-care professionals to ensure that these children can get the treatment they need to protect their vision.

On behalf of all who have benefited from its efforts, I would like to thank Prevent Blindness Wisconsin for all of its work for children, adults, and families in Wisconsin. I congratulate Prevent Blindness Wisconsin on 50 years of service and wish everyone who makes their work possible a joyous anniversary celebration.

HONORING JEFF MILLER,
FOUNDER OF HONOR AIR

HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Mr. SHULER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Jeff Miller, a small business owner and son of a World War II veteran from Hendersonville, North Carolina. Mr. Miller is one of the founders of Honor Air, which enables hundreds of World War II veterans the chance to travel to Washington, DC to see the National

World War II Memorial that was built to honor the 16 million Soldiers, Sailors, Marines, Airmen, Coast Guardsmen, and Merchant Mariners who served our Nation during World War II.

With the strong belief that everything good in his life is because of these courageous veterans, Mr. Miller began a campaign to send every World War II veteran from Henderson County to Washington, DC to see the memorial, which opened in 2004. World War II veterans who had not already been to the memorial and had physical or financial limitations were offered the chance to take the trip. The community came together to raise the money to fund the project. Many community groups, businesses and individuals contributed to this project, allowing these brave veterans to travel to Washington to see the memorial that was built in their honor. Mr. Miller, the Honor Air volunteers and contributors have all given something back to those for whom the debt can never be repaid. By the time it makes its last flight, 625 veterans from Hendersonville, NC will have made the Honor Air trip.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in expressing my appreciation and admiration for Jeff Miller, who made it possible for so many of our veterans to have the opportunity to see the National World War II Memorial.

EMPLOYEE BENEFIT RESEARCH
INSTITUTE 30TH ANNIVERSARY—
TRIBUTE

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Madam Speaker, among the key areas of jurisdiction for the Education and Labor Committee are employee benefits—specifically, retirement and health benefits—that are so important to the economic security of American workers. Over the years, Congress has passed various laws designed to protect and strengthen the health and pension benefit programs that millions of American workers and retirees depend on.

Congress needs timely and objective data in order to determine and ensure that these critical programs are delivering needed benefits. When Government data is not available, one of the most valuable resources we have to help us understand what is happening in these areas is the nonpartisan and nonprofit Employee Benefit Research Institute, EBRI, which marks its 30th anniversary this year.

EBRI is a rare organization in Washington: It does not take policy positions and it does not lobby—its mission is to provide objective, accurate, reliable research. One of the reasons its work gets attention and is respected is because EBRI does not have an ideological agenda and it does not try to “spin” the numbers. Because EBRI is a non-advocacy organization, legislators on both sides of the aisle can use its work with confidence.

EBRI also has important educational initiatives, in particular its “Chose to Save” program, which has produced and distributed award-winning public service announcements designed to help Americans wake up to the need for saving. This campaign also provides

valuable tools so workers can quickly and easily determine a “Ballpark Estimate” of how much they need to save, and gives them pointers on how to start saving and where to go for help.

EBRI was created partly as a result of the enactment in 1974 of ERISA, the major Federal law governing health and retirement benefits, because employers needed objective, reliable information about benefit trends. Much has changed since then, both in the benefits that American workers receive, and in the Federal laws that govern those benefits. EBRI’s work has helped lawmakers, plan sponsors, workers, and the news media understand current trends and how proposed legislative changes are likely to affect the benefits system.

EBRI has been guided by Dallas Salisbury, its president and chief executive officer. Mr. Salisbury has been an important analyst and contributor to national public policy decision making on employee benefits. His thoughtful and often prescient analyses have aided lawmakers throughout the years.

EBRI’s research provides information that is critical to the decisions made by public policymakers. As EBRI celebrates its 30th anniversary, I want to thank them for decades of quality work. We look forward to their continued research and analysis in the future.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE
OF U.S. NAVY PETTY OFFICER
MATTHEW J. O’BRYANT

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to remember the life and courageous service of United States Navy Petty Officer Third Class Matthew J. O’Byrant.

Petty Officer O’Byrant was killed in a terrorist attack at the Marriott Hotel in Islamabad, Pakistan, a cowardly act that claimed the lives of 53 people including two members of our country’s armed forces. Matthew was serving in support of Operation Enduring Freedom from Islamabad.

A native of Theodore, AL, Matthew O’Byrant excelled in the ROTC program at Theodore High School and was assigned to Navy Information Operations Command at Fort Meade, MD, as a cryptologic technician.

As a cryptologic technician, Petty Officer O’Byrant was in charge of maintaining the advanced communications and technological equipment so vital to America’s success in 21st century warfare.

Petty Officer O’Byrant’s brother, along with two of his cousins, had enlisted to serve in the Navy. Coming from a Navy family, Petty Officer O’Byrant was deployed to Pakistan for only 30 days before the blast that took his life. At his funeral, Matthew’s brother, Lawrence, remembered him by saying, “There were four of us in the Navy. Well, there’s three of us now. I guess there will always be four of us because he will always be in the Navy.”

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to take a moment to reflect upon the many things that have helped to make this the greatest country on the face of the planet. And to that end, we must acknowledge that soldiers, sail-

ors, airmen, and marines like Petty Officer O’Byrant deserve the highest praise for their unselfish service and, in this particular case, for their willingness to make the ultimate sacrifice.

Madam Speaker, I hope you and my colleagues will join me in paying tribute to Petty Officer Matthew O’Byrant. We should also remember his wife, Bridgett O’Byrant; his parents, Barbara and Tommy O’Byrant; his two sisters, Janet O’Byrant and Nancy O’Byrant; his brother, Lawrence O’Byrant; and his other relatives and many friends.

Our prayer is that God will give them all the strength and courage that only He can provide to sustain them during the difficult days ahead.

May Matthew rest in peace. He was without question a true American hero.

RECOGNIZING THE HONORABLE
BUD CRAMER AND THE HONORABLE
TERRY EVERETT ON
THEIR RETIREMENT FROM CONGRESS

SPEECH OF

HON. ROY BLUNT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 24, 2008

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, TERRY came to the U.S. House of Representatives a successful businessman and is now heading back to Alabama as a successful congressman. No one doubts that TERRY knows the values of a hard day’s work. He’s been a farmer, an Air Force specialist, a small business owner and newsman. He served the people of Alabama’s second district, stretching from Autauga down to Dothan, for the last 16 years with that same work ethic, and they have benefited from his service.

TERRY came to Congress as an intelligence expert from his days in the Air Force and an agriculture expert from his days on the farm—skills he put to good use sitting on the Agriculture, Armed Services and Select Intelligence committees.

I’m going to miss TERRY when Congress reconvenes next year. The whole House will miss his work ethic, keen insight and ability to get things done. His retirement is a blow to those in Washington that know and rely on him, but if anyone deserves our thanks for a job well done it is certainly my friend and longtime colleague TERRY EVERETT.

AUTHORIZE FUNDING FOR THE
NATIONAL CRIME VICTIM LAW
INSTITUTE FOR VICTIMS UNDER
CRIME VICTIMS LEGAL ASSISTANCE
PROGRAMS AS PART OF
THE VICTIMS OF CRIME ACT OF
1984

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 3641, “A bill to authorize funding for the National Crime Victim Law Institute to provide support for victims of crime under Crime Victims Legal Assistance Programs as a part of the Victims of

Crime Act of 1984," introduced by Senator KYL.

NATIONAL CRIME VICTIM LAW INSTITUTE (NCVLI)

Doug Beloof is professor of law at Lewis & Clark Law School. He founded the National Crime Victim Law Institute, NCVLI, in 1998, with the understanding that so many victims of crimes are in the dark about not only their cases, but their rights.

The institute promotes balance and fairness in the justice system through crime-victim-centered legal advocacy, education, and resource sharing.

NCVLI provides legal technical assistance to attorneys and advocates of victims and educates lawyers, judges, law students, victims' advocates, the law enforcement community, and the public about victims' rights. NCVLI also administers Federal grants to 8 clinics across the Nation that offer pro bono legal help for victims of sexual assault, homicide, domestic violence, fraud, and more.

Over the past 4 years alone, NCVLI's clinics have represented more than 735 victims, made nearly 1,000 court appearances, and filed over 500 documents on behalf of victims. Over the same time period, NCVLI's headquarters office has responded to nearly 2,000 requests for legal technical assistance and trained over 12,000 people in victims' rights.

Sadly, more than 17 States have no victims' rights amendment to their constitutions. Even in Texas, one of the 33 States that have made rights for crime victims constitutional, victims and criminal justice professionals often do not know the rights exist, let alone whether those rights are routinely asserted and enforced in criminal courts.

Rights that are enforceable afford victims critical information such as timely notification of upcoming hearings and proceedings involving their case, and also provide victims participatory status, including the right to be present in the courtroom to watch the proceedings, the right to confer with the prosecutor, the right to protection from the accused and those acting on behalf of the accused, the right to be heard at sentencing following the conviction of their offender, and the right to restitution.

JUVENILE VICTIMS

Even more disturbing, is the growing number of victims who are children. Between 1980 and 2002, an estimated 46,600 juveniles were murdered in the United States—1,600 in 2002. Homicides of juveniles peaked in 1993 at 2,900.

The number of juvenile homicide victims in 2002 was 44 percent below the 1993 peak, reaching its lowest level since 1984. Juveniles represented about 10 percent of all murder victims in 2002.

In 2002, 36 percent of murdered juveniles were female, 45 percent were Black, and 48 percent were killed with a firearm. Of the juvenile murder victims with known offenders in 2002, 38 percent were killed by family members, 47 percent by acquaintances, and 15 percent by strangers.

In 2002, the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control within the Centers for Disease Control, listed homicide as the fourth leading cause of death for children ages 1 through 11 and third for youth ages 12 to 17. Between 1980 through 2002, juvenile offend-

ers participated in 1 of every 4 homicides of juveniles in which the offenders were known to law enforcement.

According to the FBI's Uniform Crime Reports tracking all murder victims, in 2006 about 50 percent of murder victims were Black, 47 percent were White, and 3 percent were Asians, Pacific Islander, and Native Americans.

CONCLUSION

There is an Angolan Proverb that says: "The one who throws the stone forgets; the one who is hit remembers forever." The National Crime Victim Law Institute ensures that the ones who are hit, the ones who are raped, the ones who are murdered—are never forgotten. They and their loved ones are aided in this overly complicated criminal justice system where often the rights of the victim get lost.

This legislation allows us to finally spend time on those who need our help the most—the victims. I urge, my colleagues to support S. 3641 and ensure that the victims are not forgotten.

RECOGNIZING THE HONORABLE BUD CRAMER AND THE HONORABLE TERRY EVERETT ON THEIR RETIREMENT FROM CONGRESS

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN A. BOEHNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 24, 2008

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the service of Congressman TERRY EVERETT, who has proudly represented Alabama's Second Congressional District for eight terms. His work on the Armed Services Committee, where he is the Ranking Republican of the Subcommittee on Strategic Forces, has been integral to our national security. Over the last 5 years, Mr. EVERETT has had oversight responsibility for \$150 billion in defense funds for our country's missile defense, military space and our critical nuclear energy programs. He has led efforts to make Congress and the American people aware of our reliance on space for both military and civilian satellites for our national defense, communications and even financial transactions. He has been on the front lines of warning us about our vulnerabilities and the need for constant improvement in our ability to defend and protect ourselves.

Congressman EVERETT has been a tremendous friend to our Nation's veterans, who selflessly served to protect our freedoms. Among the honor afforded our veterans is the choice to be buried in the hallowed ground of Arlington National Cemetery. In 1997, Mr. EVERETT was given the prestigious "Excellence in Programmatic Oversight" by House Republicans for investigating Arlington National Cemetery burial waivers that were being given to people who had not served in our military.

Mr. EVERETT has been a watchdog on behalf of those who have served our Nation, holding the Veterans' Administration accountable for timely and quality delivery of benefits and health care for our veterans', including in-

vestigating concerns about the care quality and administrative problems within the Central Alabama Veterans Health Care System with hospitals in Montgomery and Tuskegee, AL. Thanks to his efforts, those hospitals implemented much-needed health care and safety improvements.

Congressman EVERETT has also been a friend to American farmers, having served on the Committee on Agriculture and fought for the interests of American agriculture, which has a \$1 billion impact on the region he represents.

Congressman EVERETT served as an intelligence specialist in Europe with the Air Force, which served him well later in life when he was appointed to the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. He also worked as a newspaper reporter, writing at first about agriculture and public safety. He spent three decades in journalism, moving from reporter to editor to publisher to the top of the top of the ladder as owner of a chain of newspapers in the Southeast.

I thank Congressman EVERETT not just for his service to the people of Alabama's Second Congressional District, but for his commitment to ensuring the safety and protection of our Nation. He has been a forceful voice for reform to improve the care for our veterans and has worked hard for our farmers.

Mr. EVERETT's retirement is a great loss for this House. I wish him the very best of luck as he begins the next chapter in what has been a lifetime of service to his community and his country.

TRIBUTE TO EMILY NOTTINGHAM

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Mr. GRIJALVA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the work Emily Nottingham has done for the Tucson community.

Emily is retiring from the city of Tucson Community Services Department after 34 years of service to the community both on a local and national level.

I have been honored to work with Emily on many significant projects over the years.

Emily is one of this country's strongest advocates on behalf of affordable housing. Her steadfast determination to ensure that low income citizens have access to safe, decent and affordable housing has been a hallmark of her career.

Emily has been responsible for the implementation of a broad spectrum of housing assistance: from home ownership opportunities, to housing rehabilitation, rental housing assistance, and the development of mixed-income housing throughout the city of Tucson. During her tenure, the Section 8 program grew from helping fewer than 1,000 households to assisting nearly 5,000 households.

I am impressed with Emily's many accomplishments. Her tenacity, her dedication, and her vision have served Tucson well. The community will miss her energy and her common sense approach to the task at hand.

I wish Emily the very best in her retirement.

In Recognition of the Eglin-Hurlburt Site of the MITRE Corporation upon 50 Years of Service to the United States of America

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the MITRE Corporation on the occasion of its 50th anniversary and upon completion of the modernization of their Eglin-Hurlburt Site. It is my pleasure and privilege to honor MITRE for its dedicated service to the Northwest Florida community and to the United States of America.

The MITRE Corporation was founded in 1958 on the premise that the government needed a corporate partner to provide technical expertise in systems engineering and integration. MITRE was born out of the Lincoln Laboratory at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Its founding principle was to produce quality expertise for the government by drawing on the best in both the commercial and public sectors to solve the Nation's most difficult technical problems. Its first project was to provide systems engineering for the Semi-Automatic Ground Environment (SAGE) program, and MITRE chose Eglin Air Force Base as its first site.

Over the years, the Eglin-Hurlburt Site has been a vital part of the development and testing of countless critical sensor systems, data link systems, and command and control systems. From its development of telemetry methods in the 1960's to its recent work on the integration and development testing of Joint Tactical Information Distribution Systems (JTIDS), MITRE has spent the last 50 years providing essential services to the defense community of the United States.

Today, the MITRE Eglin-Hurlburt Site consists of 18 engineers, scientists, researchers, analysts, and support staff providing a wide range of development and engineering expertise to the United States Air Force Special Operations Command, Air Armament Center, and 505th Command and Control Wing. MITRE has earned an international reputation for technical excellence and innovation. Their local employees devote themselves to serving the public interest as well as contributing inculcable hours of community service throughout the Florida Panhandle.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am proud to honor one of America's true corporate leaders, the MITRE Corporation and its Eglin-Hurlburt Site, for their 50 years of service to the defense community of Northwest Florida and across the United States. I wish everyone at MITRE the best for continued success.

HONORING DAVE WELDON

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my good friend and colleague, Congressman DAVE WELDON, who is retiring from the House

of Representatives after serving the people of the 15th district of Florida for 14 years. He has always served his constituents with dignity, class, and integrity.

He has been a great example of a true citizen legislator. He put aside successful careers in our Nation's Armed Forces and in private practice as a physician to devote many years of his life to public service.

DAVE has been a leading national supporter of NASA and other space issues. He has been a strong leader in Florida advocating the need to invest in NASA and the many benefits it provides our Nation. From his service on the Science and Appropriations Committees, he has kept a close eye on the space program and ensured Florida's Space Coast plays an integral role in national space policy.

It has been an honor serving with him, and it is a privilege to call him a good friend. I wish DAVE and his wonderful wife Nancy much happiness in the next chapter of their lives.

HONORING DR. DAVE WELDON FOR HIS MANY YEARS OF OUTSTANDING CONGRESSIONAL SERVICE

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak about one of my colleagues from the great State of Florida who is retiring this year. Dr. DAVE WELDON from Indialantic has served in this body for many years with honor and distinction and will be sorely missed by his friends and colleagues.

Following his arrival in Congress in 1995, Dr. WELDON quickly made a name for himself as someone who cared deeply for his constituents. As someone who had built his career prior to Congress as a physician, Dr. WELDON was perfectly suited to a second career as a public servant.

His legislative efforts in the House have brought tens of millions of federal funds back to Florida, restoring our infrastructure, building roads and bridges, preserving precious wetlands, and helping his friends and neighbors live a better life.

Perhaps his signature achievement in Congress has been his continued fight for the unborn. Using his position as a senior member of the House Appropriations Committee, Dr. WELDON continually sought to protect those who do not have a voice.

Madam Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I help send my good friend Dr. WELDON off into the next stage of his career. After so many years of making sacrifices in his family life and professional career, now is the time when he can devote his time and energy to his wife Nancy and his two children. I wish him the best of luck and hope that he will continue to give back to his local community and the State of Florida.

HONORING BALDWIN HIGH SCHOOL BOYS VARSITY X-COUNTRY

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Mr. STARK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania's Baldwin High School Boys Varsity Cross-Country team for their first place finish in the McDonald's Cross Country Festival at Maymont, Virginia. The team finished 25 seconds ahead of the second place team in the silver division. With their decisive victory the boys of Baldwin are now recognized among to top cross-country teams in Pennsylvania this year.

The McDonald's Cross Country Festival at Maymont draws over 3,000 of the best high school athletes from 15 different States. The Baldwin team put in long, hard hours of training to place among the elite teams in the State. I would like to recognize the dedication of T.J. Hobart, Matt Cecala, Dennis Logan, Michael Cain, Paul Degregorio, George Crompton and my grandson, David Wainwright. I congratulate their fine performance in Maymont.

I recently spoke with Baldwin's cross-country coach Wright and he highlighted the special comradery and commitment of everyone on the team. The Baldwin team has attended the meet for the last 3 years; however, the dedicated young men I have mentioned are the first to emerge victorious. The coach spoke of his pride with the boys' accomplishment and I share his pride today.

It is my honor to recognize the victory of the Baldwin Boys Varsity Cross-Country team, especially my grandson David. I commend their hard work and commitment to teamwork as they head into "championship month" in Pennsylvania. I wish the boys the best of luck in the Western Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic League State Championship in Hershey later this month.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE CORPORAL KODY WILSON

HON. NANCY E. BOYDA

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Mrs. BOYDA of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize CPL Kody Wilson of Erie, Kansas. Corporal Wilson was serving in our armed forces in our efforts abroad and was injured. Upon his injuries he was taken to Walter Reed Army Medical Center.

While at Walter Reed, Corporal Wilson was an inspiration to others. One individual was truly moved by his story and wrote a poem to honor this soldier. I would like to share this poem with you:

FROM OUT OF THE WEST
(By Bert Caswell)

From Out of The West . . .
As over the years, as have come from so here
. . . all of our best . . .
Fine Women and Men, of honor so then . . .
sons and daughters who our nation
have blessed . . .
As over the years . . .
Have been shed many a tear, for all those
lost and injured loved ones . . . so very
dear . . .

Who are but all our finest daughters and
sons, who so bring us to tears . . .

Who but live by a code . . .

Who but carry that burden, who but teach us
all so . . . as they carry that load . . .

As now once again, such a very fine man . . .
by the name of Kody, so shows us the
way . . .

What the word hero so means!

Like Bob Dole of Kansas, they are both one
and the same . . .

Who from this great heartland the word hero
can claim!

Without his one leg . . .

He lives by a code of honor and faith so
strode . . . that would make any heart
beg . . .

For there in his darkest of pain, in what God
has so left to him . . . so remains . . .
the greatest I say . . .

As we so watch him and learn . . .

As Kody so teaches us all to discern . . . how
a heart full of courage can burn . . .

As the leg he has lost, but like all our great
heroes of the past he accepts that great
cost . . . in turn . . .

You see, he's got a life to live . . .

And so much more to this our world to so
give . . .

To teach us, to reach us . . . as we so watch
in wonder, as his most magnificent
heart gives . . .

For on this day . . . we must understand . . .
This Army Man, so shows us the way . . . as
taller than most he now so stands . . .

And if I have a son, I pray he'd be like this
one . . . who runs with his heart all the
way to Heaven's sun . . .

From Out of The West . . .

Once, again . . . as here has so come one of
our Nation's best . . .

Who our hearts will so bless, who leave us
breathless . . .

In Honor of Kody Wilson

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask that you join
me in honoring CPL Kody Wilson, and recog-
nize his courage, commitment and patriotism
to serving the United States and the people of
Kansas. I truly wish all the best for him in his
future endeavors and will remain grateful for
his service to our country.

TRIBUTE TO RAMONA RIPSTON

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Mr. BERMAN. Madam Speaker, my col-
leagues, Representative JANE HARMAN, Rep-
resentative HENRY WAXMAN, Representative
ADAM SCHIFF, Representative DIANE WATSON,
Representative MAXINE WATERS, Representa-
tive XAVIER BECERRA, Representative LINDA
SÁNCHEZ, REPRESENTATIVE HILDA SOLIS and I
are greatly pleased to join Ramona Ripston's
army of fans in recognizing her decades of
service to the American Civil Liberties Union
of Southern California, ACLU/SC, and also in
celebrating the dedication of the Ramona
Ripston Center for Civil Liberties and Civil
Rights in Los Angeles. Over many years of
friendship, we have admired Ramona's work
and sought her advice, as she guided the
ACLU/SC as its executive director. She is one
of the Nation's premier and most distinguished
advocates for civil rights and against violence
and hatred.

Many of us have known Ramona for 30 or
more years and have been fortunate to work

with her on a whole host of issues ranging
from immigration reform to the Voting Rights
Act, the Constitution and the first amendment.
It's been a great pleasure to watch the grace
and dedication she brings to everything she
does. Whether working with corporate leaders
in the boardroom, policymakers on Capitol Hill,
and movie stars, or walking Skid Row, she
has always brought something extra and very
special to the table.

Ramona's view of civil liberties embodies
action more than words. She is a frequent vis-
itor in the poorest parts of our communities
where she meets with the homeless and desti-
tute of Los Angeles, serving them by making
them aware of what a civil liberties organiza-
tion is and how it can help them know and ex-
ercise their basic rights. She does this not
only from compassion and empathy, but be-
cause she is more comfortable there than sit-
ting in her office. Because of this propensity,
the ACLU/SC is the only affiliate to advocate
an economic Bill of Rights. She simply suc-
ceeded in making economic rights a civil lib-
erties issue.

When civil wars in Central America brought
thousands of refugees to America, Ramona
could be found where immigrants gathered.
She was seeking information about how the
INS and our social service and educational
entities dealt with them, carrying on the de-
cades of work done by the ACLU/SU in advo-
cating for the rights of all people, including ra-
cial and ethnic minorities and the newly-ar-
rived.

In the same way, Ramona made equality of
educational opportunity a priority—not just by
reading scores and statistics, but by going out
to schools in poor areas and meeting with stu-
dents. She made her office a part of those
communities.

Even a quick and cursory review of Ramo-
na's accomplishments and the legion of hon-
ors awarded her by prominent community and
national leaders and by numerous organiza-
tions dedicated to human rights demonstrates
the extent of her work: her assertive and ar-
ticate voice constantly advancing the causes
dear to her and vital to the protection of our
liberties—from the right to free speech to the
ability to organize as workers, the protection
of antiwar demonstrators, the fights against cen-
sorship and the defense of civil rights. The
ACLU/SC and Ramona have often held con-
troversial positions and done so in the face of
vociferous attacks. It is with profound appre-
ciation for their courage, foresight, and tena-
city that we salute both her and the organiza-
tion she has guided.

The ACLU holds that the Constitution is its
client, but for Ramona Ripston, it has also
been all about the clients themselves. It is a
joy to honor her and to congratulate her for
the high esteem in which she is held and for
the width and breadth of her humanitarian and
democratic ideals.

As the new headquarters building—the Ra-
mona Ripston Center for Civil Liberties and
Civil Rights—is dedicated, we ask our col-
leagues to join us in paying tribute to Ramona,
and to the ACLU of Southern California for
decades of work in defense of liberty and jus-
tice for all. The fight is never over and we are
grateful for the bulwark you will continue to be.

THE THINGS WHICH MATTER

HON. CAROLYN C. KILPATRICK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Ms. KILPATRICK. Madam Speaker, I would
like to submit the following poem, written by
Mr. Albert Carey Caswell, in memory of our
late great colleague, Congresswoman Steph-
anie Tubbs Jones.

THE THINGS WHICH MATTER

The things which matter . . .

The moments which count, the ones all the
end which so amount . . .

All in our lives, are all of those things in our
hearts of which are so tantamount . . .

The very ones . . .

Which all in the end, are what our souls are
really so all about . . .

As to this our world, what we so give no
doubt . . . all in these our lives to tout
. . .

Are all those things which really matter . . .

Are but the ones, which so make The Angels
hearts so shout!

All in the end, are but really what our lives
are all about!

The Ways and Means . . .

By which we overcome all the odds, all in
our life's themes . . .

Are but the ones, our songs which so make
our Lord's heart so shine and gleam
. . .

Stephanie Tubbs Jones . . .

A Heroine . . . A Pioneer . . . A Champion
for Civil Rights so seen!

A great strong great woman of firsts, who
but lived The American Dream!

The only thing bigger than her bright big
smile . . .

Was but her fine kind and warm heart, that
which so caressed all . . . all the while
. . .

For in these our short lifetimes, these are
but the things you'll find!

For it's how we live . . .

And it's how we lead, all in this world which
so helps her to succeed . . .

And who we care for, and for whom we bleed
. . . giving to her what she so needs!

Are but All Those Things Which Really Mat-
ter . . .

All in these our times, all in these our short
lives which we so bring about . . .

All in the end, what really up in Heaven . . .
what so matters no doubt!

SCHOOL SAFETY ENHANCEMENT ACT 2007

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam
Speaker, I support H.R. 2352, the "School
Safety Enhancements Act of 2007", which is
aimed at making America a safer place. The
bill under consideration addresses health and
safety issues for children. I support this bill
and I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

H.R. 2352 is necessary and will ensure the
protection and safety of our children in a
learning environment. Violence at our schools
have increased at an alarming rate in States

such as California, Colorado, Illinois, Louisiana, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, and Wisconsin over the last few years. H.R. 2352 seeks to curb that stem of violence.

H.R. 2352 increases authorized annual funding from \$30 million to \$50 million for FY 2008–2009 for the Secure Our Schools grant program, and decreases the non-Federal grant participation percentage from 50 percent to 20 percent. It requires institutions of higher education to conduct annual campus safety assessments and develop and implement campus emergency response plans.

This bill seeks to address the violence in our schools. It will ensure the safety of students and teachers and will make sure that education is the paramount concern of educators.

The Act also increases the Federal portion of the funding from 50 percent to 80 percent, which decreases the non-Federal portion from 50 percent to 20 percent. According to the Community Oriented Policing Services, COPS, Office of the Department of Justice, which administers the Secure Our Schools grants, many of the poorer communities that need help the most have been unable to participate in the program because they cannot afford the previously required 50 percent non-federal grant match. The proposed change in non-Federal funding is more in line with the COPS traditional 75/25 percent split, and should allow more participation in the program.

The Act increases the possible uses of funding to include surveillance equipment, hotlines to report potentially dangerous situations and capital improvements to make school facilities more secure. Finally, the Act requires the establishment of an interagency task force to develop and promulgate advisory school safety guidelines.

The Act amends the existing requirements for grant applications, and requires each grant application to be accompanied by a report, signed by the chief education officer and the attorney general or other chief legal officer, demonstrating that the proposed use of the grant funds is an effective means for improving school safety, is consistent with a comprehensive approach to preventing school violence, and meets the individualized needs of the particular school.

Finally, the Act amends the Higher Education Act and requires each eligible participating institution to conduct an annual campus safety assessment, and develop and implement a campus emergency response plan to address emergency situations, including natural disasters, active shooter situations, and terrorist attacks. The bill is sponsored by Mr. ROTHMAN, and has 52 cosponsors.

MY THREE AMENDMENTS THAT WERE OFFERED AND ACCEPTED

I have three amendments that I offered and that were accepted concerning this bill. The first extended the current requirement of establishing a hotline or tip line to include the reporting of hazardous conditions, including the presence of hazardous chemicals.

The second one requires schools to develop and implement safety measures to protect students in the event of a terrorist attack or other hazardous condition or situation. It would further require that no funds would be disbursed unless the school had a safety plan in place to respond to a terrorist attack or other hazardous condition or situation.

The need for schools to respond to hazardous conditions or situations is necessary because often children are confronted with hazardous conditions and they simply ignore them. This has been a big problem in the Houston Independent School district. For example, in Key Middle School students were getting sick because they were learning in classrooms where mold was growing on the walls and ceilings. The students saw the mold and were getting sick but they did not know how to respond. These amendments would ensure that children are aware of the toxicity of these chemicals and organic substances. This is a real threat. Key Middle School was subsequently closed because of the severe health risks posed to students. My call for student awareness, training, and prevention as pertains to a terrorist attack does not need much explanation. In light of the tragic events of 9/11, we can never be too cautious with schooling and protecting our children. Children need to know what to do and how to respond to dangerous situations during a terrorist threat.

My last amendment goes to the heart of administrative practice. The original bill required that a taskforce create guideline. Because the taskforce is to be established within 30 days of enactment of this act, my amendment allows the taskforce to convene and within 60 days issue a preliminary advisory school safety guideline and after that time it should provide the public with an opportunity through notice and comment and publish a final advisory school safety guideline not later than 30 days after the preliminary guidelines. This is good administrative practice and ensures public participation by students, teachers, and parents.

I urge my colleagues to support this very important bill.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE SERVICE
OF STANLEY REED

HON. JOHN BOOZMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise in recognition of the commitment and service, my friend Stanley Reed provides to Arkansas youth.

Stanley is a leader in the state, serving as President of the Arkansas Farm Bureau, a former member of the Arkansas Board of Trustees, a board member of Baptist Health, and Simmons First National Corporation and a member of the Board of Advisors of the Arkansas World Trade Center and of the Brandon Burlsworth Foundation.

His professional achievements are far reaching, and so are his accomplishments away from the Board Rooms. Stanley spends much of his time and energy being an example for Arkansas youths and helping them lead a better life.

Stanley's life of service will be honored by Arkansas Governor Mike Beebe and the Arkansas Sheriffs' Youth Ranches, an organization that provides a stable living environment with responsible role models.

Stanley has been a very good friend and was a teammate at the University of Arkansas. He has been blessed with a wonderful family, his wife Charlene, son Nathan and daughters Hailey and Anna.

I have had the privilege to work with Stanley throughout my professional career. His dedication, persistence and leadership are all exemplary qualities. I appreciate his friendship and example. I am honored to have had the opportunity to have worked with such a great man, and thank him for his service.

A TRIBUTE TO GENERAL BRUCE
CARLSON

HON. MICHAEL R. TURNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Mr. TURNER. Madam Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to pay tribute to United States Air Force General Bruce Carlson for his 37 years of distinguished and honorable service in the United States Air Force and to our Nation.

General Carlson has had a distinguished career, beginning with his graduation from the Air Force ROTC program at the University of Minnesota. He has held numerous flying assignments, staff and command positions throughout his career. He commanded the 49th Fighter Wing at Holloman Air Force Base, the Air Force's first stealth fighter wing. His staff assignments included time at HQ AF, the office of the Secretary of the Air Force, the office of the Secretary of Defense and the Joint Staff. Prior to serving as Commander of Air Force Materiel Command, General Carlson served as Commander of the 8th Air Force, Barksdale AFB and Joint Functional Component Commander for Space and Global Strike, U. S. Strategic Command, Offutt AFB.

As Commander of AFMC, General Carlson led the organization to meet leadership challenges and world threats. General Carlson championed the Air Force alternative fuels program and delivered on Presidential and Secretary of the Air Force challenges to reduce the military's dependence on foreign oil. General Carlson also oversaw the development and deployment of AngelFire persistent surveillance and reconnaissance program. Under his command, AngelFire deployed to the CENTCOM AOR with the help of Air Force Research Laboratory personnel, marking the first-ever deployment of an AFRL program directly into combat. Additionally, General Carlson delivered the first MQ-9 Reaper to the 42nd Attack Squadron at Creech AFB nearly a year ahead of schedule to meet Air Combat Command requirements.

He received numerous military awards for his service including: Defense Distinguished Service Medal with oak leaf cluster, Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters, and the Air Force Commendation Medal with two oak leaf clusters. He also received the highest honor from the Air Force enlisted corps, the Order of the Sword. In addition, General Carlson is a command pilot with over 3,300 flight hours.

I have known General Carlson since he took command of AFMC in August 2005.

General Carlson is a man who is honest, provides a straight assessment and has the highest degree of ethics. His service honors the Air Force and our country. I've appreciated his dedication to duty and his willingness to work with the surrounding community. General Carlson truly exemplifies the core values of

the Air Force, "Integrity First, Service Before Self, Excellence in All We Do."

CONGRATULATING HURST-EULESS-BEDFORD ISD

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the students, faculty, and staff from Hurst-Euleless-Bedford Independent School District on receiving the prestigious honor of being named the Top District in the State of Texas by Education Resource Group.

Education Resource Group looks at the 200 largest districts in the state, which enroll the majority of students who attend Texas Public schools. Giving careful consideration to academic, demographic, staffing, and financial information, they determine the award recipient. The award measures the relationship between operating expenditures and student achievement.

This year marks the 50th anniversary of Hurst-Euleless-Bedford ISD. The district strives to provide an exceptional education to its students, and has received national recognition for its outstanding academic, athletic, and fine arts programs. The district maintains a high quality faculty and staff who host a learning environment that promotes character, achievement, and personal responsibility.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to represent many of the students, faculty, and staff of Hurst-Euleless-Bedford ISD in the 26th District of Texas. Their outstanding educational standards set a great example for all academic institutions. I wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

HONORING JAVIER LOPEZ, M.D.

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of my dearest friend and mentor, Javier Lopez, M.D., whose advocacy, love and devotion on behalf of his second family—all of us privileged to be in his care—has made our lives stronger by not only his medical brilliance, but even more significantly, by his kindness, wisdom, compassion, and selfless service in healing our broken bodies and broken hearts.

As a life long advocate on behalf of the poor, the isolated and the elderly, Dr. Lopez lives the principles of his Roman Catholic faith by serving as an instrument of peace and hope every day, as he has done for nearly 50 years along Broadway Avenue. His vocation of healing will continue, as his practice evolves from his daily routine on Broadway Avenue to continuing his missions of medical miracles, ministering to the poor of Colombia, Honduras and to places in the world where medical resources are few yet the need is great.

As a young man, Dr. Lopez journeyed to Cleveland from his homeland of Medellin, Colombia, to complete his residency at St. Alexis

Hospital—saying farewell to his family, friends and to the rich culture of Colombia. The people of North and South Broadway were immediately taken by Dr. Lopez' integrity, kindness, compassion and humble nature, and he was also moved by the kindness and gratitude shown to him. Dr. Lopez could have set up his practice in any suburb, but he chose to remain on the tough streets of Cleveland, where he was needed the most.

For the past 50 years, Dr. Lopez' practice was entrenched with a rare and genuine love, concern, compassion and respect for every patient—young, old, of every race and of every economic background.

His most impactful work has been, and continues to be his service to the poor. In our country, where the uninsured are routinely denied health care, they found solace at the office of Dr. Lopez. He never turned anyone away for lack of insurance, nor inability to pay.

Dr. Lopez continues to be a champion of health care justice and reform. He is an outspoken activist in support of universal health care; he has fought diligently on behalf of his patients when crooked health insurers refused to pay, and he worked tirelessly to stop the closing of St. Michael Hospital. After St. Michael's ultimately fell to a system wrought with corruption and greed, Dr. Lopez could have moved his practice away from North Broadway—but it was never even considered—he stayed where he was needed the most.

Dr. Lopez' dedication to his patients is eclipsed only by his devotion to his family. His wife of more than 50 years, Nancy Lopez, has been and continues to be his strongest source of support, love and friendship.

His sons David and Daniel, David's wife Priscilla, his granddaughter Ana and his daughter-in-law to be, Carmen Nogales—continue to be the center and light of his world.

Dr. Lopez's office manager, Toni Maruszak, has been an invaluable and consistent source of support to Dr. Lopez for more than a decade. Her amazing memory, excellent organizational skills and ability to juggle a million things at once always ensured that the office ran smoothly.

More importantly, Toni's remarkable interpersonal skills and great sense of humor provided comfort and reassurance for countless patients during difficult moments.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and gratitude of Dr. Javier Lopez. Despite his great achievements in medicine, he remains humble, grateful and virtually egoless. He offers the same kindness and attention to the homeless alcoholic as he does to the successful CEO. He is the heart and soul of Broadway Avenue—there is no one like him and he is irreplaceable.

His presence here has been a gift of healing and hope for countless people, including myself and my family—and will continue to be. Dr. Lopez walks shoulder to shoulder in the ranks of healers like Gandhi and Mother Teresa—guided by faith and a genuine belief in the words—"Whatever you do to the least of my brothers, that you do unto me."

Vaya con Dios, mi amigo—de hoy, mañana, y siempre.

Go with God, my friend—today, tomorrow and forever.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to enter into the record a "yes" vote for rollcall vote 671. I was present in the chamber on September 29, 2008, and thought my vote had been cast on the rule but was not counted.

TRIBUTE TO SGT. RICHARD E. REYES

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a true patriot serving in our military, Sergeant Richard E. Reyes. Sgt. Reyes serves proudly in the United States Marine Corps, and hails from Sanger, California. He has recently been named the USO Service Marine of the Year, and I want to send my sincere congratulations.

Sgt. Reyes served as team leader with Company C, 1st Reconnaissance Battalion, Regimental Combat Team 6, which is stationed in Iraq. While serving in the Persian Gulf, Sgt. Reyes led his team on 70 combat missions and was instrumental in the capture of over 35 insurgents. During combat operations in July 2007, his platoon's base came under enemy attack with small arms and machinegun fire. Located just 250 meters from the ambush, Sgt. Reyes maneuvered onto a nearby rooftop, identified the insurgents, and relayed the enemy's location to the platoon commander.

He was still undetected by the enemy, and he and his team engaged the insurgent group with high explosive rounds, which reduced enemy fire on the base, but exposed his position on the rooftop. Sgt. Reyes was determined to end this engagement, which had been going on for 45 minutes. He then moved his team onto another rooftop and single-handedly directed attacks by U.S. jets and helicopters. After several attempts, the enemy's position was destroyed.

Just 3 days later, Sgt. Reyes again demonstrated superb leadership and courage when he engaged an insurgent from the rooftop of his platoon's base and directed a counter-attack. During the firefight, Sgt. Reyes and his team maintained their position and coordinated a diversion using artillery smoke. As a result of his initiative, perseverance, and dedication to duty, an additional two insurgents were captured in this engagement.

Sgt. Reyes is a Sanger High School graduate, and while he was there, he was a three sport athlete. He played for his school's water polo team in the fall, he wrestled in the winter, and swam in the spring. Following graduation, he enlisted in the United States Marine Corps at age 17. Sgt. Reyes is the son of Rosa and Gustavo Reyes, and he has two brothers and two sisters.

On behalf of all my colleagues in the House and Senate, I would like to congratulate Sgt. Richard Reyes for being named the USO

Service Marine of the Year, and thank him for his bravery on the battlefield. He truly exemplifies the courageous service of our men and women in uniform, and especially our United States Marines.

EXTENDING AUTHORIZATION OF
DELAWARE WATER GAP NATIONAL
RECREATION AREA CITIZEN
ADVISORY COMMISSION

SPEECH OF

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 29, 2008

Mr. GARRETT. Madam Speaker, I am pleased that the House recently considered and unanimously consented to the passage of H.R. 7017, a bill to reauthorize the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area (DWGNRA) Citizens Advisory Commission (CAC) for an additional year. Both Representative CARNEY and I believe that this citizen action group serves as an important liaison between National Park Service Officials and park neighbors.

Communication is the key to addressing and resolving citizen concerns, and it is clear that residents and park users value the opportunity to respond to DWGNRA decisions and propose alternative ideas. I was proud to introduce this bipartisan legislation and I believe it will improve the communication process between park officials and the local community. The citizens of New Jersey should be confident in the ability of the Federal Government to hear and address their suggestions.

The Delaware Water Gap region has a turbulent history, one marked by improper government interference and Federal invasion of the rights of property owners. Realizing this, my predecessor, Representative Marge Roukama, authored legislation establishing a Citizen's Advisory Commission (CAC) in 1988. The CAC was reauthorized for an additional decade in 1998 and has served as a forum for the public to interact with park officials.

Due to the combined efforts of various Commission members and park officials, the Delaware Water Gap NRA has increased in popularity and sees millions of visitors each year. These visitors enjoy the beauty of the scenery and the opportunity to participate in activities like hiking, canoeing, and swimming. I am confident that the CAC will continue to play a valuable role in preserving the splendor of the Delaware Water Gap for future generations.

The ability of local residents to communicate with Federal agencies has been one of my main focuses and I call upon the Senate to follow the House's example and pass this important legislation.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. ANDER CRENSHAW

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Mr. CRENSHAW. Madam Speaker, I rise today to submit documentation consistent with the new Republican Earmark Standards.

Requesting Member: Congressman ANDER CRENSHAW.

Bill Number: H.R. 2368—Consolidated Security, Disaster Assistance, and Continuing Appropriations Act, 2009.

Account: Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, Army.

Legal Name of Receiving Entity: Florida State University, FSU.

Address of Receiving Entity: 211 Westcott Bldg. Tallahassee, FL 32306.

Description of Request: I have secured \$2,400,000 in funding in H.R. 2368 in the Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, Army account for Nanotubes Optimized for Lightweight Exceptional Strength, NOLES, project.

This project partners the Army Research Lab, five top U.S. defense companies and FSU's team of multi-disciplinary faculty and students to continue developing unique design, characterization and rapid prototyping capabilities in the field of nano-composite research. This research aims to make advances necessary in vital defense applications.

The U.S. Army's objective of developing effective personnel protection and lighter, stronger fleet of fighting vehicles may be achieved through nanotube research.

Department of Defense projects are always 100 percent funded by the U.S. Federal Government so there is no opportunity for matching funds.

Requesting Member: Congressman ANDER CRENSHAW.

Bill Number: H.R. 2368—Consolidated Security, Disaster Assistance, and Continuing Appropriations Act, 2009.

Account: Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, Army.

Legal Name of Receiving Entity: University of North Florida.

Address of Receiving Entity: 1 UNF Drive, Jacksonville, FL 32224.

Description of Request: I have secured \$800,000 in funding in H.R. 2368 in the Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, Army account for the Direct Methanol Fuel Cell Development.

DMFC devices offer higher energy density, reduced weight, and extended run-time compared to conventional battery alternatives. The proposed project will develop, demonstrate and prototype a ruggedized DMFC powered laptop power supply. Leveraging advances in academic research, membrane development, and systems integration, a team comprised of the University of North Florida, UNF, PolyFuel and University of Florida, UF, will partner to develop a Direct Methanol Fuel Cell battery.

Network Centric operations demand longer run-time from laptop computers and intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance systems. Mobile electronic devices require increased run-time and operational flexibility to leverage the benefits of wireless operation, streaming video, and voice-data exchange.

Department of Defense projects are always 100 percent funded by the U.S. Federal Government so there is no opportunity for matching funds.

Requesting Member: Congressman ANDER CRENSHAW.

Bill Number: H.R. 2368—Consolidated Security, Disaster Assistance, and Continuing Appropriations Act, 2009.

Account: Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, Army.

Legal Name of Receiving Entity: Nanotherapeutics.

Address of Receiving Entity: 13859 Progress Blvd., Alachua, FL 32615.

Description of Request: I have secured \$1,200,000 in funding in H.R. 2368 in the Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, Army account for the Accelerating Treatment for Trauma Wounds project.

The project goal is to evaluate doxycycline gel for its ability to expedite healing of open wounds among injured U.S. Army soldiers at Walter Reed Army Medical Center when used in conjunction with other good wound care practices. Orally-taken doxycycline has been approved and marketed for decades for treatment of infections caused by susceptible microorganisms. When used in conjunction with, and not a substitute for, good wound care practices including wound cleaning and dressing, doxycycline gel has been shown to increase the incidence of wound closure and reduce the incidence of infection. This product has been approved for human testing.

There is a critical need for effective, low-cost, easy-to-apply treatments to address military trauma/open wounds. U.S. soldiers returning from Iraq and Afghanistan with severe trauma/open wounds must remain in hospital care for 6-12 weeks until the wound is sufficiently healed. The U.S. military community is seeking cost-effective and easy to apply treatments that can speed the rate of healing to 1-2 weeks.

Department of Defense projects are always 100 percent funded by the U.S. Federal Government so there is no opportunity for matching funds.

Requesting Member: Congressman ANDER CRENSHAW.

Bill Number: H.R. 2368—Consolidated Security, Disaster Assistance, and Continuing Appropriations Act, 2009.

Account: Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, Army.

Legal Name of Receiving Entity: Lockheed Martin Corporation.

Address of Receiving Entity: 12506 Lake Underhill Road Orlando, FL 32855.

Description of Request: I have secured \$3,000,000 in funding in H.R. 2368 in the Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, Army account for the Center for Excellence for Military Operations in Urban Terrain and Cultural Training, MOUT-CT, project at Camp Blanding, FL.

The R&D Center of Excellence for Joint MOUT CT will be at the FL National Guard Camp Blanding's existing MOUT site and will perform research, development, and testing of new MOUT technologies, focusing on Cultural and Unconventional Environments. The R&D Center will integrate these new capabilities into existing MOUT capabilities and make these capabilities available to the services' MOUT training programs. Soldiers and Marines will validate these new capabilities at the Florida's National Guard MOUT facility (Camp Blanding) in a holistic, immersive, urban and unconventional environment (Live, Virtual and Constructive). Once tested and integrated, these new capabilities will be available for fielding to all Services and CONUS and OCONUS MOUT training centers. The R&D Center for MOUT CT will be the centralized integrator for new and existing MOUT technologies and will function as the operational link between R&D and training requirements.

The R&D Center for MOUT CT will improve the training that Soldiers and Marines (and

Special Ops) receive in the area of cultural and unconventional warfare issues. By performing the R&D and integration of MOUT training technologies at this center, operational training availability will increase (i.e., more training days will be available) at existing MOUT training centers in CONUS and OCONUS.

Department of Defense projects are always 100 percent funded by the U.S. Federal Government so there is no opportunity for matching funds.

Requesting Member: Congressman ANDER CRENSHAW.

Bill Number: H.R. 2368—Consolidated Security, Disaster Assistance, and Continuing Appropriations Act, 2009.

Account: Operations and Maintenance, Navy.

Legal Name of Receiving Entity: Concurrent Technologies Corporation.

Address of Receiving Entity: 9570 Regency Square Blvd, Suite 400 Jacksonville, FL 32225.

Description of Request: I have secured \$800,000 in funding in H.R. 2368 in the Operations and Maintenance, Navy account for the Sustainable Maintenance and Repair Technologies for Aircraft Composites at the Fleet Readiness Center, Southeast.

This project will provide direct support to the Fleet Readiness Center Southeast, FRCSE, to conduct the demonstration and validation required to introduce new materials, techniques, and processes into the repair, maintenance, and testing of aircraft composite components. The program will evaluate newer modern electrical testing, analysis capability and repair capability, to include stripping, repairing, coatings application and electrical testing to insure attainment of both structural and electrical properties of composite components, including radomes, radar reflectors and other composite structures.

Many aircraft or aircraft components are constructed of a high percentage of composites. Generally, the newer an aircraft is, the higher the percentage of composite components it contains. This trend will most likely continue. However, composite component electrical testing and repair development and implementation is far ahead of FRCSE capability and techniques. In order to continue improving the reliability of repairs and lower the total cost of ownership, newer technologies and expertise have to be transitioned and implemented at FRCSE. In addition, many current composite repair processes are labor intensive and have significant air emissions and hazardous material usage.

Department of Defense projects are always 100 percent funded by the U.S. Federal Government so there is no opportunity for matching funds.

Requesting Member: Congressman ANDER CRENSHAW.

Bill Number: H.R. 2368—Consolidated Security, Disaster Assistance, and Continuing Appropriations Act, 2009.

Account: Operations and Maintenance, Navy.

Legal Name of Receiving Entity: BAE Systems.

Address of Receiving Entity: 7091 Davis Creek Road Jacksonville, FL 32256.

Description of Request: I have secured \$1,600,000 in funding in H.R. 2368 in the Operations and Maintenance, Navy account for the Wireless Pierside Connection System.

This project is a state-of-the-art secure system which supports wireless transmission of both data and voice for shipboard to shore communications when a ship is pierside. The WPCS solution has proven to be operationally sound, has successfully withstood security penetration testing by NIOC and NSA, and has received Type Accreditation by the DSAWG in conjunction with NETWARCOM. Further, the WPCS solution has passed HERP, HERP and HERO testing providing acceptable levels of safety for use both pierside and shipboard.

When U.S. Navy ships return to port the primary voice and data communications connection is one or more fiber and/or copper umbilical cables. The susceptibility of this dated infrastructure to the harsh conditions of the pierside environment and mishandling by Navy and support personnel has rendered this solution unreliable and highly expensive.

Department of Defense projects are always 100 percent funded by the U.S. Federal Government so there is no opportunity for matching funds.

Requesting Member: Congressman ANDER CRENSHAW.

Bill Number: H.R. 2368—Consolidated Security, Disaster Assistance, and Continuing Appropriations Act, 2009.

Account: Military Construction, Navy.

Legal Name of Receiving Entity: Naval Air Station Jacksonville.

Address of Receiving Entity: Jacksonville, FL.

Description of Request: I have secured \$12,890,000 in funding in H.R. 2368 in the Military Construction, Navy account for Child Development Center project at Naval Air Station Jacksonville, FL.

Project will construct a Child Development Center, CDC, for 302 children ages 6 weeks to 6 years for full-day, part-day, and hourly care that are currently housed in substandard buildings and inadequate temporary trailers.

The existing child care facility accommodates approximately 246 children. Another 84 children are on an excess demand waiting list. Unborn infants projected list totals 46. Current facilities provide only a fraction of the space required for child care.

Additional space is required to reduce the waiting list of military dependents seeking child care services at NAS Jacksonville.

Naval Air Station Jacksonville is a strategic base for the Navy. This project was programmed by the Navy to receive funding in Fiscal Year 2009.

Military Construction projects are always 100 percent funded by the U.S. Federal Government so there is no opportunity for matching funds.

Requesting Member: Congressman ANDER CRENSHAW.

Bill Number: H.R. 2368—Consolidated Security, Disaster Assistance, and Continuing Appropriations Act, 2009.

Account: Military Construction, Navy.

Legal Name of Receiving Entity: Naval Station Mayport.

Address of Receiving Entity: Mayport, FL.

Description of Request: I have secured \$14,900,000 in funding in H.R. 6599 in the Military Construction, Navy account for the Alpha Wharf Improvement project at Naval Station Mayport, FL.

Upgrade 900' of steel sheet pile bulkhead by driving a new steel sheet pile wall in front

of the existing bulkhead, replace concrete pile cap, provide compacted select backfill material in areas of failure behind the bulkhead and between the new bulkhead and existing; replace the concrete encasement of sheet pile and concrete fendering panels; demolish and provide new asphalt wharf deck paving; demolish and reconstruct electrical distribution structure and relocate transformers and switchgear to new facility; install new primary electrical transformer, switchgear and CMU substation enclosure with HV AC for 4160V ships power, install new concrete shore power igloos to support 4160V ships power distribution; install new high security steel reinforced sliding vehicle gate, pedestrian turnstile access facility, wire rope active vehicle barrier and concrete filled, steel pipe passive vehicle bollards; cathodic protection system; concrete retaining wall. The project will demolish concrete pile cap and fendering face, demolish concrete and 5800 SY of asphalt wharf deck paving.

Naval Station Mayport is a strategic base for the Navy. This project was programmed to receive funding in Fiscal Year 2009.

Military Construction projects are always 100 percent funded by the U.S. Federal Government so there is no opportunity for matching funds.

Requesting Member: Congressman ANDER CRENSHAW.

Bill Number: H.R. 2368—Consolidated Security, Disaster Assistance, and Continuing Appropriations Act, 2009.

Account: Military Construction, Navy.

Legal Name of Receiving Entity: Naval Station Mayport.

Address of Receiving Entity: Mayport, FL.

Description of Request: I have secured \$3,380,000 in funding in H.R. 2368 in the Military Construction, Navy account for an Aircraft Refueling project at Naval Station Mayport, FL.

This project will construct a two (2) outlet, 300gpm/outlet aircraft direct fueling system to include concrete foundations and slab on grade, 15,000 gallon double wall steel tanks (to be relocated from the existing truck fill stand), concrete containment berms, double walled underground piping, valves, pumps, pressure gauges, filter separators, leak detection monitors for piping and tanks, float switches, double wall steel product recovery tank, emergency shut off valves, fuel quality monitors, pipe vents, fire protection, pressure indicating transmitter and water drain off system. It would also construct underground double walled fuel transfer line from bulk storage to the direct fueling facility. The project will properly close, by abandoning in place, the existing underground fuel transfer line from the bulk storage to the existing truck fill stand. Closure will include pigging/purging the lines, grout injection of ends, core boring and soil sampling along the fuel transfer line, and submission of a Florida Department of Environmental Protection Closure Assessment Report.

In addition, this project will construct a 150 m², single story building on a concrete slab on grade and concrete footings. The building and fuel lab will include vinyl floor tile, steel stud/gypsum wallboard walls, hollow core interior steel doors, solid core exterior steel doors, double glazed single hung windows, modified bitumen roofing, interior plumbing, electrical power and lighting wiring, data/communication

wiring, fluorescent lighting fixtures, ceramic bathroom tile, HVAC system/distribution/controls and site utilities (electric, water, sanitary, fiber optic communication/data). The project demolishes building 18 (32 m2) and the truck fill stand facility 142 (400 GM).

Naval Station Mayport is a strategic base for the Navy. This project was programmed to receive funding in Fiscal Year 2012, but was identified by the base commander as the highest unfunded priority in Fiscal Year 2009.

Military Construction projects are always 100 percent funded by the U.S. Federal Government so there is no opportunity for matching funds.

Requesting Member: Congressman ANDER CRENSHAW.

Bill Number: H.R. 2368—Consolidated Security, Disaster Assistance, and Continuing Appropriations Act, 2009.

Account: Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, Navy.

Legal Name of Receiving Entity: OTO Melara North America.

Address of Receiving Entity: 1625 I St., NW, Washington, DC 20006.

Description of Request: I have secured \$1,600,000 in funding in H.R. 2368 in the Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, Navy account for 76mm Swarbuster Capability.

Swarbuster is a proposed developmental program to integrate the highly accurate fire control information from the MK 15 Close-In Weapons Systems with the high rate of fire, medium caliber, 76mm gun on FFG-7 Class ships.

The Surface Navy lacks an effective capability against High Speed Maneuverable Surface Targets (HSMST's). The Littoral Combat Ship (LCS) was designed with a mission module to combat this threat, but program difficulties will delay delivery of this capability for years. Successful Swarbuster test results will provide the Navy the opportunity to integrate a layered defense capability into its FFG-7 class ships, against air and surface threats.

Department of Defense projects are always 100 percent funded by the U.S. Federal Government so there is no opportunity for matching funds.

Requesting Member: Congressman ANDER CRENSHAW.

Bill Number: H.R. 2368—Consolidated Security, Disaster Assistance, and Continuing Appropriations Act, 2009.

Account: Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, Defense Wide.

Legal Name of Receiving Entity: L-3 Communications.

Address of Receiving Entity: 6207 Aviation Avenue, Jacksonville, FL 32221.

Description of Request: I have secured \$1,600,000 in funding in H.R. 2368 in the Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, Defense Wide account for Low Cost Stabilized Turret project.

The goal of the Low Cost Stabilized Turret program is to develop a small (less than 15 lbs) Electro-Optical/Infrared, EO/IR, turret with High Resolution Video, Cooled Infrared Imagery and a Laser Range Finder with a capability to incorporate a Laser Target Designator. The primary purpose of the turret will be to provide an Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR) capability for low cost, expendable UAV systems, consistent with the "Expendable" low cost concept.

Technologies incorporated will include a direct drive stabilization system utilizing a MEMS gyro to provide a stabilized imagery package; a cooled IR camera which will provide enhanced night imagery; high resolution, dual field of vision color video; laser range finder with capability to incorporate laser target designator; picture in picture video presentation for enhanced situational awareness; and real-time video relayed via satellite data link or line of sight link.

The Low Cost Stabilized Turret will provide a light weight, low cost solution for a flexible, efficient payload that is consistent with the warfighter's needs, yet in a cost range consistent with the concept of expendable systems.

Department of Defense projects are always 100 percent funded by the U.S. Federal Government so there is no opportunity for matching funds.

DEATHS IN CUSTODY REPORTING PROGRAM

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I want to thank Congressman SCOTT from Virginia for his critical insight into this much needed legislation before us. H.R. 3971, the Death in Custody Reporting Program reauthorizes the Bureau of Justice Statistics, BJS, program, which is designed to report the deaths of prisoners and immigration detainees in local and State custody.

The Death in Custody Reporting Act is a critical oversight tool which allows State and local corrections officials and advocates to monitor in-custody suicides, homicides, drug and alcohol overdoses and other critical issues.

Due to the current lack of transparency and accountability, the public and advocacy groups have to rely on word-of-mouth and media accounts to find out about deaths of immigration detainees. According to the ACLU, at least 69 immigrants have died in custody since 2004. A significant number of these deaths occurred in Federal detention facilities.

I am pleased that the Senate amended this legislation to ensure that Federal detention center authorities also had to report under the same circumstances and the State detention centers; finally closing the loophole that allowed deaths of immigration detainees in Federal detention facilities to go unreported.

This program which began in 2000, is supposed to receive death records quarterly from each State's prison and juvenile justice systems and from nearly 18,000 State and local law enforcement agencies. The reports include the age, gender and race of the deceased, the criminal history of the deceased and the circumstances surrounding the death.

Sadly, according to a report by Human Rights Watch the U.S. criminal justice system fails to meet many international standards for the treatment of crime victims. Among other proposed measures in the report, HRW recommended that the United States ratify the 1979 Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Colleagues, nearly 300,000 men, women, and children are detained by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, ICE, each year, the majority of whom have no criminal history whatsoever. Thousands arrived on our shores fleeing persecution and torture, only to be locked up like criminals in one of over 400 detention facilities around the country. We must not let go of our belief in the innate value of human life, or stray from our fundamental values while detaining immigrants or criminal offenders.

In 1995, after a one-year investigation by journalist Mike Masterson into prison conditions and the death rate of persons in custody, Ashberry Park Press of New Jersey, ran a series of award winning editorials which listed the following abuses resulting in death that were occurring in our jails and prisons: Racially motivated violence, overzealous police investigations, cover-ups and general law enforcement incompetence.

This prompted the Death In Custody Act of 2000 which required reporting of deaths of persons in custody. Since then, The Bureau of Justice Statistics has compiled a number of statistics. My colleague, Congressman BOBBY SCOTT at one point testified to the most astounding statistic—that since reporting deaths have been made mandatory, the latest report dated August 2005 shows a 64 percent decline in suicides and 93 percent decline in homicides for individuals in custody. He stated that these statistics suggest that the oversight measures play an important role in ensuring safety and security of prisoners in State facilities.

I agree with his finds and that is why I support H.R. 3971. We need continued oversight over the conduct of law enforcement in the arrest and imprisonment of citizens and immigrants.

The Bureau of Justice Statistics date shows that between 2001 and 2005, there were 15,308 State prisoner deaths, 5,935 local prisoner deaths and 43 juvenile deaths during incarceration. In my district alone, in the last decade, 106 deaths have occurred in Harris County jail, many because of inability to secure meds or to secure med care after an attack.

IMMIGRANTS IN JAILS

Survivors of torture, asylum-seekers, families with small children and individuals with serious mental health and medical conditions such as HIV/AIDS, are routinely locked up in jails or under jail-like conditions. Studies conducted by the bipartisan Commission on International Religious Freedom, New York University's Bellevue Program, and Physicians for Human Rights have demonstrated that, even in well-run jails, detention itself poses a serious threat to the psychological health of the detainees.

Without the right to appointed counsel and often detained in remote locations, detainees are unable to exercise fully what rights they do have. While I do not stand here and advocate allowing duly processed criminals to be released, or those breaking our immigration law to be simply be set loose, there are safer and more cost-effective alternatives to detention for most immigrants ICE currently detains.

CONCLUSION

Angela Davis, an activist who went from being on the most wanted list to a distinguished and tenured professor in California, said that "Jails and prisons are designed to

break human beings, to convert the population into specimens in a zoo—obedient to our keepers, but dangerous to each other.”

Is that our goal? Are jails and prisons rehabilitating or are they simply creating more dangerous criminals? We need to better understand what is happening in our society and take account for it. This legislation maintains a log—a report that will track deaths in custody. The more we know what is going on, the more responsible we must become. It is my belief that this is just the beginning of a criminal justice system that needs reform.

IN RECOGNITION OF HONOR
FLIGHT

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Mr. KIND. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend Honor Flight for their ongoing work to honor America's veterans. Honor Flight provides World War II veterans the opportunity to travel to Washington, DC, to visit and reflect at the World War II Memorial constructed in their honor. Funded by donations from businesses and individuals, the trip is absolutely free of charge and serves as an excellent tribute to veterans who sacrificed, some paying the ultimate price, in the name of freedom.

Started in 2005 by Earl Morse, Honor Flight has grown from a small operation, flying a dozen veterans at a time in small private planes, to a network of affiliates that spans 30 States and transports hundreds of veterans to Washington on commercial airliners to see their memorial.

On October 8, 2008, the local Honor Flight Affiliate in my hometown of La Crosse, Wisconsin, will be flying some 180 veterans, many of whom reside in my district, to Washington, DC, to visit the World War II memorial. I would like to personally thank Neil Duresky, Chuck Hanson, and Randy Eddy for all their hard work to make this dream a reality for Wisconsin veterans, who served their country so admirably and with such courage. Without Honor Flight, many veterans would never have the opportunity to travel to Washington to see the memorial that was constructed in their honor.

Given the enormity of the sacrifice made by those who have served and continue to serve our country with the highest degree of honor and bravery, there is nothing we can do to fully repay them for their efforts. Thanks to Honor Flight, however, we can offer them the chance to visit the memorial dedicated to their service.

It is my sincere hope that the actions of Honor Flight inspire others to pause and reflect upon the sacrifices made and effort expended by our men and women in uniform, who are the best in the world. I will continue to honor and pay tribute to those who serve our country for their sense of duty and extraordinary courage.

HONORING ROBERT AND DONNA
DEPRIEST

HON. JIM COOPER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Mr. COOPER. Madam Speaker, I am honored to select Robert and Donna DePriest as the Fifth District of Tennessee's Angels in Adoption nominee this year.

Robert and Donna, and their children, Matthew and Melissa—all of Old Hickory, Tennessee—have devoted almost 15 years of their lives to the love, care, and support of numerous children from Tennessee's foster care system. I greatly admire their service to help provide a home to some of the neediest children in our society.

The DePriests stand out as foster parents because of their commitment to medically fragile children—many of whom had a very short life expectancy. The devotion and sacrifice this family has made to these special children has been truly above and beyond their call of duty. Due to the specific needs of these children, the family is often required to be specially trained in a variety of medical procedures. Though the level of care needed for these special children has frequently made it difficult for the DePriests to participate in family activities outside the home, they have still remained both willing and passionate about continuing to provide homes and care for many children in Tennessee.

The DePriest family has adopted four of the children that they cared for over the years. These children are Zachary, 12, Angel, 5, Heaven, 4, and Savannah, 2.

I appreciate all that the DePriest family has done, and thank them for their service. I hope that the DePriest family will continue to love and care for Tennessee's children for many years to come.

A TRIBUTE TO RICHARD LOPEZ

HON. RANDY NEUGEBAUER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this time to remember Richard Lopez, a long-time champion of those less fortunate in West Texas. Mr. Lopez passed away on June 8, 2008, at the age of 74.

Richard Lopez inherited his charitable spirit from his father, with whom he would travel long distances as a child to collect fruit and vegetables to deliver to their neighbors in need. He carried these lessons learned as a child forward and become known for his work as the executive director of the Guadalupe Economic Services Corporation and as the co-founder of the South Plains Food Bank.

Born in Edinburg, Texas, Mr. Lopez attended the University of Mississippi and married Rachel Bustillos on April 7th, 1982 in Lubbock, Texas. Following the destructive tornado that struck Lubbock in 1970, Mr. Lopez worked to help rebuild devastated parts of North Lubbock.

He was a tireless advocate for area migrant workers and of the less fortunate in Lubbock. He was widely known as the “Cesar Chavez

of West Texas” because of his compassion for others. A rare leader, Mr. Lopez never missed an opportunity to help people find affordable housing or to offer encouragement to farm laborers before they left to work on the harvest.

Mr. Lopez was dedicated to his community. In addition to more than 25 years of service with the Guadalupe Economic Services Corporation and the South Plains Food Bank, he was the founder of the Ad Hoc Committee for Farm Workers in West Texas and a founder of the Lubbock Indigent Health Consortium. He also received countless community service awards in recognition of his devotion to others.

Those from District 19, including myself, will miss Mr. Lopez's enthusiasm for life, dedication to the betterment of his community, and his great passion for helping those around him.

TRIBUTE TO RETIRING CONGRES-
SIONAL MEMBER U.S. REP-
RESENTATIVE DAVE WELDON
(FL-15)

HON. ADAM H. PUTNAM

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Mr. PUTNAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a colleague and friend, U.S. Representative DAVE WELDON who has served this body and the people of Florida well over the last 14 years.

Congressman WELDON has made valuable contributions not only to the people of Florida's 15th Congressional District, but also to the U.S. House of Representatives and the American public at large, who will continue to realize his long-standing efforts and contributions into the future.

As most in this body know, Dr. DAVE WELDON, M.D., F.A.C.P. of Melbourne, Florida, is a practicing physician and Army veteran. His background and expertise have been called upon on numerous occasions to strengthen this nation's space program, healthcare policy, energy resources, foreign affairs, and veterans' programs among others.

Dr. WELDON was the first medical doctor to have served in Congress from the State of Florida, and continues to treat patients at a Veterans' clinic in his congressional district on a volunteer basis. Rep. WELDON served on the House Appropriations Committee, and in that capacity was a member on various subcommittees, including the Science, State, Justice and Commerce Subcommittee, which has funding oversight of several key executive branch agencies including NASA. In the 110th Congress, he served on the Labor, Health, and Human Services, as well as the State and Foreign Operations Appropriations Subcommittees.

I have had the privilege to work closely with Dr. WELDON regarding many issues affecting Florida, as his congressional district borders my own in central Florida. In areas such as the space program and NASA, he has become a leader and will be long-recognized. I also worked hand-in-hand with him during several tumultuous hurricanes, in which he gave so generously of his efforts to benefit and rebuild for the people of our state.

His leadership in the House included serving as Vice Chairman of the Science Subcommittee on Space and Aeronautics, for 8

years, where he represented the interests of his constituents at Patrick Air Force Base and Cape Canaveral Air Station, and surrounding aerospace community. He is the co-founder and chairman of the Congressional Aerospace Caucus.

Rep. WELDON is also a member of the Autism Caucus, the Cancer Caucus, the Renewable Energy Caucus, the Tourism Caucus, and the Military Veterans Caucus. He is a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 453A, known as the "Rocket Post," in Rockledge, Florida.

Madam Speaker, I rise to again express my appreciation, as well as those of the people of the State of Florida and my colleagues in Congress, for the dedication of Dr. DAVE WELDON in his service in the United States Congress. My best wishes go out to him and his family for his future endeavors.

INTRODUCTION OF THE "FIXING THE FEDERAL VOTING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM ACT OF 2008"

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, today, along with Representative HONDA (D-CA), I am introducing the "Fixing the Federal Voting Assistance Program Act of 2008" which would do two things: (1) make the Director of the Federal Voting Assistance Office a presidential nominee confirmable by the Senate, and (2) create an advisory board to strengthen oversight of the office to ensure better access to the ballot by overseas military and civilians voters.

The recent history of the Federal Voter Assistance Program (FVAP) is one of clear lapses in the Government's efforts to help ensure access to the ballot for thousands of

overseas voters, both civilian and military in recent elections. This legislation is designed to bring greater attention to the voting office in the Department of Defense and enhanced oversight to ensure that it does its job of providing greater access to voting for our soldiers, sailors and airmen, their families, as well as civilians living overseas.

The "Fixing the Federal Voting Assistance Program Act" is a necessary step in ensuring that overseas voters are counted in elections. Unfortunately, it will not help with the coming election. I believe that Americans serving in the military abroad or civilians residing overseas will still not have adequate help from the Government in facilitating their right of access to the ballot. I and Representative HONDA believe we need to start working on improving access to the next election now while the problems are still fresh in our minds so that we are not facing them again in 2010.

COMMEMORATING TAIWAN'S NATIONAL DAY

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate Taiwan's National Day, also known as Double Ten Day. This day marks a special moment in Taiwan's history. It was the start of the Wuchang uprising that led to the overthrow of the Ching dynasty and laid the foundation for the establishment of the first democracy founded in Asia.

Taiwan has been a long time supporter and ally of the United States and its people. Taiwan continues to be our ally in the war on terrorism by cooperating with humanitarian assistance in Iraq and Afghanistan. They have shown generosity and compassion by contributing to the Twin Towers Fund and Pentagon

Memorial Fund, and now to the victims of Hurricane Katrina. Continually, Taiwan has proved to be a true ally to the people of the United States.

In sharing the same beliefs in freedom and democracy, we can further our ties by protecting these ideas in our countries and throughout the world. May this year's celebration be one of the most memorable and enjoyed in Taiwan's history.

RECOGNIZING THE HONORABLE BUD CRAMER AND THE HONORABLE TERRY EVERETT ON THEIR RETIREMENT FROM CONGRESS

SPEECH OF

HON. JIM COOPER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 25, 2008

Mr. COOPER. Mr. Speaker, for 18 years, Members of Congress have had the pleasure of working with an exemplary representative. And for 18 years, the constituents of northern Alabama have been represented by an extraordinary man. Today, I would like to honor the service of my friend and colleague, BUD CRAMER.

Over his time here in Congress, BUD has generated a noteworthy list of accomplishments: co-founder of the Blue Dog Coalition, one of the strongest allies for NASA, and a tireless advocate for children, authoring the monumental National Children's Advocacy Program Act. He managed to balance national needs while staying true to his Huntsville roots. BUD, your absence will be a loss not just for the Blue Dog Coalition, not just for Congress, but for the Nation as a whole. I wish you the best in your years to come.