United States of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 110th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 154 WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2008 No. 176

House of Representatives

Pursuant to section 2 of House Concurrent Resolution 440, 110th Congress, the House met at 1 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. MCNULTY).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
November 19, 2008.

I hereby appoint the Honorable MICHAEL R. MCNULTY to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

NOTICE OF REASSEMBLY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair lays before the House the text of the formal notice of reassembly that was sent to Members on Friday, November 14, 2008.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
Washington, DC, November 13, 2008.

House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: Pursuant to section 2 of House Concurrent Resolution 440, after consultation with the Minority Leader of the House and the Minority Leader of the Senate, we determine that the public interest requires that the House reassemble at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, November 19, 2008, the Senate already being in session.

The Sergeant at Arms is directed to notify all Members of the reassembly of the House of Representatives for additional legislative business during the second session of the One Hundred Tenth Congress.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

Best Regards,

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House.

HARRY REID,
Majority Leader of the Senate.

PRAYER

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

Perhaps, Lord God, it is because we look upon You as the Supreme Creator, or ever-lasting goodness or unconditional love, that we see ourselves as ever changing and each one of us as an unfinished story created, yet far from Your image and likeness.

Since life seems to be filled with an endless series of tasks and a cacophony of demands, this 110th Congress gathers for another session to seek Your mercy and guidance as we face so many limitations.

Help these representatives of people across this Nation who have worries, problems, and doubts, that they find compassion for those who suffer most, sound principles upon which to base their response, and wisdom in working out detailed and prudent solutions to very complicated issues.

With firm resolve, Lord, to listen to each other as well as to Your own revealed truth and holy inspiration, in You, our God, we place our trust now and forever.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. SKELTON led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

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

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

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

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, October 15, 2008.

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

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in clause 2(h) of rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, I have the honor to transmit an envelope received from the White House on October 14, 2008, at 11:00 a.m. and said to contain a letter from the President dated October 14, 2008 whereby he submits a certification pursuant to sec. 115(a)(2) of PL 110–343.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

LORRAINE C. MILLER,
Clerk of the House.

CERTIFICATION PURSUANT TO EMERGENCY ECONOMIC STABILIZATION ACT OF 2008—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 110–158)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on Financial Services and ordered to be printed:

THE WHITE HOUSE
Washington, DC, October 14, 2008.

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

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to section 115(a) (2) of the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 (Public Law 110–343) (the ''Act''), I hereby certify that it is necessary for the Secretary of the Treasury to

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exercise the authority granted under the Act to purchase, or commit to purchase, troubled assets up to the limit of $350 billion outstanding at any one time.

Sincerely,

GEORGE W. BUSH.

□ 1315

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

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

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, November 18, 2008.

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

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on November 18, 2008, at 1:54 p.m.:

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 5714.

That the Senate agreed to the House amendment S. 602.

Appointments: Congressional Oversight Panel (2).

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

LORRAINE C. MILLER,
Clerk of the House.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 4 of rule I, the following enrolled bills and joint resolution were signed:

By Speaker pro tempore VAN HOLLEN on Monday, October 6, 2008:

H.R. 4010, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 100 West Percy Street in Indianola, Mississippi, as the ''Minnie Cox Post Office Building''.

H.R. 4131, to designate a portion of California State Route 91 located in Los Angeles County, California, as the ''Juanita Millender-McDonald Highway''.

H.R. 5159, to establish the Office of the Capitol Visitor Center within the Office of the Architect of the Capitol, headed by the Chief Executive Officer for Visitor Services, to provide for the effective management and administration of the Capitol Visitor Center, and for other purposes.

H.R. 6197, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 7095 Highway 57 in Counce, Tennessee, as the ''Pickwick Post Office Building''.

H.R. 6469, to amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize increased Federal funding for the Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network.

H.R. 6558, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1750 Lundy Avenue in San Jose, California, as the ''Gordon N. Chan Post Office Building''.

H.R. 6834, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4 South Main Street in Wallingford, Connecticut, as the ''CWO Richard R. Lee Post Office Building''.

H.R. 6902, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 513 6th Avenue in Dayton, Kentucky, as the ''Staff Sergeant Nicholas Ray Carnes Post Office''.

H.R. 6982, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 210 South Ellsworth Avenue in San Mateo, California, as the ''Leo J. Ryan Post Office Building''.

H.R. 7222, to extend the Andean Trade Preference Act, and for other purposes.

H.J. Res. 100, appointing the day for the convening of the first session of the One Hundred Eleventh Congress and establishing the date for the counting of the electoral votes for President and Vice President cast by the electors in December 2008.

On Tuesday, October 7, 2008:

S. 3197, an act to amend title 11, United States Code, to exempt for a limited period, from the application of the means-test presumption of abuse under chapter 7, qualifying members of reserve components of the Armed Forces and members of the National Guard who, after September 11, 2001, are called to active duty or to perform a homeland defense activity for not less than 90 days.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE REPUBLICAN LEADER

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

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, October 1, 2008.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker, U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER PELOSI: Pursuant to Section 333(a)(2) of the Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2008 (P.L. 110–229), I am pleased to appoint Mrs. Rosa J. Correa of Bridgeport, Connecticut as a voting member to the Commission to Study the Potential Creation of a National Museum of the American Latino. Dr. Aida Levitan, Key Biscayne, Florida, previously appointed, shall also be a voting member.

Both Dr. Levitan and Mrs. Correa have expressed interest in serving in this capacity and I am pleased to fulfill the requests.

Sincerely,

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Republican Leader.

MOMENT OF SILENCE IN REMEMBRANCE OF MEMBERS OF ARMED FORCES AND THEIR FAMILIES

The SPEAKER. The Chair would ask all Members to rise for the purpose of a moment of silence.

The Chair asks that the House now observe a moment of silence in remembrance of our brave men and women in uniform who have given their lives in the service of our Nation in Iraq and Afghanistan, their families, and all who serve in our Armed Forces.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

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

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

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

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: I have the honor to transmit herewith a facsimile copy of a letter received from Ms. Pat Wolfe, Elections Administrator, Office of the Secretary of State, State of Ohio, indicating that, according to the unofficial returns of the Special Election held November 18, 2008, the Honorable Marcia L. Fudge was elected Representative to Congress for the Eleventh Congressional District, State of Ohio.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

LORRAINE C. MILLER,
Clerk.

OHIO SECRETARY OF STATE,
Columbus, OH, November 19, 2008.

Re: Ohio's 11th Congressional District—unofficial results of special election of November 18, 2008.

Hon. LORRAINE C. MILLER,
Clerk, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MS. MILLER: Per your request, this is to advise you that the unofficial results of the Special Election held on Tuesday, November 18, 2008, for Representative to Congress from the 11th Congressional District of Ohio, indicates that the Honorable Marcia L. Fudge received 8,450 votes.

Ms. Fudge was the only candidate for the office. Therefore, it appears from the unofficial results that Ms. Fudge has been elected as Representative to Congress of the 11th Congressional District of Ohio.

As soon as the official results are certified to this office by the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections, which must be no later than December 19, 2008, the official Certificate of Election will be prepared and transmitted as required by law.

Sincerely,

PATRICIA WOLFE,
Elections Administrator.

SWEARING IN OF THE HONORABLE MARCIA FUDGE, OF OHIO, AS A MEMBER OF THE HOUSE

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the gentlewoman from Ohio, the Honorable MARCIA FUDGE, be permitted to take the oath of office today.

Her certificate of election has not arrived, but there is no contest and no question has been raised with regard to her election.

The SPEAKER. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER. Will Representative-elect FUDGE and the members of the Ohio delegation present themselves in the well.

Ms. FUDGE appeared at the bar of the House and took the oath of office, as follows:

Do you solemnly swear or affirm that you will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against

all enemies, foreign and domestic; that you will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that you take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that you will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which you are about to enter, so help you God.

The SPEAKER. Congratulations. You are now a Member of the 110th Congress.

WELCOMING THE HONORABLE MARCIA FUDGE TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker and Members of the House, obviously this is a great moment of joy for our country and for our delegation. Congresswoman MARCIA FUDGE will become an outstanding Member of this House. She is an attorney, a businesswoman, and a mayor—indeed, the first female mayor, and first African American mayor of Warrensville, Ohio—since the year 2000. That alone constitutes major accomplishments.

She has her law degree from Cleveland State University, and she will become the ninth female Member ever elected to this Chamber from the great State of Ohio, and only the second African American woman ever to be elected from our State.

As Mayor of Warrensville, Ohio, she has been heavily involved in economic development. In fact, she said, ''I believe people started to feel really good about where they lived because of the results of our economic development efforts, and I think when people feel good about where they live, that pride transitions into so many positive things.''

Congresswoman FUDGE formerly served our beloved colleague Representative Stephanie Tubbs Jones as her Chief of Staff during her early years. She also worked early in her career on Carl Stokes' Cleveland bid for mayor, as a teenager, heading up Young Folks for Stokes.

She has been a law clerk; a tax attorney; county prosecutor's office attorney; held Cuyahoga County Budget, Tax, and Finance positions; and she is Immediate Past President of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, serving from 1996 to 2000. We know what a powerhouse that is.

She's also a board member of the famous Cleveland Public Library and, perhaps most important of all, she's a member of the Baptist Glenville Church of God. We know she's come this far by faith.

We welcome her here today and join her among our Buckeye ranks.

I would be pleased to yield to the fine dean of our delegation from the Republican side of the aisle, Congressman RALPH REGULA, who we will say goodbye to as a Member this year, but not as a former Member, and we expect to see him and his beautiful wife, Mary, very often.

Mr. REGULA. I thank the gentlelady for yielding. It's certainly with pleasure that I rise today as the dean of the Ohio delegation to welcome our newest Member, the Honorable MARCIA FUDGE, of the 11th District. We will all sadly recall our delegation and this House unexpectedly lost our friend and colleague, the Honorable Stephanie Tubbs Jones, this past August. While we all miss Stephanie's warmth and friendship, today we welcome Congresswoman FUDGE to this body.

As my colleague from Toledo has said, she has an outstanding record of achievements, and I know she will be a very strong contributing Member to this body. Of course, she has the great experience of serving as the Mayor of Warrensville Heights. Any of you that have experienced local government, particularly as a mayor or a council person, you know that you have to learn to accommodate, compromise, reach across the aisle, and do a lot of things that will make for success in this body.

Also, she is a product of Ohio's fine schools. She has a bachelor's degree in Business Administration from the Ohio State University. Go Bucks. She has a law degree from the Cleveland Marshall College of Law at Cleveland State University.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of my colleagues on my side of the aisle, and colleagues generally, we are happy to welcome Ms. FUDGE as one of our Members and wish her a long and successful career as a Member of this body. It's a great honor to serve in the United States Congress. I think all of us can attest to that.

I thank the gentlelady for yielding.

□ 1330

Ms. KAPTUR. I thank the gentleman, and know that Congresswoman FUDGE will be a valued member of our delegation. We have our work cut out for us.

We welcome you.

Madam Speaker, we yield back our remaining time.

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. FUDGE) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Ms. FUDGE. Thank you.

Madam Speaker, Leader BOEHNER, Representative KAPTUR, Representative REGULA, the Ohio delegation, Members of the 110th Congress, it is, indeed, my pleasure and my privilege to be with you here today.

I want to first just thank my mother and my family and my staff, my friends, the members of my great sorority—Delta Sigma Theta—all of the residents of Warrensville Heights, Ohio, where I served for so many years as mayor, and all of the people of the 11th District for the confidence they placed in me in the last three elections that I have been in over the last 6 weeks. I, as well, would like to thank my predecessors on whose shoulders I stand today—the Honorable Louis Stokes and my very dear friend, the Honorable Stephanie Tubbs Jones.

To all of my colleagues, I say to you that I look forward to working with you because there is much work to be done, and I am certainly up to the task. I am a person who you can count on. I will work hard because I know what my job is, and my job is to serve the people who put me here. I know that my job is to do the most for those who have the least, and so I will work hard because I have promises to keep. I have made promises not only to myself and to the people of the 11th District but to my departed friend. So count on me because I do, indeed, have a promise to keep.

Thank you so much.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. Under clause 5(d) of rule XX, the Chair announces to the House that, in light of the administration of the oath of office to the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. FUDGE), the whole number of the House is 435.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 1 o'clock and 32 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 1504

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. UDALL of Colorado) at 3 o'clock and 4 minutes p.m.

DISPENSING WITH CALENDAR WEDNESDAY BUSINESS TODAY

Mr. WELCH of Vermont. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the business in order under the Calendar Wednesday rule be dispensed with today.

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

There was no objection.

ENROLLED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTION SIGNED

Ms. Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled bills and a joint resolution of the House of the following titles, which were thereupon signed by Speaker pro tempore, Mr. VAN HOLLEN on October 6, 2008:

H.R. 4010. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 100 West Percy Street in Indianola, Mississippi, as the ''Minnie Cox Post Office Building''.

H.R. 4131. An act to designate a portion of California State Route 91 located in Los Angeles County, California, as the ''Juanita Millender-McDonald Highway''.

H.R. 5159. An act to establish the Office of the Capitol Visitor Center within the Office of the Architect of the Capitol, headed by the Chief Executive Officer for Visitor Services, to provide for the effective management and administration of the Capitol Visitor Center, and for other purposes.

H.R. 6197. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 7095 Highway 57 in Counce, Tennessee, as the ''Pickwick Post Office Building''.

H.R. 6469. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize increased Federal funding for the Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network.

H.R. 6558. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1750 Lundy Avenue in San Jose, California, as the ''Gordon N. Chan Post Office Building''.

H.R. 6834. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4 South Main Street in Wallingford, Connecticut, as the ''CWO Richard R. Lee Post Office Building''.

H.R. 6902. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 513 6th Avenue in Dayton, Kentucky, as the ''Staff Sergeant Nicholas Ray Carnes Post Office''.

H.R. 6982. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 210 South Ellsworth Avenue in San Mateo, California, as the ''Leo J. Ryan Post Office Building''.

H.R. 7222. An act to extend the Andean Trade Preference Act, and for the other purposes.

H.J. Res. 100. Joint resolution appointing the day for the convening of the first session of the One Hundred Eleventh Congress and establishing the date for the counting of the electoral votes for President and Vice President cast by the electors in December 2008.

SENATE ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

The Speaker pro tempore, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, announced his signature to an enrolled bill of the Senate of the following title:

S. 3197. An act to amend title 11, United States Code, to exempt for a limited period, from the application of the means-test presumption of abuse under chapter 7, qualifying members of reserve components of the Armed Forces and members of the National Guard who, after September 11, 2001, are called to active duty or to perform a homeland defense activity for not less than 90 days.

BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTION PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk of the House reports that on September 30, 2008 she presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bills and joint resolution.

H.R. 1157. To amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize the Director of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences to make grants for the development and operation of research centers regarding environmental factors that may be related to the etiology of breast cancer.

H.R. 1343. To amend the Public Health Service Act to provide additional authorizations of appropriations for the health centers program under section 330 of such Act, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1777. To amend the Improving America's Schools Act of 1994 to make permanent the favorable treatment of need-based educational aid under the antitrust laws.

H.R. 2851. To amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, the Public Health Service Act, and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that dependent students who take a medically necessary leave of absence do not lose health insurance coverage, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3068. To prohibit the award of contracts to provide guard services under the contract security guard program of the Federal Protective Service to a business concern that is owned, controlled, or operated by an individual who has been convicted of a felony.

H.R. 3229. To require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the legacy of the United States Army Infantry and the establishment of the National Infantry Museum and Soldier Center.

H.R. 4120. To amend title 18, United States Code, to provide for more effective prosecution of cases involving child pornography, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5001. To authorize the Administrator of General Services to provide for the redevelopment of the Old Post Office Building located in the District of Columbia.

H.R. 5057. To reauthorize the Debbie Smith DNA Backlog Grant Program, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5265. To amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for research with respect to various forms of muscular dystrophy, including Becker, congenital, distal, Duchenne, Emery-Dreifuss facioscapulohumeral, limb-girdle, myotonic, and oculopharyngeal, muscular dystrophies.

H.R. 5571. To extend for 5 years the program relating to waiver of the foreign country residence requirement with respect to international medical graduates, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5872. To require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the centennial of the Boy Scouts of America, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5975. To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 101 West Main Street in Waterville, New York, as the ''Cpl. John P. Sigsbee Post Office''.

H.R. 6092. To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 101 Tallapoosa Street in Bremen, Georgia, as the ''Sergeant Paul Saylor Post Office Building''.

H.R. 6370. To transfer excess Federal property administered by the Coast Guard to the Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians.

H.R. 6437. To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 200 North Texas Avenue in Odessa, Texas, as the ''Corporal Alfred Mac Wilson Post Office''.

H.R. 6460. To amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to provide for the remediation of sediment contamination in areas of concern, and for other purposes.

H.R. 6946. To make a technical correction in the NET 911 Improvement Act of 2008.

H.J. Res. 62. To honor the achievements and contributions of Native Americans to the United States, and for other purposes.

Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk of the House also reports that on October 3, 2008 she presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bills.

H.R. 928. To amend the Inspector General Act of 1978 to enhance the independence of the Inspectors General, to create a Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1424. To provide authority for the Federal Government to purchase and insure certain types of troubled assets for the purposes of providing stability to and preventing disruption in the economy and financial system and protecting taxpayers, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide incentives for energy production and conservation, to extend certain expiring provisions, to provide individual income tax relief, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1532. To amend the Public Health Service Act with respect to making progress toward the goal of eliminating tuberculosis, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2786. To reauthorize the programs for housing assistance for Native Americans.

H.R. 2963. To transfer certain land in Riverside County, California, and San Diego County, California, from the Bureau of Land Management to the United States to be held in trust for the Pechanga Band of Luiseno Mission Indians, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5350. To authorize the Secretary of Commerce to sell or exchange certain National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration property located in Norfolk, Virginia, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5618. To reauthorize and amend the National Sea Grant College Program Act, and for other purposes.

H.R. 6098. To amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to improve the financial assistance provided to State, local, and tribal governments for information sharing activities, and for other purposes.

H.R. 6849. To amend the commodity provisions of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 to permit producers to aggregate base acres and reconstitute farms to avoid the prohibition on receiving direct payments, counter-cyclical payments, or average crop revenue election payments when the sum of the base acres of a farm is 10 acres or less, and for other purposes.

H.R. 7081. To approve the United States-India Agreement for Cooperation on Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy, and for other purposes.

Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk of the House also reports that on October 6, 2008 she presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bills.

H.R. 2095. To amend title 49, United States Code, to prevent railroad fatalities, injuries, and hazardous materials releases, to authorize the Federal Railroad Safety Administration, and for other purpose.

H.R. 3480. To direct the United States Sentencing Commission to assure appropriate punishment enhancements for those involved in receiving stolen property where that property consists of grave markers of veterans, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4544. To require the issuance of medals to recognize the dedication and valor of Native American code talkers.

H.R. 6063. To authorize the programs of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and for other purposes.

H.R. 6296. To extend through 2013 the authority of the Federal Election Commission to impose civil money penalties on the basis of a schedule of penalties established and published by the Commission.

H.R. 6353. To amend the Controlled Substances Act to address online pharmacies.

H.R. 6524. To authorize the Administrator of General Services to take certain actions with respect to parcels of real property located in Eastlake, Ohio, and Koochiching County, Minnesota, and for other purposes.

H.R. 7082. To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permit the Secretary of the Treasury to disclose certain prisoner return information to the Federal Bureau of Prisons, and for other purposes.

H.R. 7177. To authorize the transfer of naval vessels to certain foreign recipients, and for other purposes.

H.R. 7198. To establish the Stephanie Tubbs Jones Gift of Life Medal for organ donors and the family of organ donors.

Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk of the House also reports that on October 7, 2008 she presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bills.

H.R. 1714. To clarify the boundaries of Coastal Barrier Resources System Clam Pass Unit FL–64P.

H.R. 6045. To amend title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to extend the authorization of the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Program through fiscal year 2012.

H.R. 6073. To provide that Federal employees receiving their pay by electronic funds transfer shall be given the option of receiving their pay stubs electronically.

H.R. 6083. To authorize funding to conduct a national training program for State and local prosecutors.

H.R. 6199. To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 245 North Main Street in New City, New York, as the ''Kenneth Peter Zebrowski Post Office Building''.

H.R. 6229. To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2523 7th Avenue East in North Saint Paul, Minnesota, as the ''Mayor William 'Bill' Sandberg Post Office Building''.

H.R. 6338. To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4233 West Hillsboro Boulevard in Coconut Creek, Florida, as the ''Army SPC Daniel Agami Post Office Building''.

H.R. 6531. To amend chapter 13 of title 17, United States Code (relating to the vessel hull design protection), to clarify the definitions of a hull and a deck.

H.R. 6874. To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 156 Taunton Avenue in Seekonk, Massachusetts, as the ''Lance Corporal Eric Paul Valdepenas Post Office Building''.

H.R. 7084. To amend section 114 of title 17, United States Code, to provide for agreements for the reproduction and performance of sound recordings by webcasters.

H.R. 7222. To extend the Andean Trade Preference Act, and for other purposes.

Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk of the House reports also that on October 9, 2008 she presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bills and joint resolution.

H.R. 5159. To establish the Office of the Capitol Visitor Center within the Office of the Architect of the Capitol, headed by the Chief Executive Officer for Visitor Services, to provide for the effective management and administration of the Capitol Visitor Center, and for other purposes.

H.R. 6469. To amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize increased Federal funding for the Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network.

H.J. Res 100. Appointing the day for the convening of the first session of the One Hundred Eleventh Congress and establishing the date for the counting of the electoral votes for President and Vice President cast by the electors in December 2008.

Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk of the House also reports that on October 10, 2008 she presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bills.

H.R. 1594. To designate the Department of Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic in Hermitage, Pennsylvania, as the Michael A. Marzano Department of Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic.

H.R. 3511. To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2150 East Hardtner Drive in Urania, Louisiana, as the ''Murphy A. Tannehill Post Office Building''.

H.R. 4010. To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 100 West Percy Street in Indianola, Mississippi, as the ''Minnie Cox Post Office Building''.

H.R. 4131. To designate a portion of California State Route 91 located in Lost Angeles County, California, as the ''Juanita Millender-McDonald Highway''.

H.R. 6197. To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 7095 Highway 57 in Counce, Tennessee, as the ''Pickwick Post Office Building''.

H.R. 6558. To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1750 Lundy Avenue in San Jose, California, as the ''Gordon N. Chan Post Office Building''.

H.R. 6681. To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 300 Vine Street in New Lenox, Illinois, as the ''Jacob M. Lowell Post Office Building''.

H.R. 6834. To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4 South Main Street in Wallingford, Connecticut, as the ''CWO Richard R. Lee Post Office Building''.

H.R. 6847. To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 801 Industrial Boulevard in Ellijay, Georgia, as the ''First Lieutenant Noah Harris Ellijay Post Office Building''.

H.R. 6902. To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 513 6th Avenue in Dayton, Kentucky, as the ''Staff Sergeant Nicholas Ray Carnes Post Office''.

H.R. 6982. To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 210 South Ellsworth Avenue in San Mateo, California, as the ''Leo J. Ryan Post Office Building''.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. WELCH of Vermont. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 3 o'clock and 5 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, November 20, 2008, at 10 a.m.

OATH OF OFFICE MEMBERS, RESIDENT COMMISSIONER, AND DELEGATES

The oath of office required by the sixth article of the Constitution of the United States, and as provided by section 2 of the act of May 13, 1884 (23 Stat. 22), to be administered to Members, Resident Commissioner, and Delegates of the House of Representatives, the text of which is carried in 5 U.S.C. 3331:

> ''I, AB, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I am about to enter. So help me God.''

has been subscribed to in person and filed in duplicate with the Clerk of the House of Representatives by the following Member of the 110th Congress, pursuant to the provisions of 2 U.S.C. 25:

MARCIA L. FUDGE, Ohio, 11th.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

9084. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Addition of Russia and Azerbaijan to the List of Regions Where African Swine Fever Exists [Docket No.: APHIS-2008-0107] received November 5, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

9085. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia; Interstate Movement and Import Restrictions on Certain Live Fish [Docket No.: APHIS-2007-0038] (RIN: 0579-AC74) received November 5, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

9086. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Agricultural Bioterrorism Protection Act of 2002; Biennial Review and Republication of the Select Agent and Toxin List [Docekt No.: APHIS-2007-0033] (RIN: 0579-AC53) received October 20, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

9087. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Agriculture, transmitting a report of a violation of the Antideficiency Act by the Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1517(b); to the Committee on Appropriations.

9088. A letter from the Acting Under Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a report of a violation of the Antideficiency Act by the Department of the Army, Case Number 05-17, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1517(b); to the Committee on Appropriations.

9089. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Air Force, Department of the Air Force, transmitting a proposal from the Department of the Air Force to dispose by lease renewal to the Lompoc Unified School District, 15.48 acres of land at Vandenberg Air Force Base, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 2667(a); to the Committee on Armed Services.

9090. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting letter on the approved retirement of General Robert W. Wagner, United States Army, and his advancement to the grade of lieutenant general on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

9091. A letter from the Under Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting letter on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General Henry A. Obering III, United States Air Force, and his advancement to the grade of lieutenant general on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

9092. A letter from the Assistant Deputy Under Secretary of Defense Environment, Safety and Occupational Health, Department of Defense, transmitting the fiscal year 2007 report entitled, ''Operation and Financial Support of Military Museums''; to the Committee on Armed Services.

9093. A letter from the Under Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting letter on the approved retirement of General William S. Wallace, United States Army, and

his advancement to the grade of general on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

9094. A letter from the Under Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting authorization of 14 officers to wear the authorized insignia of the grade of major general, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 777; to the Committee on Armed Services.

9095. A letter from the Under Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting letter on the approved retirement of General Bruce A. Carlson, United States Air Force, and his advancement to the grade of general on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

9096. A letter from the Acting Under Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's quarterly report as of September 30, 2008, entitled, ''Acceptance of contributions for defense programs, projects and activities; Defense Cooperation Account,'' pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 2608; to the Committee on Armed Services.

9097. A letter from the Director, Defense Procurement, Acquisition Policy, and Strategic Sourcing, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement; Evaluation Factor for Use of Members of the Selected Reserve (DFARS Case 2006-D014) (RIN: 0750-AF40) received October 8, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Armed Services.

9098. A letter from the Under Secretary for Personnel and Readiness, Department of Defense, transmitting the Deparment's report entitled, ''Long-Term Operational Missions Performed By Reserve Component Members Providing Operational Support,'' pursuant to Section 416 of the Fiscal Year 2008 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA); to the Committee on Armed Services.

9099. A letter from the Deputy Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's report, pursuant to Public Law 110-116, section 1402; to the Committee on Armed Services.

9100. A letter from the Director, Executive Office of the President, Office of National Drug Control Policy, transmitting an addendum to the Fiscal Year 2007 Performance Summary Report, pursuant to Public Law 105-277, section 705(d); to the Committee on Armed Services.

9101. A letter from the Directors of HOPE for Homeowners Program, Board of Directors of the HOPE for Homeowners Program, transmitting the Board's ''Major'' final rule — HOPE for Homeowners Program: Program Regulations [Docket No. B-2009-F-01] (RIN: 2580-AA00) received October 24, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

9102. A letter from the Administrator, Rural Housing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Direct Multi-Family Housing Loans and Grants — received October 29, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

9103. A letter from the Cheif Counsel, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Changes in Flood Elevation Determinations — received November 5, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

9104. A letter from the Associate General Counsel, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting the Department's final rule — Mortgagee Review Board (MRB); Amendments to the MRB Regulations [Docket No. FR-5082-F-02] (RIN: 2510-AA01) received November 5, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

9105. A letter from the Chairman and President, Export-Import Bank, transmitting a report on transactions involving U.S. exports to Australia pursuant to Section 2(b)(3) of the Export-Import Bank Act of 1945, as amended; to the Committee on Financial Services.

9106. A letter from the Chairman, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting a report entitled, ''Merger Decisions 2007,'' in accordance with Section 18(c)(9) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act; to the Committee on Financial Services.

9107. A letter from the Assistant to the Board, Federal Reserve System, transmitting the System's ''Major'' final rule — Capital Adequacy Guidelines: Treatment of Perpetual Preferred Stock Issued to the United States Treasury under the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 [Regulation Y; Docket No. R-1336] received October 27, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

9108. A letter from the Assistant to the Board, Federal Reserve System, transmitting the System's final rule — Risk-Based Capital Guidelines; Leverage Capital Guidelines [Regulations H and Y; Docket No. 1332] received October 10, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

9109. A letter from the Assistant to the Board, Federal Reserve System, transmitting the System's final rule — Transactions Between Member Banks and Their Affiliates: Exemption for Certain Purchases of Asset-Backed Commercial Paper by a Member Bank from an Affiliate [Regulation W; Docket No. R-1331] received October 10, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

9110. A letter from the Acting Secretary, Securities & Exchange Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Mandatory Electronic Submission Applications for Orders under the Investment Company Act and Filings Made Pursuant to Regulation E [Release Nos. 33-8981; 34-58874; IC-28476 File No. S7-25-07] (RIN: 3235-AJ81) received November 5, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

9111. A letter from the Acting Secretary, Securities & Exchange Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Disclosure of Short Sales and Short Positions by Institutional Investment Managers [Release Nos.: 34-58785; File No. S7-31-08] (RIN: 3235-AK23) received October 20, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

9112. A letter from the Acting Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting the Commission's ''Major'' final rule — Amendments to Regulation SHO [Release No. 34-58773; File No. S7-30-08] (RIN: 3235-AK22) received October 20, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

9113. A letter from the Acting Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — ''Naked'' Short Selling Antifraud Rule [Release No.: 34-58774; File No. S7-08-08] (RIN: 3235-AK06) received October 20, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

9114. A letter from the Acting Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Amendments to Regulation SHO [Release No. 34-58775; File No. S7-19-07] (RIN: 3235-AJ57) received October 20, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

9115. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Services, Department of Education, transmitting the Department's final rule — Title I — Improving The Academic Achievement Of The Disadvantaged [Docket ID ED-2008-OESE-0003] (RIN: 1810-AB01) received October 27, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and Labor.

9116. A letter from the Department of Education, transmitting the Department's final rule — Title I — Improving The Academic Achievement of The Disadvantaged [Docket ID ED-20080-OESE-0003] (RIN: 1810-AB01) received October 29, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and Labor.

9117. A letter from the Chairman and Chief Judge, ECAB, Department of Labor, transmitting the Department's final rule — Rules of Procedure (RIN: 1290-AA22) received October 27, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and Labor.

9118. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Employee Benefits Security Administration, Department of Labor, transmitting the Department's final rule — Selection of Annuity Providers-Safe Harbor for Individual Account Plans (RIN: 1210-AB19) received October 10, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and Labor.

9119. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Employee Benefits Security Administration, Department of Labor, transmitting the Department's final rule — Adoption of Amendment to Prohibited Transaction Exemption 2006-06; (PTE 2006-06) For Services Provided in Connection With the Termination of Abandoned Individual Account Plans (RIN: 1210-ZA12) received October 10, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and Labor.

9120. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Employee Benefits Security Administration, Department of Labor, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendments to Safe Harbor for Distributions From Terminated Individual Account Plans and Termination of Abandoned Individual Account Plans To Require Inherited Individual Retirement Plans for Missing Nonspouse Beneficaries (RIN: 1210-AB16] received October 10, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and Labor.

9121. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Secretary, Department of Labor, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendments to Guidelines for Processing Applications for Assistance To Conform to Sections 3013(h) and 3031 of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, and Efficient Transportation Equity Act-A Legacy for Users and To Improve Processing for Administrative Efficiency (RIN: 1215-AB58) received October 10, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and Labor.

9122. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Secretary For Labor-Management Programs, Department of Labor, transmitting the Department's final rule — Labor Organization Annual Financial Reports for Trusts in Which Labor Organization is Interested, Form T-1 (RIN: 1215-AB64) received October 14, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and Labor.

9123. A letter from the Administrator, Office of Apprenticeship, ETA, DOL, Department of Labor, transmitting the Department's final rule — Apprenticeship Programs, Labor Standards for Registration, Amendment of Regulations (RIN: 1205-AB50) received November 5, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and Labor.

9124. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Department of Energy, transmitting a copy of the Department's Energy Fleet Alternative Fuel Vehicle Acquisition Report, Compliance with EPAct and E.O. 13149 in Fiscal Year 2007, pursuant to 16 U.S.C. 2006(a)(1); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

9125. A letter from the Chairman, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's fourth report on Government dam use charges under Section 10(e)(2) of the Federal Power Act, pursuant to 16 U.S.C. 803; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

9126. A letter from the Attorney, Office of General Counsel for Legislation and Regulatory Law, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's ''Major'' final rule — Energy Conservation Program for Commercial and Industrial Equipment: Packaged Terminal Air Conditioner and Packaged Terminal Heat Pump Energy Conservation Standards [Docket Number: EERE-2007-BT-STD-0012] (RIN: 1904-AB44) received October 20, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

9127. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Distribution of Certain Drug Products by Registered Blood Establishments and Comprehensive Hemophilia Diagnostic Treatment Centers That Qualify as Health Care Entities; Prescription Drug Marketing Act of 1987; Prescription Drug Amendments of 1992; Policies, Requirements and Administrative Procedures [Docket No.: FDA-2005-N-0345 (formerly Docket No.: 2005N-0428)] received November 5, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

9128. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendments to the Current Good Manufacturing Practice Regulations for Finished Pharmaceuticals [Docket No.: FDA-2007-N-0379 (formerly Docket No.: 2007N-02800)] received November 5, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

9129. A letter from the Program Manager, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Medicaid Program; Clarification of Outpatient Hospital Facility (Including Outpatient Hospital Clinic) Services Definition (RIN: 0938-AO17) received November 7, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

9130. A letter from the Program Manager, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standards of Care of Chimpanzees Held in the Federally Supported Chimpanzee Sancturry System (RIN: 0925-AA31) received October 10, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

9131. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the FY 2007 Performance Report for the Animal Drug User Fee Act (ADUFA), enacted on November 18, 2003 (Pub. L. 108-199); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

9132. A letter from the Program Manager, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Medical Examination of Aliens — Revisions to Medical Screening Process [Docket No.: CDC-2008-0002] (RIN: 0920-AA20) received October 6, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

9133. A letter from the Program Manager, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Medicaid Integrity Program; Eligible Entity and Contracting Requirements for the Medicaid Integrity Audit Program (RIN: 0938-AO97), pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

9134. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's report entitled, ''Program Evaluation Activities of the Department of Health and Human Services — Performance Improvement 2008,'' pursuant to Section 241(b) of the Public Health Service (PHS) Act, as amended by the Preventive Health Amendments of 1993, summarizing the findings of the evaluations of PHS programs authorized under Section 241(a); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

9135. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendments to the Current Good Manufacturing Practice Regulations for Finished Pharmaceuticals; Final Rule; Correction [Docket No.: FDA-2007-N-0329 (formerly Docket No. 2007N-0280)] received November 7, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

9136. A letter from the Program Manager, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Possession, Use, and Transfer of Select Agents and Toxins (RIN: 0920-AA09) received October 16, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

9137. A letter from the Staff Assistant, NHTSA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Insurer Reporting Requirements; List of Insurers Required To File Reports [Docket No.: NHTSA-2008-0055] (RIN: 2127-AK30) received October 9, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

9138. A letter from the Staff Assistant, NHTSA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Federal Motor Vehicle Theft Prevention Standard; Final Listing of 2009 Light Duty Truck Lines Subject to the Requirements of this Standard and Exempted Vehicle Lines for Model Year 2009 [Docket No.: NHTSA-2008-0049] (RIN: 2127-AK31) received October 9, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

9139. A letter from the Office of Managing Director, AMD-PERM, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — In the Matter of Amendment of Section 73.622(i), Final DTV Table of Allotments, Television Broadcast Stations. (La Crosse, Wisconsin) [MB Docket No.: 08-156 RM-11480] received October 29, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

9140. A letter from the Office of Managing Director, AMD-PERM, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — In the Matter of Amendment of Section 73.622(i), Final DTV TAble of Allotments, Television Broadcast Stations, (Stuart, Flordia) [MB Docket No.: 08-147 RM-11473] received October 29, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

9141. A letter from the Office of MAnaging Director, AMD-PERM, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — In the Matter of DTV Consumer Education Initiative [MB Docket No.: 07-148] received October 29, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

9142. A letter from the General Counsel, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Ex Parte Contacts and Separation of Functions [Docket No. RM08-8-000; Order No. 718] received October 20, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

9143. A letter from the Deputy General Counsel, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Wholesake Competition in Regions with Organized Electric Markets [Docket Nos.: RM07-19-000 and AD07-7-000] received October 29, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

9144. A letter from the Vice Admiral, USN Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting notification concerning the Department of the Air Force's Proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to India for defense articles and services (Transmittal No. 08-105), pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2776(b); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

9145. A letter from the Director, International Cooperation, Department of Defense, transmitting notification concerning the Department's intent to sign a Project Arrangement concerning the F/A-18A-F AN/ALR-67(V)3 Radar Warning Receiver Advanced Passive Surveillance Capability Program under the Memorandum of Understanding between the Department of Defense of the United States of America and the Department of Defense of Australia Concerning Cooperation on Maritime Research, Development, Test, Evaluation, and Prototyping Projects, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2776(b); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

9146. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting certification of a proposed Manufacturing License Agreement with Australia and the United Kingdom (Transmittal No. DDTC 124-08), pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2776(d); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

9147. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting certification of a proposed technical assistance agreement for the export of technical data, defense services, and defense articles to Chile (Transmittal No. DDTC 101-08), pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2776(c); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

9148. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting certification of a proposed technical assistance agreement for the export of technical data, defense services, and defense articles to Malaysia, France, and the United Kingdom (Transmittal No. DDTC 094-08), pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2776(c); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

9149. A letter from the Assistant Secretary Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting certification of a proposed technical assistance agreement for the export of technical data, defense services, and defense articles to the Republic of Korea (Transmittal No. DDTC 131-08), pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2776(c); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

9150. A letter from the Assistant Secretary Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting certification of a proposed technical assistance agreement for the export of technical data, defense services, and defense articles to Belgium (Transmittal No. DDTC 116-08), pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2776(c); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

9151. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the Department's annual report entitled, ''Assistance Related to International Terrorism Fiscal Year 2007,'' pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2349aa-7; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

9152. A letter from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Copies of international agreements, other than treaties, entered into by the United States, pursuant to 1 U.S.C. 112b; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

9153. A letter from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Copies of international

agreements, other than treaties, entered into by the United States, pursuant to 1 U.S.C. 112b; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

9154. A letter from the Assistant Secretary For Export Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule — Wassenaar Arrangement Plenary Agreements Implementation: December 2007 Categories 1,2,3,5 Parts I and II,6,7, and 9 of the Commerce Control List, Definitions; December 2006 Solar Cells [Docket No.: 080215206-81243-01] (RIN: 0694 AE29) received October 7, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

9155. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule — Additional Protocol Regulations [Docket No.: 080212165-81300-02] (RIN: 0694-AD26) received October 29, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

9156. A letter from the Assistant Secretary For Export Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule — Revisions to the Export Administration Regulations based upon a Systematic Review of the CCL [Docket No.: 080307397-81237-01] (RIN: 0694-AE33) received October 7, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

9157. A letter from the Assistant Secretary Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, certification regarding the proposed transfer of defense articles or defense services to Denmark, Germany, The Netherlands and Portugal (Transmittal No. DDTC 138-08); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

9158. A letter from the Assistant Secretary Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting certification of a proposed Manufacturing License Agreement with Italy and Germany (Transmittal No. DDTC 133-08); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

9159. A letter from the Assistant Secretary Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a proposed removal from the United States Munitions list of a portable air sampler originally designed for use as a bio-particle collector or unmanned aerial vehicles, pursuant to Section 38(f) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

9160. A letter from the Assistant Secretary Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a proposed removal from the United States Munitions list of visible blackout lights; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

9161. A letter from the Assistant Secretary Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a proposed removal from the United States Munitions list of a blower and heat exchanger originally designed for a military application, pursuant to Section 38(f) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

9162. A letter from the Assistant Secretary Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a report pursuant to the Emergency Wartime Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2003, on Loan Guarantees to Israel; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

9163. A letter from the Assistant Secretary Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting pursuant to section 3(d) of the Arms Export Control Act, certification regarding the proposed transfer of major defense equipment from the Government of Pakistan (Transmittal No. RSAT-12-08); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

9164. A letter from the Assistant Secretary Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a letter pertaining to certification under section 5(A)(2) of the Libyan Claims Resolution Act relating to the receipt of funds for settlement of claims against Libya, pursuant to Public Law 110-301; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

9165. A letter from the Assistant Secretary Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a report on progress toward a negotiated solution of the Cyprus question covering the period August 1 through September 30, 2008, pursuant to Section 620C(c) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

9166. A letter from the Assistant Secretary Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting consistent with the Authorization for Use of Military Force Against Iraq Resolution of 2002 (Pub. L. 107-243), the Authorization for the Use of Force Against Iraq Resolution (Pub. L. 102-1), and in order to keep the Congress fully informed, reports prepared by the Department of State on a weekly basis for the August 15, 2008 — October 15, 2008 period including matters relating to post-liberation Iraq under Section 7 of the Iraq Liberation Act of 1998 (Pub. L. 105-338); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

9167. A letter from the Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the Department's ninth report pursuant to U.S. Policy in Iraq Act, Section 1227(c) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2006 (Pub. L. 109-163), as amended by Section 1223 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (Pub. L. 110-181); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

9168. A letter from the Assistant Secretary Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a report on methods employed by the Government of Cuba to comply with the United States-Cuba September 1994 ''Joint Communique,'' pursuant to Public Law 105-277, section 2245; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

9169. A letter from the Assistant Secretary Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a report in accordance with Section 3 of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

9170. A letter from the Associate Director, PP&I, Department of Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule — Iranian Transactions Regulations — received November 7, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

9171. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting as required by section 401(c) of the National Emergency Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), and pursuant to Executive Order 13313 of July 31, 2003, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Sudan that was declared in Executive Order 13067 of November 3, 1997; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

9172. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting as required by section 401(c) of the National Emergency Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act , 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), and pursuant to Executive Order 13313 of July 31, 2003, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to the situation in or in relation to the Democratic Republic of the Congo that was declared in Executive Order 13413 of October 27, 2006; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

9173. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting as required by section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act , 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), and pursuant to Executive Order 13313 of July 31, 2003, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Iran that was declared in Executive Order 12170 of November 14, 1979; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

9174. A letter from the MajGen, USMC (ret.) Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction, Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction, transmitting the first quarterly report on the resconstruction of Afghanistan, pursuant to Public Law 110-181, section 1229; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

9175. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 17-505, ''Maury Wills Baseball Field Designation Act of 2008,'' pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

9176. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 17-506, ''MVS Inc., Payment Authorization Act of 2008,'' pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

9177. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 17-510, ''Trash Collection Noise Violations Abatement Act of 2008,'' pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

9178. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 17-511, ''Defined Contribution Plan Modifications for the Director of the Department of Corrections Devon Brown Amendment Act of 2008,'' pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

9179. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 17-512, ''Marvin Gaye Way Designation Act of 2008,'' pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

9180. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 17-513, ''Downtown Retail Tax Increment Financing Amendment Act of 2008,'' pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

9181. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 17-514, ''Public Space Rental Fees Temporary Amendment Act of 2008,'' pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

9182. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 17-515, ''Old Naval Hospital Grant Temporary Amendment Act of 2008,'' pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

9183. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 17-516, ''Waterside Mall and Fourth Street, S.W., Redevelopment and Reconstruction Temporary Act of 2008,'' pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

9184. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 17-517, ''Bolling Air Force Base Military Housing Real Property Tax Exemption and Equitable Tax Relief Temporary Act of 2008,'' pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

9185. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 17-537, ''Chief Financial Officer Approval of Payment of Goods and Services Temporary Amendment Act of 2008,'' pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-

233(c)(1); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

9186. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 17-538, ''Franklin Shelter Closing Requirements Temporary Act of 2008,'' pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

9187. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 17-550, ''Public Space Rental Fees Amendment Act of 2008,'' pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

9188. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 17-554, ''Targeted Ward 4 Single Sales Moratorium Temporary Act of 2008,'' pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

9189. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 17-552, ''District's Opportunity to Purchase Amendment Act of 2008,'' pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

9190. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 17-553, ''Consolidated Mt. Pleasant, Ward 2, and Ward 6 Single Sales Moratorium Act of 2008,'' pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

9191. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 17-551, ''Workforce Housing Production Program Amendment Act of 2008,'' pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

9192. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 17-536, ''Firearms Control Temporary Amendment Act of 2008,'' pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

9193. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 17-535, ''Taxicab Company, Association, and Fleet and Limousine License Moratorium Amendment Act of 2008,'' pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

9194. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 17-520, ''Lola Beaver Memorial Park Designation Act of 2008,'' pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

9195. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 17-521, ''Jackson H. Gerhart House Designation Act of 2008,'' pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

9196. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 17-522, ''Pedestrian Safety Reinforcement Amendment Act of 2008,'' pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

9197. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 17-523, ''Uniform Adult Guardianship and Protective Proceedings Jurisdiction Act of 2008,'' pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

9198. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 17-524, ''Title 22 Amendment Act of 2008,'' pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

9199. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 17-525, ''Appointed Attorney Compensation Act of 2008,'' pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

9200. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 17-526, ''Fire Chief Burton W. Johnson Building Designation Act of 2008,'' pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

9201. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 17-527, ''Contract No. DCTO-2007-C-0036 Approval and Payment Authorization Act of 2008,'' pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

9202. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 17-529, ''Designated Appropriation Allocations Temporary Amendment Act of 2008,'' pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

9203. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 17-528, ''Vacancy Exemption Repeal Clarification Temporary Amendment Act of 2008,'' pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

9204. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 17-531, ''Targeted Historic Housing Preservation Assistance Temporary Amendment Act of 2008,'' pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

9205. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 17-530, ''Washington Parks & People Equitable Real Property Tax Relief Temporary Act of 2008,'' pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

9206. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 17-533, ''City Market at O Street Tax Increment Financing Act of 2008,'' pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

9207. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 17-534, ''Performance Parking Pilot Zone Act of 2008,'' pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

9208. A letter from the Auditor, District of Columbia, transmitting a report entitled, ''Re-Certification of the Fiscal Year 2008 Total Non-Dedicated Local Source Revenues in Support of the District's $327,905,000 General Obligation Bonds (Series 2008E),'' pursuant to D.C. Code section 47-117(d); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

9209. A letter from the Auditor, District of Columbia, transmitting a report entitled, ''Letter Report: Audit of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 1C for Fiscal Years 2005 through 2008, as of March 31, 2008,'' pursuant to D.C. Code section 47-117(d); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

9210. A letter from the Auditor, District of Columbia, transmitting a report entitled, ''Letter Report: Examination of District of Columbia Sports & Entertainment Commission Contracts and Expenditures for Program Management, Legal and Financial Management Services,'' pursuant to D.C. Code section 47-117(d); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

9211. A letter from the Auditor, District of Columbia, transmitting a report entitled, ''Letter Report: Audit of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2E for Fiscal Years 2006 through 2008, as of March 31, 2008,'' pursuant to D.C. Code section 47-117(d); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

9212. A letter from the Auditor, District of Columbia, transmitting a report entitled, ''Comparative Analysis of Actual Cash Collections to the Revised Revenue Estimate Through the 2nd Quarter of Fiscal Year 2008,'' pursuant to D.C. Code section 47-117(d); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

9213. A letter from the Auditor, District of Columbia, transmitting a report entitled, ''Audit of Public Service Commission Agency Fund for Fiscal Year 2003,'' pursuant to D.C. Code section 47-117(d); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

9214. A letter from the Auditor, District of Columbia, transmitting a report entitled, ''Audit of Public Service Commission Agency Fund for Fiscal Year 2004,'' pursuant to D.C. Code section 47-117(d); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

9215. A letter from the Auditor, District of Columbia, transmitting a report entitled, ''Auditor's Review of the Board of Real Property Assessments and Appeals Operations,'' pursuant to D.C. Code section 47-117(d); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

9216. A letter from the Auditor, District of Columbia, transmitting a report entitled, ''Eastern Market Management and Oversight Continues to Need Substantial Improvement,'' pursuant to D.C. Code section 47-117(d); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

9217. A letter from the Auditor, District of Columbia, transmitting a report entitled, ''Letter Report: Audit of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 1B for Fiscal Years 2006 through 2008, as of March 31, 2008,'' pursuant to D.C. Code section 47-117(d); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

9218. A letter from the Executive Director, Consumer Product Safety Commission, transmitting in accordance with Pub. L. 105-270, the Federal Activities Inventory Reform Act of 1998 (FAIR Act), the Department's inventory of commerical activities for fiscal year 2008; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

9219. A letter from the Acting Chairman, Consumer Product Safety Commission, transmitting a letter confirming that the Commission has adopted and will follow the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) Advisory Guidelines to take appropriate disciplinary actions against employees for conduct inconsistent with Antidiscrimination and Whistleblower Protection Laws; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

9220. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 17-504, ''Lauzun's Legion Bridge Designation Act of 2008,'' pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

9221. A letter from the White House Liaison, Department of Education, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

9222. A letter from the White House Liaison, Department of Education, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies

Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

9223. A letter from the Acting Assoc. Gen. Counsel for General Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

9224. A letter from the Program Manager, Department of Human and Health Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Exemption of Certain Systems of Records Under the Privacy Act (RIN: 0938-A069) received October 6, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

9225. A letter from the Deputy White House Liaison, Department of Justice, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

9226. A letter from the Deputy White House Liaison, Department of Justice, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

9227. A letter from the Deputy White House Liaison, Department of Justice, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

9228. A letter from the Deputy White House Liaison, Department of Justice, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

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9230. A letter from the Deputy White House Liaison, Department of Justice, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

9231. A letter from the Deputy White House Liaison, Department of Justice, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

9232. A letter from the Deputy White House Liaison, Department of Justice, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

9233. A letter from the Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting the Department's fiscal year 2007 annual report prepared in accordance with Section 203(a) of the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act), Public Law 107-174; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

9234. A letter from the Presidential Appointments Officer, Department of State, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

9235. A letter from the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy and Planning, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting in accordance with Pub. L. 105-270, the Federal Activities Inventory Reform Act of 1998 (FAIR Act), the Department's inventory of commercial activities for calendar year 2007; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

9236. A letter from the Chairman, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's Strategic Plan for fiscal years 2009-2014, pursuant to Government Performance and Results Act of 1993 and OMB Circular A-11; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

9237. A letter from the Chairman, Merit Systems Protection Board, transmitting the Board's report entitled, ''Alternative Discipline: Creative Solutions for Agencies to Effectively Address Misconduct,'' pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 1204(a)(3); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

9238. A letter from the Executive Director, National Council on Disability, transmitting the Council's report for Fiscal Year 2008 pertaining to the Notification and Federal Anti-Discrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

9239. A letter from the Chairman, Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission, transmitting an updated Strategic Plan for the Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission, pursuant to Public Law 103-62; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

9240. A letter from the Senior Associate General Counsel, Office of the Director of National Intelligence, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

9241. A letter from the Senior Associate General Counsel, Office of the Director of National Intelligence, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

9242. A letter from the Secretary and Director, Postal Regulatory Commission, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

9243. A letter from the Inspector General, Office of the Inspector General, U.S. House of Representatives, transmitting an audit of the Page School Program; to the Committee on House Administration.

9244. A letter from the Chief Administrative Officer, transmitting the quarterly report of receipts and expenditures of appropriations and other funds for the period July 1, 2008 through September 30, 2008 as compiled by the Chief Administrative Officer, pursuant to 2 U.S.C. 104a Public Law 88-454; (H. Doc. No. 110–151); to the Committee on House Administration and ordered to be printed.

9245. A letter from the Chief of Police, United States Capitol Police, transmitting the semiannual report of receipts and expenditures of appropriations and other funds for the period April 1, 2008 through September 30, 2008, pursuant to Public Law 109-55, section 1005; (H. Doc. No. 110–150); to the Committee on House Administration and ordered to be printed.

9246. A letter from the Acting Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, NOAA and Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of Commerce and Department of the transmitting a report entitled, ''2007 Biennial Report to Congress on the Progress and Findings of Studies of Striped Bass Populations,'' pursuant to 16 U.S.C. 1851, as amended; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

9247. A letter from the Director, Office of Surface Mining, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — New Mexico Regulatory Program [SATS Number NM-047-FOR] received November 18, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

9248. A letter from the Assistant Secretary — Land and Minerals Management, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Royalty Relief-Ultra-Deep Gas Wells and Deep Gas Wells on Leases in the Gulf of Mexico; Extension of Royalty Relief Provisions to Leases Offshore of Alaska [Docket ID: MMS-OMM-2007-0071] (RIN: 1010-AD33) received November 9, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

9249. A letter from the Director, Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's ''Major'' final rule — Abandoned Mine Land Program [Docket Id: OSM-2008-0003] (RIN: 1029-AC56) received November 5, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

9250. A letter from the Director, Office of Surface Mining, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Pennsylvania Regulatory Program [PA-152-FOR; Docket ID: OSM-2008-0019] received October 10, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

9251. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Special Regulation: Areas of the National Park System, National Capital Region (RIN: 1024-AD71) received November 12, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

9252. A letter from the Acting Chief, Regulatory Affairs, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Update of Linear Right-of-Way Rent Schedule [WO-350-07-1430-PN] (RIN: 1004-AD87) received October 27, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

9253. A letter from the Assistant Secretary — Land and Minerals Management, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Revisions to Subpart A — General; Subpart I — Platforms and Structures; and Subpart J — Pipelines and Pipeline Rights-of-Way [Docket ID: MMS-2008-OMM-0001] (RIN: 1010-AD18) received November 5, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

9254. A letter from the Chief, FWS Endangered Species Listing Branch, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Endangered and Threatend Wildlife and Plants; Designation of Critical Habitat for the San Bernardino Kangaroo Rat (Dipodomys merriami parvus) [FWS-R8-ES-2007-0008; 92210-1117-0000-FY08 B4] (RIN: 1018-AV07) received October 8, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

9255. A letter from the Regulatory & Policy Specialist, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Irrigation Operation and Maintenance (RIN: 1076-AD44) received October 9, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

9256. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's ''Major'' final rule — Endangered Fish and Wildlife; Final Rule to Implement Speed Restrictions to Reduce the Threat of Ship Collisions With North Atlantic Right Whales [Docket No. 040506143-7024-03.] (RIN: 0648-AS36) received October 8, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

9257. A letter from the Acting Director Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Hook-and-Line Gear in the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No.: 071106671-8010-02] (RIN: 0648-XL33) received November 5, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

9258. A letter from the Acting Director Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final

rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pollock in Statistical Area 610 of the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No.: 071106671-8010-02] (RIN: ID 101008B) received November 5, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

9259. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator For Regulatory Programs, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Pacific Halibut Fisheries; Subsistence Fishing; Correction [Docket No. 080310411-8949-02] (RIN: 0648-AU14) received November 7, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

9260. A letter from the Acting Director Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Atlantic Surfclam and Ocean Quanhog Fisheries; Suspension of Minimum Atlantic Surfclam Size Limit for Fishing Year 2009 [Docket No. 070717342-7713-02] (RIN: 0648-XJ86) received November 7, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

9261. A letter from the Acting Director Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Magnuson-Stevens Act Provisions; Fisheries Off West Coast States; Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery; Biennial Specifications and Management Measures; Inseason Adjustments [Docket No. 060824226-6322-02] (RIN: 0648-AX30) received November 7, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

9262. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator For Regulatory Programs, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries Off West Coast States; Coastal Pelagic Species Fisheries; Reporting Requirements and Conservation Measures [Docket No. 0809301285-81289-01] (RIN: 0648-AX31) received November 7, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

9263. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Progams, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Taking of the Cook Inlet, Alaska, Beluga Whale Stock by Alaska Natives [Docket No. 080302353-8620-01] (RIN: 0648-AO16) received October 24, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

9264. A letter from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Endangered and Threatened Species: Final Protective Regulations for Threatened Puget Sound Steelhead [Docket No. 070727426-81200-01] (RIN: 0648-AV18) received October 24, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

9265. A letter from the Acting Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Sea Turtle Conservation; Shrimp Trawling Requirements [Docket No. 0809241260-81267-01] (RIN: 0648-XK78) received November 5, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

9266. A letter from the Acting Director Office of Sustainable, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pollock in Statistical Area 610 in the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No. 071106671-8010-02] (RIN: 0648-XL08) received November 5, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

9267. A letter from the Acting Director Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act Provision; Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Tilefish Fishery [Docket No. 010319075-1217-02] (RIN: 0648-XK42) received November 5, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

9268. A letter from the Director Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pollock in Statistical Area 630 in the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No. 071106671-8010-02] (RIN: 0648-XL22) received November 5, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

9269. A letter from the Acting Director Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Atlantic Bluefish Fishery; Quota Transfer [Docket No. 071212833-8179-02] (RIN: 0648-XK90) received November 10, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

9270. A letter from the Acting Assistant Administrator For Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries Off West Coast States; West Coast Salmon Fisheries; Amendment 14; Essential Fish Habitat Descriptions for Pacific Salmon [Docket No. 080225278-81191-02] (RIN: 0648-AS96) received November 10, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

9271. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator For Regulatory Programs, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Carribean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act Provisions; Atlantic Coast Red Drum Fishery off the Atlantic States; Transfer of Management Authority [Docket No. 080221249-81231-02] (RIN: 0648-AT13) received November 7, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

9272. A letter from the Acting Director Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Spiny Dogfish Fishery; Commercial Period 2 Quota Harvested [Docket No. 060418103-6181-02] (RIN: 0648-XL29) received November 7, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

9273. A letter from the Director Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Atka Mackerel by Vessels in the Amendment 80 Limited Access Fishery in the Western Aleutian District of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area [Docket No. 071106673-8011-02] (RIN: 0648-XK85) received November 7, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

9274. A letter from the Director Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod by Vessels Catching Pacific Cod for Processing by the Inshore Component in the Central Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No. 071106671-8010-02] (RIN: 0648-XK86) received November 4, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

9275. A letter from the Acting Director Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Atka Mackerel in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area [Docket No. 071106673-8011-02] (RIN: ID 101008A) received November 7, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

9276. A letter from the Acting Director Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod by Vessels Subject to Amendment 80 Sideboard Limits in the Western Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No. 070213032-7032-01] (RIN: 0648-XK96) received November 7, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

9277. A letter from the Director Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Reef Fish Fishery of the Gulf of Mexico; Reopening of the 2008 Deepwater Grouper and Tilefish Commercial Fisheries [Docket No. 040205043-4043-01] (RIN: 0648-XK40) received November 7, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

9278. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator For Regulatory Programs, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Atlantic Sea Scallop Fishery; Framework Adjustment 19; Correcting Amendment [Docket No. 070817467-81179-04] (RIN: 0648-AV90) received October 10, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

9279. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator — NOAA Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; Atlantic Tuna Fisheries; Pelagic and Bottom Longline Fisheries; Gear Authorization and Turtle Control Devices [Docket No. 070801432-8663-02] (RIN: 0648-AV92) received October 10, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

9280. A letter from the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Endangered And Threatened Species; Endangered Status for the Cook Inlet Beluga Whale [Docket No. 0810141357-81371-01] (RIN: 0648-XL30) received November 7, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

9281. A letter from the Acting Director Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Ocean Perch for Vessels in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Trawl Limited Access Fishery in the Western Aleutian District of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area [Docket No. 070213033-7033-01] (RIN: 0648-XK77) received October 16, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

9282. A letter from the Director Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries Off West Coast States; Coastal Pelagic Species Fisheries; Closure [Docket No. 080326475-8686-02] (RIN: 0648-XK61) received October 16, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

9283. A letter from the Acting Director Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Northeast Multispecies Fishery; Inseason Action to allow use of the Ruhle Trawl in the Eastern U.S./Canada Area [Docket No. 071004577-8124-02] (RIN: 0648-XJ76) received October 16, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

9284. A letter from the Chair, Executive Council, Coalition of National Park Service Retirees, transmitting the Coalition's report entitled, ''Natural and Cultural Resource Impacts and Management Consequences of the Proposed Regulation to Authorize the Possession of Concealed Firearms in Units of the National Park & National Wildlife Refuge Systems''; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

9285. A letter from the Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting the report on the administration of the Foreign Agents Registration Act covering the six months ending December 31, 2007, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 621; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

9286. A letter from the Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting a copy of a report required by Section 202(a)(1)(C) of Pub. L. 107-273, the ''21st Century Department of Justice Appropriations Authorization Act,'' related to certain settlements and injunctive relief, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. 530D Public Law 107-273, section 202; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

9287. A letter from the Director, Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, transmitting a report on compliance by the United States courts of appeals and district courts with the time limitations established for deciding habeas corpus death penalty petitions under Title 1 of the Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act of 1996, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. 604(a)(4), (h)(2), and 2412(d)(5); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

9288. A letter from the Executive Director, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Adjustment of Civil Monetary Penalties for Inflation (RIN: 3038-AC13) received October 24, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

9289. A letter from the Deputy Cheif, Regulatory Management Division, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Period of Admission and Extension of Stay for Canadian and Mexican Citizens Engaged in Professional Business Activities-TN Nonimmigrants [CIS No.: 2429-07; DHS Docket No.: USCIS-2007-0056] (RIN: 1615-AB64) received October 21, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

9290. A letter from the Assistant Attorney General for Administration, Department of Justice, transmitting the 11th and 12th annual reports on amounts paid to telecommunications carriers and manufacturers during FY 2005 and FY 2006, pursuant to Public Law 103-414, section 112 and 401; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

9291. A letter from the Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting the Department's report on the Enforcement of Sex Offender Registration Requirements 2006-2008, pursuant to Public Law 109-248, section 635; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

9292. A letter from the Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting the Department's report entitled, ''Report to the Nation 2007,'' pursuant to Section 1407(g) of the Victims of Crime Act of 1984; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

9293. A letter from the Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting a copy of the District Court's decision not to appeal the interlocutory decision entitled, ''United States v. Christopher S. Handley, No. 1:07-cr-00030-JEG (S.D. Iowa),'' pursuant to 28 U.S.C. 530D; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

9294. A letter from the Assistant Secretary Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the Department's final rule — Uncertified Foreign Health-Care Workers [Public Notice—] (RIN: 1400-AB68) received October 27, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

9295. A letter from the Major, U.S. Marine Corps (Ret.) Corporation Agent, Legion of Valor, Legion of Valor of the United States of America, Inc., transmitting a copy of the Legion's annual audit as of April 30, 2008, pursuant to 36 U.S.C. 1101(28) and 1103; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

9296. A letter from the Staff Director, Sentencing Commission, transmitting a report on the compliance of the federal district courts with documentation submission requirements on sentencing, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. 994(w)(1); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

9297. A letter from the Staff Director, United States Sentencing Commission, transmitting a report of amendments to the federal sentencing guidelines in response to the Emergency Disaster Assistance Fraud Penalty Enhancement Act of 2007, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. 994(o); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

9298. A letter from the Administrator, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting notification that funding under Title V, subsection 503(b)(3) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, as amended, has exceeded $5 million for the cost of response and recovery efforts for FEMA-3294-EM in the State of Texas, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 5193; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

9299. A letter from the Administrator, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting notification that funding under Title V, subsection 503(b)(3) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, as amended, has exceeded $5 million for the cost of response and recovery efforts for FEMA-3288-EM in the State of Florida, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 5193; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

9300. A letter from the Administrator, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting notification that funding under Title V, subsection 503(b)(3) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, as amended, has exceeded $5 million for the cost of response and recovery efforts for FEMA-3295-EM in the State of Louisiana, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 5193; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

9301. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Transportation, transmitting the National Plan of Integrated Airport Systems (NPIAS), 2009-2013, pursuant to 49 U.S.C. app. 2203(b)(1); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

9302. A letter from the Staff Assistant, NHTSA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Federal Motor Vehicle Saftey Standards; Designated Seating Positions and Seat Belt Assembly Anchorages [Docket No.: NHTSA 2008-0059] (RIN: 2127-AI94) received October 27, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

9303. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Modification of Certain Medical Standards and Procedures and Duration of Certain Medical Certificates; Correcting Amendment [Docket No.: FAA-2007-27812; Amendment No. 61-121] (RIN: 2120-AI91) received October 27, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

9304. A letter from the Regulations Officer, Federal Highway Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Projects of National and Regional Significance Evaluation and Rating [Docket No.: FHWA-05-23393] (RIN: 2125-AF08) received October 27, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

9305. A letter from the Alternate Liaison, Federal Register Publications, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Pipeline Saftey: Standards for Increasing the Maximum Allowable Operating Pressure for Gas Transmission Pipelines [Docket No.: PHMSA-2005-23447] (RIN: 2137-AE25) received October 27, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

9306. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 30621; Amdt. No.: 3281] received October 27, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

9307. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's ''Major'' final rule — Congestion Management Rule for John F. Kennedy International Airport and Newark Liberty International Airport [Docket No. FAA-2008-0517; Amdt. No. 93-88] (RIN: 2120-AJ28) received October 9, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

9308. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's ''Major'' final rule — Congestion Management Rule for LaGuardia Airport [Docket No. FAA-2006-25709; Amendment No. 93-87] (RIN: 2120-AI70) received October 9, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

9309. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedure, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 30624; Amdt. No.: 3284] received October 27, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

9310. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 30627; Amdt. No. 3286] received October 27, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

9311. A letter from the Program Anaylst, Department of Transportation, transmitting

the Department's final rule — Aviation Saftey Inspector Airport Access [Docket No.: FAA-2007-29237; Amendment No. 153-1] (RIN: 2120-AJ07) received October 27, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

9312. A letter from the Attorney, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Disability in Air Travel [Dockets OST-2004-19482; OST-2005-22298; OST-2006-23999] (RINs: 2105-AC97; 2105-AC29; 2105-AD41] received October 27, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

9313. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Standards; Engine Control System Requirements [Docket No.: FAA-2007-27311, Amendment No. 33-26] (RIN: 2120-AI94) received October 9, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

9314. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Preformance and Handling Qualities Requirements for Rotorcraft; Correcting Amendment [Docket No.: FAA-2006-25414; Amendment No. 27-44] (RIN: 2120-AH87) received October 9, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

9315. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedure, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 30623; Amendment No. 3283] received October 9, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

9316. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 30625; Amendment No. 3285] received October 9, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

9317. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approah Procedures, and Takeoff Minimus and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 30622; Amendment No. 3282] received October 9, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

9318. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — IFR Altitudes; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 30626; Amendment No. 476] received October 9, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

9319. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Bell Helicopter Textron Canada Model 222, 222B, 222U, 230, and 430 Helicopters [Docket No.: FAA-2008-0449; Directorate Identifer 2007-SW-10-AD; Amendment 39-15669; AD 2008-19-02] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 9, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

9320. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Dassault Model Falcon 10 Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2008-0674; Directorate Identifer 2008-NM-086-AD; Amendment 39-15675; AD 2008-19-08] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 9, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

9321. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 30617; Amendment No. 3277] received October 9, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

9322. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; EADS SOCATA Model TBM 700 Airplanes [Docket No. FAA-2008-0974; Directorate Identifier 2008-CE-048-AD; Amendment 39-15673; AD 2008-19-06] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 9, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

9323. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Turbomeca S.A. Arrius 2B1, 2B1A, 2B2, and 2K1 Turboshaft Engines [Docket No. FAA-2008-0461; Directorate Identifier 2008-NE-14-AD; Amendment 39-15678; AD 2008-19-11] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 27, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

9324. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Boeing Model 737-300, -400, and -500 Series Airplanes [Docket No. FAA-2008-0947; Directortate Identifier 2008-NM-154-AD; Amendment 39-15670; AD 2008-19-03] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 27, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

9325. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Boeing Model 737-100, -200, -200C, -300, -400, and -500 Series Airplanes [Docket No. FAA-2008-0149; Directorate Identifier 2007-NM-319-AD; Amendment 39-15651; AD 2008-17-13] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 27, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

9326. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Hawker Beechcraft Corporation Model BAe.125 Series 800A (including C-29A and U-125) Airplanes, and Hawker Beechcraft Model Hawker 800XP Airplanes [Docket No. FAA-2008-0976; Directorate Identifier 2008-NM-145-AD; Amendment 39-15685; AD 2008-21-01] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 27, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

9327. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Hawker Beechcraft Corporation Model 390 Airplanes [Docket No. FAA-2008-1067; Directorate Identifier 2008-CE-052-AD; Amendment 39-15688; AD 2008-21-04] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 27, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

9328. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Boeing Model 767-200, -300, and -400ER Series Airplanes [Docket No. FAA-2008-0302; Directorate Idenfitier 2007-NM-323-AD; Amendment 39-15689; AD 2008-21-05] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 27, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

9329. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Boeing Model 737-600, -700, -700C, -800 and -900 Series Airplanes Equipped with CFM56-7 Engines [Docket No. FAA-2008-0147; Directorate Identifier 2007-NM-294-AD; Amendment 39-15686; AD 2008-21-02] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 27, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

9330. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Boeing Model 737-300, -400, and -500 Series Airplanes [Docket No. FAA-2008-0357; Directorate Identifier 2008-NM-005-AD; Amendment 39-15687; AD 2008-21-03] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 27, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

9331. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; MD Helicopters, Inc. Model 600N Helicopters [Docket No. FAA-2008-0835; Directorate Identifier 2008-SW-34-AD; Amendment 39-15684; AD 2008-20-05] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 27, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

9332. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Air Tractor, Inc. Models AT-402, AT-402A, and AT-402B Airplanes [Docket No. FAA-2008-0749; Directorate Identifier 2008-CE-044-AD; Amendment 39-15692; AD 2008-21-08] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 27, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

9333. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier Model CL-600-1A11 (CL-600), CL-600-2A12 (CL-601), CL-600-2B16 (CL-601-3A, CL-601-3R, & CL-604 (Including CL-605 Marketing Variant)) Airplanes, and Model CL-600-2B19 (Regional Jet Series 100 & 440) Airplanes [Docket No. FAA-2008-1096; Directorate Identifier 2008-NM-158-AD; Amendment 39-15693; AD 2008-21-09] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 27, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

9334. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Boeing Model 747-400, 747-400D, and 747-400F Series Airplanes [Docket No. FAA-2008-0640; Directorate Identifier 2008-NM-070-AD; Amendment 39-15690; AD 2008-21-06] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 27, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

9335. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Various Transport Category Airplanes Equipped with Auxiliary Fuel Tanks Installed in Accordance with Certain Supplemental Type Certificates [Docket No. FAA-2008-0298; Directorate Identifier 2007-NM-316-AD; Amendment 39-15696; AD 2008-22-01] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 27, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

9336. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Harco Labs, Inc. Pilot/AOA Probes (Part Numbers 100435-39, 100435-39-001, 100435-40, and 100435-40-001) [Docket No. FAA-2008-0955; Directorate Identifier 2008-CE-040-

AD; Amendment 39-15668; AD 2008-19-01] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 9, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

9337. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; McDonnell Douglas Model MD-90-30 Airplanes [Docket No. FAA-2008-0946; Directorate Identifier 2008-NM-147-AD; Amendment 39-15667; AD 2008-18-10] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 9, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

9338. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Rolls-Royce plc RB211-524 Series Turbofan Engines; Correction [Docket No. FAA-2007-0036; Directorate Identifier 2007-NE-22-AD; Amendment 39-15636; AD 2008-16-18] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 9, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

9339. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Boeing Model 747 Airplanes [Docket No. FAA-2008-0091; Directorate Identifier 2007-NM-311-AD; Amendment 39-15666; AD 2008-18-09] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 9, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

9340. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Empresa Brasileira de Aeronautica S.A. (EMBRAER) Model ERJ 170 and ERJ 190 Airplanes [Docket No. FAA-2008-0562; Directorate Identifier 2008-NM-010-AD; Amendment 39-15658; AD 2008-18-01] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 9, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

9341. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier Model DHC-8-400 Series Airplanes [Docket No. FAA-2008-0356; Directorate Identifier 2008-NM-042-AD; Amendment 39-15661; AD 2008-18-04] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 9, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

9342. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Model A330-200, A330-300, and A340-300 Series Airplanes [Docket No. FAA-2008-0672; Directorate Identifier 2008-NM-032-AD; Amendment 39-15660; AD 2008-18-03] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 9, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

9343. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; McDonnell Douglas Model 717-200 Airplanes [Docket No. FAA-2008-0407; Directorate Identifier 2008-NM-002-AD; Amendment 39-15662; AD 2008-18-05] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 9, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

9344. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Revision of Restricted Area 5107A; White Sands Missile Range, NM [Docket No. FAA-2008-0628; Airspace Docket No. 07-ASW-15] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received October 9, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

9345. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Change of Using Agency for Restricted Area R-3807, Glencoe, LA [Docket No. FAA-2008-0939; Airspace Docket No. 08-ASW-7] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received October 9, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

9346. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of Low Altitude Area Navigation Route (T-Route): Southwest Oregon [Docket No. FAA-2008-0419; Airspace Docket No. 08-ANM-3] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received October 9, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

9347. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establish Class E Airspace; Point Roberts, WA [Docket No. FAA-2007-29036; Airspace Docket No. 07-ANM-13] received October 9, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

9348. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Modification of Area Navigation Route Q-110 and Jet Route J-73; Florida [Docket No. FAA-2008-0187; Airspace Docket No. 07-ASO-27] received October 9, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

9349. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Revocation of Class E Airspace; Luke AFB, Phoenix, AZ [Docket No. FAA-2008-0204; Airspace Docket No. 08-AWP-5] received October 9, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

9350. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of Low Altitude Area Navigation Routes (T-Routes); Sacramento and San Francisco, CA [Docket No. FAA-2008-0037; Airspace Docket No. 07-AWP-6] received October 9, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

9351. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Modification and Establishment of Restricted Areas and Other Special Use Airspace, Adirondack Airspace Complex; Fort Drum, NY [Docket No. FAA-2006-26192; Airspace Docket No. 06-ASO-11] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received October 9, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

9352. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of Class E Airspace; Hinton, OK [Docket No. FAA-2008-0328; Airspace Docket No. 08-ASW-4] received October 9, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

9353. A letter from the Senior Attorney Advisor, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Implementation of Program for Capital Grants for Rail Line Relocation and Improvements Projects [Docket No.: FRA 2005-23774, Notice No. 2] (RIN: 2130-AB74) received October 27, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

9354. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Modification of Certain Medical Standards and Procedures and Duration of Certain Medical Certificates [Docket No.: FAA-2007-27812; Amendment Nos. 61-121, 65-52, 67-20, and 183-13 (RIN: 2120-AI91) received October 27, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

9355. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Modification of Area Navigation Route Q-110 and Jet Route J-73; Florida [Docket No. FAA-2008-0187; Airspace Docket No. 07-ASO-27] received October 9, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

9356. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of Class E Airspace; Milford, PA [Docket No. FAA-2008-0160; Airspace Docket No. 08-AEA-13] received October 19, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

9357. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Reduction of Fuel Tank Flammability in Transport Category Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2005-22997; Amendment Nos. 25-125, 26-2, 121-340, 125-55 and 129-46] (RIN: 2120-AI23) October 27, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

9358. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of Class D Airspace; San Bernadino International Airport, San Bernardino, CA [Docket No. FAA-2008-0211; Airspace Docket No. 08-AWP-3] received October 9, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

9359. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No. 30628; Amdt No. 3287] received October 27, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

9360. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No. 30630; Amendment No. 3289] received October 27, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

9361. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 30632; Amendment No. 3291] received October 27, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

9362. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 30629; Amendment No. 3288] received October 27, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

9363. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No. 30631; Amendment No. 3290] received October 27, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C.

801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

9364. A letter from the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works), Department of the Army, transmitting a report entitled, ''Terrestrial Wildlife Habitat Restoration Plan for Oahe/Sharpe Reservoirs, South Dakota''; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

9365. A letter from the Deputy Chief Counsel for NIST, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule — Technology Innovation Program (TIP) Notice of Availability of Funds and Announcement of Public Meetings (Proposers' Conferences) [Docket No.: 080626784-8786-01] (RIN: 0693-ZA82) received October 16, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Science and Technology.

9366. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Satellite and Information Services, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Licensing of Private Land Remote-Sensing Space Systems [Docket No.: 050204028-6015-02] received July 22, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Science and Technology.

9367. A letter from the Director of Regulations Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Department's final rule — Schedule for Rating Disabilities; Eye (RIN: 2900-AH43) received November 5, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

9368. A letter from the Director of Regulations Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Department's final rule — Grants to States for Construction and Acquisition of State Home Facilities (RIN: 2900-AJ43) received October 7, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

9369. A letter from the Director of Regulations Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Department's final rule — Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (RIN: 2900-AN04) received October 29, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

9370. A letter from the Director of Regulations Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Department's final rule — Board of Veterans' Appeals: Expedited Claims Adjudication Initiative — Pilot Program (RIN: 2900-AM77) received November 5, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

9371. A letter from the Director of Regulations Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Department's final rule — Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs (RIN: 2900-AM22) received November 5, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

9372. A letter from the Director of Regulations Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Department's final rule — Disclosure of Information to Organ, Tissue and Eye Procurement Organizations (RIN: 2900-AM65) received November 7, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

9373. A letter from the Director of Regulations Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Department's final rule — Dental Care-Provision of One-Time Outpatient Dental Care for Certain Veterans (RIN: 2900-AM95) received October 7, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

9374. A letter from the Chairman, Social Security Advisory Board, transmitting the Board's annual report for 2007, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 904; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

9375. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's report entitled, ''Assets for Independence Demonstration Program: Status at the Conclusion of the Eighth Year,'' pursuant to Public Law 105-285; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

9376. A letter from the Administrator, Office of Workforse Securities, ETA, DOL, Department of Labor, transmitting the Department's final rule — Federal-State Unemployment Compensation (UC) Program; Interstate Arrangement for Combining Employment and Wages; Final Rule (RIN: 1205-AB51) received November 5, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

9377. A letter from the Director, Statutory Import Programs Staff, Depatment of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule — Changes in the Insular Possessions Watch, Watch Movement and Jewelry Programs 2008 [Docket No.: 080716841-81292-02] (RIN: 0625-AA80) Rrceived November 5, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

9378. A letter from the Chief, Publication and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Tier 1 Issue — Government Settlements Directive #3 [LMSB No: 4-0908-046 Impacted IRM 4.51.5] received October 6, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

9379. A letter from the Deputy Chief Counsel for Regulations, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's ''Major'' final rule — Secure Flight Program [Docket No. TSA-2007-28572; Amendment Nos. 1540-9, 1544-8, and 1560-(New)] (RIN: 1652-AA45) received November 5, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Homeland Security.

9380. A letter from the Chief, Trade and Commercial Regulations Branch, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Advance Information on Private Aircraft Arriving and Departing the United States [Dokect No.: USCBP-2007-0064] (RIN: 1651 — AA41) received November 12, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Homeland Security.

9381. A letter from the Chairman, Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board, transmitting the Board's Sixth Quarterly Report on the Status of Significant Unresolved Issues with the Department of Energy's Design and Construction Projects, as required in House Conference Report 109-702, Section 3201; jointly to the Committees on Armed Services and Appropriations.

9382. A letter from the Program Manager, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's ''Major'' final rule — Medicare Program; Payment Policies Under the Physician Fee Schedule and Other Revisions to Part B for CY 2009; E-Prescribing Exemption for Computer-Generated Facsimile Transmissions; and Payment for Certain Durable Medical Equipment, Prosthetics, Orthotics, and Supplies (DMEPOS) [[CMS-1403-FC] [CMS-1270-F2]] (RIN: 0938-AP18, 0938-AN14) received October 30, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means.

9383. A letter from the Program Manager, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's ''Major'' final rule — Medicare Program: Changes to the Hospital Outpatient Prospective Payment System and CY 2009 Payment Rates; Changes to the Ambulatory Surgical Center Payment System and CY 2009 Payment Rates; Hospital Conditions of Participation; Requirements for Approval and Re-Approval of Transplant Centers to Perform Organ Transplants--Clarification of Provider and Supplier Termination Policy Medicare and Medicaid Programs; Changes to the Ambulatory Surgical Center Conditions for Coverage [[CMS-1404-FC]; [CMS-3887-F]; [CMS-3835-F-1]] (RIN: 0938-AP17; 0938-AL80; 0938-AH17) Received October 30, 2008, pursuant to 5 jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means.

9384. A letter from the Program Manager, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Medicaid Program; Multiple Source Drug Definition [CMS-2238-F] (RIN: 0938-AP26) received October 6, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means.

9385. A letter from the Regulations Coordinator, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Medicare Program; Revisions to the Medicare Advantage and Prescription Drug Benefit Programs: Clarification of Compensation Plan [CMS-4138-IFC2] (RIN: 0938-AP52) received November 10, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means.

9386. A letter from the Inspector General, Special Inspector General for Iraq Reconstruction, transmitting the October 2008 Quarterly Report pursuant to Section 3001(i) of Title III of the 2004 Emergency Supplemental Appropriations for Defense and for the Reconstruction of Iraq and Afghanistan (Pub. L. 108-106) as amended by Pub. L. 108-375, Pub. L. 109-102, Pub. L. 109-364, Pub. L. 109-440, Pub. L. 110-28, and Pub. L. 110-181; jointly to the Committees on Foreign Affairs and Appropriations.

9387. A letter from the Program Manager, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Medicare Program; Termination of Non-Random Prepayment Complex Medical Review [CMS-6022-F] (RIN: 0938-AN31) received October 6, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); jointly to the Committees on Ways and Means and Energy and Commerce.

9388. A letter from the Program Manager, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Medicare Program; Home Health Prospective PAyment System Rate Update for Calendar Year 2009 [CMS-1555-N] (RIN: 0938-AP20) received October 30, 2008; jointly to the Committees on Ways and Means and Energy and Commerce.

9389. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Employee Benefits Administration, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Final Rules for Group Health Plans and Health Insurance Issuers under the Newborns' and Mothers' Health Protection Act [TD 9427] (RIN: 1545-BG82) received October 21, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, Ways and Means, and Education and Labor.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. MARKEY: Select Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming: Final Staff Report for the 110th Congress (Rept. 110–915). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following

titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. BROWN of South Carolina:

H.R. 7272. A bill to prohibit the use of funds to transfer individuals detained by the United States at Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, to Naval Consolidated Brig, Charleston, South Carolina; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. PASCRELL (for himself and Mr. LATOURETTE):

H.R. 7273. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow an above-the-line deduction against individual income tax for interest on indebtedness and for State and local sales and excise taxes with respect to the purchase of certain motor vehicles; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. PASCRELL (for himself, Mr. PLATTS, and Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas):

H.R. 7274. A bill to amend title III of the Public Health Service Act to provide for the establishment and implementation of concussion management guidelines with respect to student athletes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. ISSA (for himself, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. BILBRAY, Mr. SHAYS, Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida, Mr. SOUDER, Mr. GALLEGLY, Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia, and Mr. AKIN):

H.R. 7275. A bill to establish the Financial Oversight Commission, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. NEUGEBAUER (for himself, Mr. PRICE of Georgia, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. JONES of North Carolina, Mr. GOODLATTE, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. PAUL, Mr. HENSARLING, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. LAMBORN, and Mr. MCCAUL of Texas):

H.R. 7276. A bill to amend the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 to require prior approval by the Congress for expenditures from the third tranche, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN (for himself and Mr. BACHUS):

H.R. 7277. A bill to suspend the beginning date for required distributions from certain retirement plans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. RUPPERSBERGER:

H.R. 7278. A bill to suspend the beginning date for required distributions from defined contribution plans based on attainment of age 70 1/2, to waive the 10 percent penalty on withdrawals from qualified retirement plans during 2008 and 2009 for financial hardship, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. BIGGERT:

H.R. 7279. A bill to provide for a 3-year suspension of the minimum distribution requirements for defined contribution plans; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND:

H.R. 7280. A bill to amend part D of title IV of the Social Security Act to prohibit States from charging child support recipients for the collection of child support; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. HASTINGS of Florida:

H.R. 7281. A bill to direct the Election Assistance Commission to make grants to States to carry out election administration improvement plans; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. HELLER (for himself and Ms. BERKLEY):

H.R. 7282. A bill to promote conservation and provide for sensible development in Carson City, Nevada, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. KING of New York:

H.R. 7283. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the age at which distributions from qualified retirement plans are required to begin from 70 1/2 to 75, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. LEWIS of Georgia:

H.R. 7284. A bill to amend the Clean Air Act to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from transportation fuel sold in the United States; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. LEWIS of Georgia:

H.R. 7285. A bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to provide for an increase in the maximum level of fees authorized to be charged by representatives with respect to claims of entitlement to past-due benefits and to require cost-of-living adjustments to such level of authorized fees; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. MALONEY of New York (for herself, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. WEINER, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. ACKERMAN, Mr. WALSH of New York, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. REYNOLDS, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. NADLER, Mrs. LOWEY, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. MCNULTY, Mr. ISRAEL, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. BISHOP of New York, Mr. MCHUGH, and Mr. ARCURI):

H.R. 7286. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 46-02 21st Street in Long Island City, New York, as the ''Geraldine Ferraro Post Office Building''; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Ms. MATSUI (for herself, Mr. MCGOVERN, and Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD):

H.R. 7287. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to establish a Wellness Trust; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. MATSUI:

H.R. 7288. A bill to allow flood insurance coverage under the national flood insurance program for new structures designed to protect public safety that are located in special flood hazard zones, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York:

H.R. 7289. A bill to provide grants to promote financial literacy; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. MICHAUD:

H.R. 7290. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand the credit for renewable electricity production to include electricity produced from biomass for on-site use; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 7291. A bill to direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to develop and construct a facility on the campus of Saint Elizabeths Hospital in the District of Columbia to serve as the headquarters for the United States Coast Guard; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. ROHRABACHER:

H.R. 7292. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude from gross income compensation received by employees consisting of qualified distributions of employer stock; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. SESTAK:

H.R. 7293. A bill to suspend for 2008 and 2009 the required minimum distribution requirements with respect to certain defined contribution plans to the extent the interest of an individual in such plans does not exceed $300,000; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. SMITH of Washington:

H.R. 7294. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to expand the authorized concurrent receipt of disability severance pay from the Department of Defense and compensation for the same disability under any law administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs to cover all veterans who have a combat-related disability, as defined under section 1413a of such title; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Ms. FOXX (for herself, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. POE, Mr. ISSA, Mr. LATTA, Mr. PAUL, Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. CONAWAY, and Mr. MCCAUL of Texas):

H.J. Res. 101. A joint resolution relating to the disapproval of obligations under the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Ms. LEE (for herself, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mrs. MALONEY of New York, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. TOWNS, Ms. CLARKE, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. STARK, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. WOOLSEY, Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. CARSON, Ms. RICHARDSON, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. KILPATRICK, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Ms. CASTOR, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. JEFFERSON, Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota, Mr. HOLDEN, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. WATSON, Mr. FOSTER, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. SERRANO, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. MEEK of Florida, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. RUSH, and Ms. MATSUI):

H. Res. 1529. A resolution acknowledging the 40th anniversary of the election of Shirley Anita St. Hill Chisholm, the first African-American woman in Congress; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. ROYCE (for himself, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Mr. ROHRABACHER, Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, and Mr. SMITH of New Jersey):

H. Res. 1530. A resolution calling on the State Department to list the Socialist Republic of Vietnam as a ''Country of Particular Concern'' with respect to religious freedom; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

MEMORIALS

Under clause 3 of rule XII, memorials were presented and referred as follows:

374. The SPEAKER presented a memorial of the Senate of Pennsylvania, relative to Senate Resolution No. 406 establishing ''Hydrocephalus Awareness Month''; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

375. Also, a memorial of the Senate of Pennsylvania, relative to Senate Resolution No. 375 dealing with natural gas markets; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

376. Also, a memorial of the Senate of California, relative to Senate Joint Resolution No. 17 relating to the ecumenical patriarchate; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

377. Also, a memorial of the Senate of Michigan, relative to Senate Resolution No. 222, memorializing the Congress of the United States to enact legislation to help revitalize the economy in states with exceptionally high rates of unemployment by the

creation of a Recovery State Renaissance Zone Act; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

PRIVATE BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 3 of rule XII,

Mr. GUTIERREZ introduced a bill (H.R. 7295) for the relief of Francisca Lino; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 154: Mr. ROTHMAN.
H.R. 279: Mrs. MYRICK.
H.R. 468: Mr. CROWLEY.
H.R. 661: Mr. ADERHOLT and Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 741: Mr. WESTMORELAND.
H.R. 891: Mr. ADERHOLT.
H.R. 962: Mr. ROTHMAN.
H.R. 1280: Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, and Mrs. TAUSCHER.
H.R. 1524: Ms. GIFFORDS.
H.R. 1606: Mr. COHEN.
H.R. 1801: Mr. KIRK.
H.R. 1921: Mr. MEEKS of New York.
H.R. 2052: Mr. LEVIN.
H.R. 2390: Mrs. MALONEY of New York.
H.R. 2495: Mr. FILNER.
H.R. 2567: Mr. ROGERS of Alabama.
H.R. 3001: Mr. FATTAH.
H.R. 3212: Mr. HARE and Mr. COHEN.
H.R. 3234: Mrs. BIGGERT.
H.R. 3294: Mr. FATTAH.
H.R. 3334: Mr. ROTHMAN and Mr. HIGGINS.
H.R. 3404: Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut.
H.R. 3457: Mrs. GILLIBRAND.
H.R. 3652: Mr. CUMMINGS.
H.R. 3750: Mr. MOORE of Kansas.
H.R. 3753: Mr. WAMP.
H.R. 3834: Mr. ROTHMAN.
H.R. 3995: Mr. CULBERSON.
H.R. 4048: Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota.
H.R. 4450: Mr. CARNEY.
H.R. 5028: Mrs. MALONEY of New York.
H.R. 5191: Mr. MCCAUL of Texas.
H.R. 5447: Mr. CUMMINGS.
H.R. 5573: Mr. HINCHEY and Mr. HALL of New York.
H.R. 5615: Mr. HOLDEN.
H.R. 5674: Mr. HINCHEY.
H.R. 5698: Mr. ELLSWORTH and Mr. FATTAH.
H.R. 5734: Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. ETHERIDGE, Mr. ROTHMAN, and Mr. RUPPERSBERGER.
H.R. 5762: Mrs. TAUSCHER.
H.R. 5793: Ms. RICHARDSON and Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD.
H.R. 5802: Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland.
H.R. 5823: Ms. WOOLSEY.
H.R. 5838: Mr. BISHOP of New York.
H.R. 5936: Mr. BOOZMAN.
H.R. 5979: Mr. COHEN.
H.R. 6151: Mrs. CHRISTENSEN.
H.R. 6201: Mr. MOORE of Kansas.
H.R. 6228: Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin.
H.R. 6259: Mr. ROTHMAN.
H.R. 6453: Mr. ALEXANDER.
H.R. 6462: Mr. HINCHEY.
H.R. 6549: Mr. GALLEGLY and Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California.
H.R. 6567: Mr. TOWNS, Mr. SARBANES, and Mr. PLATTS.
H.R. 6598: Mr. ROTHMAN and Mr. FATTAH.
H.R. 6815: Mr. HINCHEY and Mr. KUCINICH.
H.R. 6885: Mr. PUTNAM.
H.R. 6930: Mr. CRENSHAW and Mr. FILNER.
H.R. 6939: Mr. COHEN and Mr. KAGEN.
H.R. 6949: Mr. ROTHMAN.
H.R. 6955: Mr. CULBERSON.
H.R. 7063: Mr. RUPPERSBERGER.
H.R. 7114: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey and Mr. EMANUEL.
H.R. 7164: Mr. MEEKS of New York.
H.R. 7187: Mr. UPTON, Mr. SESSIONS, and Mr. DELAHUNT.
H.R. 7189: Mrs. BONO MACK.
H.R. 7219: Mr. WEXLER.
H.R. 7241: Ms. MATSUI, Mr. ROTHMAN, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. CAPUANO, and Mr. BERMAN.
H.R. 7252: Mr. AKIN.
H. Con. Res. 81: Mr. KENNEDY.
H. Con. Res. 342: Mr. COURTNEY.
H. Con. Res. 424: Mrs. DAVIS of California.
H. Con. Res. 434: Mr. INGLIS of South Carolina, Mr. WAMP, Mr. DUNCAN, and Mr. HINCHEY.
H. Res. 679: Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. BRALEY of Iowa, Mr. FORTENBERRY, Mr. WOLF, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. DELAHUNT, and Mr. DAVIS of Illinois.
H. Res. 1171: Mr. BOREN.
H. Res. 1328: Mrs. MYRICK, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. LINCOLN DAVIS of Tennessee, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. WEXLER, Mrs. MILLER of Michigan, and Mr. ROTHMAN.
H. Res. 1397: Mr. HINCHEY.
H. Res. 1404: Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. BROUN of Georgia, Mr. COLE of Oklahoma, Mr. HALL of Texas, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. CARTER, and Mr. AL GREEN of Texas.
H. Res. 1405: Mr. ROHRABACHER, Ms. WATSON, Mr. POE, Mr. MANZULLO, Mr. ACKERMAN, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. ROGERS of Michigan, Mr. GRAVES, Mr. MACK, Mr. WU, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Mr. SCOTT of Georgia, and Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky.
H. Res. 1458: Mr. BECERRA, Ms. RICHARDSON, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. CARDOZA, Ms. FUDGE, Ms. BORDALLO, and Mrs. CHRISTENSEN.
H. Res. 1462: Mr. LYNCH and Mr. STARK.

PETITIONS, ETC.

Under clause 3 of rule XII, petitions and papers were laid on the clerk's desk and referred as follows:

335. The SPEAKER presented a petition of the San Francisco Labor Council, relative to a resolution opposing any taxpayer-financed blank check bailout of the financial system; to the Committee on Financial Services.

336. Also, a petition of the San Francisco Labor Council, relative to a resolution opposing any taxpayer-financed blank check bailout of the financial system; to the Committee on Financial Services.

337. Also, a petition of the California State Lands Commission, relative to a resolution requesting that Congress continue to enact, and the President reinstitute, the moratorium on oil and gas leasing within protected offshore areas; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

338. Also, a petition of the Chemung County Legislature, relative to Resolution No. 08-448 supporting changes to the federal highway trust fund to insure its long-term solvency; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

339. Also, a petition of the California State Lands Commission, relative to a resolution supporting the enactment of the Ocean Conservation, Education, and National Strategy for the 21st Century Act (HR 21) and the National Oceans Protection Act of 2008 (S3314); jointly to the Committees on Natural Resources and Science and Technology.

United States of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 110th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 154 WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2008 No. 176

Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Hon. E. BENJAMIN NELSON, a Senator from the State of Nebraska.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Creator of humanity, make us one. Bring unity to our Senate, Nation, and world. Help us to see that awesome things can be accomplished when we stop worrying about who will get the credit, and that we can achieve so much more working together than laboring solo.

With this unity, infuse us also with a spirit of hopeful pragmatism. Lord, give us realistic expectations about our future. Remind us that many problems that took decades to create will not be quickly solved. Motivate us to make the necessary sacrifices so that rough places will be made smooth and crooked places will be made straight.

We pray in Your great Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable E. BENJAMIN NELSON led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

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

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, November 19, 2008.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable E. BENJAMIN NELSON, a Senator from the State of Nebraska, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mr. NELSON of Nebraska thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following leader remarks, the Senate will proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

For the information of Senators, there will be a Senators-only classified briefing at 2:30 today. It will last for an hour or an hour and a half. We will have there Secretary Gates, Secretary Rice, and Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff James Cartwright. This will take place in our new secure meeting room in the Visitor Center.

ECONOMIC STIMULUS PLAN

Mr. REID. Mr. President, we received some more bad news today. Today it was reported that China has surpassed Japan as the top holder of United States debt. One out of every 10 dollars of American debt now belongs to the Chinese. As we fall further into debt, our climb back from recession to economic prosperity grows steeper. But in light of these challenges, there is no reason for Congress to wait until January to do some things that will help the economy. We know that before the Senate is a comprehensive stimulus plan. I will be discussing ways of proceeding on that, or not proceeding on that, with my friend, the Republican leader. Our legislation was worked out with the Appropriations, Finance, and Agriculture Committees. This legislation would invest in infrastructure, extend unemployment insurance, provide food stamps and fiscal relief for States to prevent States from being forced to cut services and raise taxes more than they already have, and it would be providing aid to the ailing United States auto industry.

It is important to understand that the authority to provide funds to the auto industry lies with the Treasury Department. The Federal Reserve can also provide these funds. As the Senate considers whether to pass an auto aid package, whether this legislation or other legislation, we all need to remember that we are simply deciding whether Congress will apply additional terms to the funds that the Treasury Department can and should ultimately provide. In fact, Congress need do nothing. Treasury can put whatever restrictions they choose on that.

I hope we can pass legislation to aid the auto industry this next day or two. If we cannot do it here legislatively, I hope the Secretary of Treasury listens loudly and clearly, because they can take this into their own hands and do what they think is appropriate from their perspective.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

A BIPARTISAN APPROACH

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, the auto industry is an important part of the American economy, I certainly agree with my good friend the majority leader, and an important job creator in my State. We are all aware that one reason Congress is back in session this week is to address the crisis in the

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

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auto industry. Although our friends on the other side have been talking about this issue with increasing frequency, they have yet to indicate how they plan to move forward. There is clearly a deep controversy about using funds designed to strengthen our credit markets to shore up distressed companies and other industries. We all understand that. It is one of the main reasons why there is still a significant lack of support from both sides of the aisle to that particular kind of approach.

It is an understatement to say there is deep concern about the impact of more than $100 billion of new deficit spending in the bill that has been put forward. So let me suggest a bipartisan path forward that has not yet been offered by the majority. It is a compromise being worked on by Senators VOINOVICH and BOND which reproposes funds already appropriated, money we have already appropriated to fund a $25 billion loan program for auto makers to build advanced technology vehicles—coupled with new taxpayer protections and Federal oversight about how the money is spent. This is a proposal which I believe has support from both sides of the aisle and that actually has the potential to pass right now, not next year. There is a way forward that will help protect the jobs in the auto industry while also protecting the taxpayers. Senators VOINOVICH and BOND are working with colleagues across the aisle to protect taxpayers and our long-term economic health. Should this compromise approach be approved by the Congress, it is the only proposal now being considered that we believe President Bush will sign. It could actually become law and become law in the very near future.

As we move forward, we must do so in a bipartisan way on this and the myriad of other issues to come, and a good place to start would be right now.

I yield the floor.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak up to 10 minutes each.

The Senator from Louisiana is recognized.

AUTO INDUSTRY BAILOUT PROPOSALS

Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, I rise to express my grave concerns about all of the auto industry bailout proposals. I do that for two fundamental reasons. First of all, I am very concerned of this ever-widening bailout fever, bailout mania. We are now going well beyond the financial industry. We are crossing what was supposed to be a bright line and going to other sectors of major manufacturing, starting with the auto companies, but I am convinced it certainly will not end there.

The second reason I am very concerned is for the sake and future of the auto companies and those workers themselves, because I am convinced that if we pass this type of bailout proposal, it will not save the auto companies, it will absolutely ensure their demise. That is because it is a bailout that is not coupled in any way with fundamental restructuring and fundamental reform.

Let me go back to the original financial industry bailout proposal. On September 29, I announced my strong opposition to that, based on many reasons which I articulated here on the Senate floor. One of them was that I thought it would invite many more bailouts to come. As I said, it was ''an unprecedented government bailout that will almost certainly pave the way for even more, maybe sooner rather than later.''

Even as I spoke then on September 29, quite frankly I never would have guessed that we would be at that point now, so soon, a few weeks later. But we are. Again, what started as an idea about the banking industry—don't let it fail; only about financial services industries—is now ever widening.

First of all, it has been widened within the TARP program itself, because while Treasury Secretary Paulson came to Congress, came to Capitol Hill with a very clear message of what that program was about—buying bad assets, taking them off the books of financial companies—even within that program we have already moved on to plan B, which is infusing money directly into banks. And now we are moving on to plan C, infusing money into other sectors such as consumer credit cards, student loans, and other ventures. So even within that TARP bailout structure we have expanded the bailouts and moved on from plan A, which was the entire premise on which Congress passed the legislation, to plan B and to plan C.

Now we are about to cross a much brighter line and we are potentially expanding this bailout fever much more by going well beyond the financial industry, by going well beyond the banking system, well beyond the promise we simply need to stabilize the banking system, to now saving companies because they are big, because they are, in a word, too big to allow to fail.

I think that is a fundamental mistake. But as I said, the other reason I think it is a fundamental mistake has to do with the companies' futures and the workers' futures themselves. I think this auto industry bailout proposal is a fundamental mistake because I believe it will not only not save those companies, but I believe it will absolutely doom them to eventual failure—yes, a few months later rather than now, but will absolutely doom them to eventual failure.

Why do I say that? For a simple reason; because these proposals are not coupled in any way with the fundamental restructuring that the American auto companies need to become competitive and to survive.

A few weeks ago when we talked about the financial crisis, we were focused on just that, a financial crisis within the banking industry, within financial institutions. That was about credit freezing up and impacting the economy in an overall way. But of course auto companies' problems and challenges predate that by years and years. Certainly the financial crisis made their immediate situation worse, made their immediate straits more challenging, but their ultimate challenge and their ultimate troubles have nothing to do with this immediate financial crisis. They have to do with the legacy costs and very high labor and other costs that those companies are burdened by, which makes them fundamentally uncompetitive with their worldwide competitors today.

What am I talking about? That extra burden brought on by legacy costs and union obligations is estimated to be about $2,000 per car for the big three auto manufacturers—$2,000 per car. What does that mean? What it means is Ford, for example, needs to cut $2,000 worth of features out of its Taurus to compete with, say, Toyota's Avalon. It is no surprise that the Avalon feels like a better product. It is a better product. It has $2,000 more features, in terms of comparable sales prices, when it goes to the lot. Of course it is going to be a better product.

Another example is the U.S. auto companies and their unions admit that union demands have driven up labor costs at the big three U.S. auto manufacturers to $30 per hour more than their foreign-owned competitors, including competitors such as Toyota that employ Americans and produce cars in America right here and now.

How can the big three possibly remain competitive in a worldwide economy with that sort of disadvantage? And throw on top of that the fact that the CEO of GM managed to get a 64-percent pay raise recently despite his company's shares dropping more than 90 percent over the past 52 weeks. That is not a recipe to stay or become competitive, that is a recipe for failure.

The reason the auto companies will be doomed to that failure if we pass this bailout is because we are giving them plenty of taxpayer dollars without demanding the fundamental restructuring, the fundamental revisiting of those additional costs, these extraordinary labor costs, those burdensome legacy costs that it will take to make them competitive on a worldwide stage.

My argument is very simple: Let's not cross that bright line. Let's not expand in a fundamental way bailout fever for the good of our free market

system. But also, for the good of the auto industry in the United States, for the good of those workers, let's not doom them to failure. Let's demand, whatever we do, that they go into a period of fundamental restructuring—the type of fundamental restructuring that is necessary, for instance, in a bankruptcy. It does not have to be done in the context of an actual bankruptcy. Many people say that would kill auto sales; that it is not practical, they cannot survive that.

I do not particularly agree with that argument, but that same fundamental restructuring can be done in other ways without that bankruptcy title looming over the companies' heads. That is what they need to survive. That is what those workers need to keep their jobs. Let's not pass this auto industry bailout and deny them the possibility of a survivable and brighter future.

These remarks apply equally to not only the Democratic leader's proposal, under which the $25 billion would come directly out of the TARP program, but my remarks and my concerns are fundamental. They apply equally to President Bush's proposal, which is essentially the same, simply taking the money out of a different pot, simply using the $25 billion of low-interest loans we have already authorized, against my objections, to do the same thing.

Again, my concerns are not superficial—use this pot of money and not that pot—my concerns are much more fundamental. They go to the center of the future of our economy. But they also go to the core of what is needed for the U.S. auto industry to remain competitive, to become more competitive, and to save those American jobs.

I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. MIKULSKI. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE HONORABLE BARACK OBAMA

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Chair lays a communication before the Senate.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

U.S. SENATE,
Washington, DC, November 18, 2008.

Hon. RICHARD CHENEY,
Vice President of the United States of America, President of the U.S. Senate, U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC.

DEAR VICE PRESIDENT CHENEY, PRESIDENT OF THE U.S. SENATE: This letter is to inform you that I resigned from the United States Senate, effective November 16, 2008, in order to prepare for my duties as President of the United States.

Sincerely,

BARACK OBAMA,
U.S. Senator.

ORDER FOR RECESS

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate recess today from 2:30 until 4 to allow Senators to attend today's briefing with Secretary Gates, Secretary Rice, and the Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

WORKING TOGETHER

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, that was quite a letter. I must say, to be here for this historic moment, my heart is racing. We heard the letter from the President-elect resigning from the Senate. This is, indeed, a moment of passage in the Senate and for the country. By Senator Obama's resignation from the duty and responsibility the people of Illinois gave him, it is one more step for him to pick up the responsibilities of the Presidency of the United States. I will cherish this moment because it will be a historic moment, from ''We need change'' and ''Yes, we can'' on the long campaign trail to election night, to a charismatic speech calling us to act like an American community, not only a country of which we are proud, a nation we hold dear, but an American community. That is the Obama message which I hope will be the Obama effect. As our President-elect lays down these duties and takes up others, we need to realize and respond to his call and a new American mandate. Because on November 4, we who hold Federal office received a new American mandate to change the tone, to change the direction, to change the priorities, and to be able to move on and get our economy rolling and bring our troops back home and restore our national honor in the world.

Sign me up. Sign me up as an enthusiastic member of this effort. I accept that mandate. I accept it. I call upon all my colleagues to do the same, to embrace the message Senator Obama has set, not only in terms of a dynamic, robust agenda but how we will work with each other. I thought it was grand that he sat down with our colleague from Arizona, Senator MCCAIN, to talk about how they could work together, how they could find that common ground, how we could find that sensible center between what we want to do and what we can afford to do. That is the tone Obama set with MCCAIN. Let's set it now with REID and MCCONNELL. Let's try to find common ground, that sensible center, pragmatic, affordable solutions we can do now. We have a window. We have a time. As President-elect Obama said: This is our time. Our time doesn't begin January 20. Our time doesn't begin January 6. This is our time now to lay the groundwork for the transition of power, to work together. I ask us now, as we look at the stimulus package, as we look at solutions for our manufacturing area, how to extend the safety net for those people who are already hurting: Let's do that.

Right now, once again, back to business as usual, entangled in a parliamentary quagmire, digging in our heels, based on rigid ideology. That is not what the people said on November 4. They said they wanted change, and they want it now. Let it begin with us, civilized debate, the clash of ideas to find that sensible center. By the way, that phrase is not mine. That phrase is Colin Powell's, a great American.

There it is, right there is the center. I am ready to walk over to it. Come on over, I say to the other side.

STIMULUS PACKAGE

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, today I am standing here asking for help on the stimulus package. I know that part of the stimulus package is to extend unemployment insurance. I absolutely support that. But what I also wish to do is not only extend unemployment insurance for those who are hurting, I am with the parts of the stimulus package that will extend employment, where we will do what we need to do to create the safety net, but we need to have a launching pad to keep jobs in this country. I wish to vote to extend unemployment help, but I wish to also vote to extend employment help. Hello. Let's find that sensible center.

I am for saving and creating jobs, and I am also saying: Congress must act now. In the next 48 to 72 hours, we have our own rendezvous. If we do not act, we will create an economic framework that means the recession will be longer and deeper. The cost of doing nothing is more than we can afford to pay.

I support the safety net in the economic recovery package—help with unemployment, energy assistance, help on Medicaid for the children and the elderly. Medicaid is a children's and elderly program, for children who need health care and elderly who need to be in nursing homes.

I also support the part of the stimulus that creates jobs. I salute our leadership team for coming up with the framework to create jobs by making important investments in physical infrastructure—desperately needed. We need to make public investments that generate private sector jobs. Note what Senator Barb is saying: I am not for make work. I am not for a WPA. I am for public investments that create private sector jobs. By doing it in building and rebuilding America's infrastructure, we will be safer, and we will have a stronger economy—repairing bridges, building highways, mass transit that we need to move people and improve the environment, also to build water and sewer treatment plants to fix aging sewer systems. In my hometown of Baltimore, our mayor is under an EPA court order to rebuild the Baltimore sewer system. I am for that. My great-grandfather, who came to this country

searching for the American dream, believing what Lady Liberty said when she said: Give me your tired, your poor, yearning to be free, another member of my family said: Sign me up. And he was a ditch digger on the Baltimore sewer system. My great-grandmother married him because he was a man of prospects. We rebuilt Baltimore then. I wish to rebuild Baltimore today and put people to work, from designing and engineering, moving heavy lifting equipment.

The Chesapeake Bay is polluted because we don't have enough water in sewer treatment plants. That is one of the reasons. So we can build that by making public investments in physical infrastructure. By sending a dollar of taxpayer money today, we will have jobs today and economic recovery on the way.

Also, I wished to talk about helping the automobile industry. My other colleagues will speak on the floor about the need for the $25 billion plan. My colleagues will also speak about other things to help Detroit for which I am supportive. But I also have another idea. See, the way I think, I am old-fashioned. My dad ran a grocery store. While others talk about the big macro picture, I learned economics at the macaroni-and-cheese level in my dad's grocery store. It was about supply and demand. I am saying if we stimulate demand, which actually gets people to buy cars, people will have to make them. They will have to sell them. They will have to service them. They will have to provide the insurance and other services to do it.

Let me tell you how I wish to save jobs in the automobile industry and at the same time help our consumers and get our economy back on track. It is simple. It is straightforward. It is bipartisan. I am joined in my framework, which I introduced as a freestanding bill, by Senator KIT BOND of Missouri. More cosponsors are pouring in. My provision simply says this: If you buy a new passenger car or light truck between November 12 of this year and December 31 of next year, you will get a tax deduction on your sales tax and on the interest of your loan. Let me repeat that. It is a tax deduction for the sales tax on buying that car or light truck. You will also be able to deduct the interest on your loan. For many people, depending on the size of the vehicle, it can go anywhere from $2,000 to $5,000. It saves jobs. Remember where I started. Not only extend unemployment benefits to those who have lost their jobs but extend employment so people don't lose their jobs.

One out of every ten jobs in America depends on the automobile industry.

What is it I mean? First of all, in manufacturing—and we know what it feels like in Maryland. See this chart. On Broening Highway we made minivans for years. Now it is being cleared for who knows what. We know it has new uses but not like this. There were 1,000 jobs that paid good wages and good salaries. I do not want ''closed'' signs up all over America. So it is jobs in manufacturing.

Then there are jobs in car dealerships. Did you know there are 30,000 car dealerships in America, and each one employs about 50 or 60 people—from the people who sell the cars, service the cars, supply the parts, and the back office workers handling the bookkeeping and the accounting.

In my own home State there are 300 dealers. If you look at the dealers nationwide, we are talking about 150,000 people. In my own State, it is over 25,000 people. In many of my rural communities, outside the hospital and local government, they are the major employer. Dealers are at risk. The people who work at the dealerships are at risk. We can change that.

Now, let me go to the rationale. Why now? Why the urgency? Well, first of all, car purchases, whether you are talking about a Toyota or a Taurus, whether you are talking about cars made in Detroit or made in Kentucky, Alabama or Tennessee or Texas, buying cars, with people going into the showrooms, is down by 25 percent.

But what we also know from the auto research is that people buy more cars during the period of Thanksgiving to New Year's Eve than any other 6-week period. If you pass the Mikulski-Bond amendment, and it is signed into law, and people come into the showroom, that is the time they want to buy cars, and this is the time we could give them the Federal incentive, along with the dealer and manufacturing incentives. It could mean tremendous help.

Now, there are those who will say: Gee, how much does this cost, Senator MIKULSKI? It does cost $8 billion. However, the cost of doing nothing is phenomenal. The cost to the Government is about $50 billion a year if we do nothing, if our automobile system goes down. If we face the ''Armageddon'' of one of them going bankrupt, our pension guaranty system would be in great difficulty. We would lose taxes in unemployment benefits. In other words, there is a cost to doing nothing that is 10 to 20 times greater than what we are talking about here.

I know my time is about up.

I say: Pass this stimulus package. Thanks to the leader, my auto provision is part of it. We need to talk about saving 3 million jobs in the automobile industry. We need to talk about how to help the American people.

I conclude by saying, during the break I went around and talked to my constituents. First of all, they are mad as the dickens over the way this bailout package has been handled. They feel we gave it to the sharks and the whales on Wall Street, and the little guys—the minnows—got no help. What they are worried about is the losing of their jobs. In many instances, they have already lost their life savings, they have lost their homes or they are already in jeopardy.

Let's talk about a car dealer. I walked in to talk to a dealer in Montgomery County. The first thing was I noticed two things: an empty showroom and on his lapel he had a Rotary pin. This is a man for which that business, in Montgomery County, was started in 1939, during the Depression, because they believed in Roosevelt and they believed in the American economy. Can they believe in us?

That man, with his Rotary pin and family, has provided jobs. They fix cars. They have sold cars and so on. They kept it going and at the same time contributed to the charities in their community, being a good corporate citizen.

You talk to the people who work there. Let's talk to the guy I talked to who has worked there for 23 years. He said: Senator Barb, all I have ever wanted to do is fix cars. I love fixing cars, and I have fixed Chevys and now Accords and Acuras, and I have done a great job. I have been happy, and I have made a lot of people happy. But I have two kids in college. I was told that for the kind of job I have, there is a workforce shortage. But now there is more of a shortage of work than a shortage of workers.

This is whom we are fighting for. We are fighting for our friends. We are fighting for our neighbors. We are fighting for the people who have kept our communities going. So we come back to wonder: How are we going to spend money? We have already spent $350 billion that went to banks that do not care. They have no remorse. They have no sense of gratitude, and they did not regard us as an investor. Mr. President, $350 billion to banks and Paulson is walking around like a passive investor. But here, if we make this investment to enable the consumer to be in a new car, which will get more fuel efficiency, lower carbon emissions, and pick up our economy, I think we are doing something.

I hope today we get a chance to vote on the economic recovery bill. It has major components in it, and one of the major component is it extends employment, which is what Americans want.

On the day Barack Obama resigned from the Senate, let us now resign ourselves to follow what the mandate was on November 4. They not only gave President-elect Obama a mandate; they gave us a mandate: Get America rolling again. The Mikulski legislation puts our economy back on wheels.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Alabama.

WASTEFUL SPENDING

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I thank the Chair for the opportunity to speak. I appreciate the eloquent remarks of my colleague, Senator MIKULSKI. She is a passionate advocate for Middle America, and it is a pleasure to serve with her in the Senate.

I have to say, it is a historic day that Senator Obama has resigned and will be on the road now to inauguration as

the President of the United States. People are happy about it. For so many people, you can feel their excitement about the possibilities. The country wanted change, and we have some change out there. I think we need to ask ourselves pretty clearly what kind of change it is they were demanding of Congress. We may well have some disagreements about that.

The day after the election, I was doing a little exercise at the park back home in Alabama, and I met an African-American with an Army hat on. He and his friends were talking happily, and there was an excitement about this election. He said: You know, this is the first time I know my sacrifice in Vietnam meant something. He was sincere about that. There is a good feeling out there.

I would say that one of the things the American people did not vote for, however, was wasteful Washington spending. It is just not so. One of the things they rejected in the Bush administration was reckless spending, unprincipled spending. That is something that has worried them. So in interpreting the results of the election, I think we need to take care.

I noticed a recent Rasmussen Poll showed that 80 percent of Americans think the Government is too involved in the economy, that the Government is getting its nose too much in this and taking their money they sent here and spending it on somebody the Government wants to favor with Federal largess. I do not think that is what the election meant: that we ought to spend more.

Also, on the question of the bailout, less than one-third of the American people in the Rasmussen Poll said they favored an automobile company bailout. This is contrary to our fundamental principles. We may have to, at certain times, do things that are a violation of principle. We ought to be very cautious about doing so. These are things that have served this country well for over 200 years. We need to be careful about it.

So I do not think the change people voted for was to authorize Congress to go on a wild spending spree, throwing money at every problem. We have already had, this year, a $150 billion stimulus that was supposed to ward off the recession—sending out checks to everybody, and this was going to fix it.

I hated to vote against that, but I could not vote for that $150 billion, every penny of which went to the debt. We were already in deficit, so we added another $150 billion to the deficit in one fell swoop. What did we tell people to do? We told them to go out and spend. I know the Acting President pro tempore is from Nebraska. I know he was raised right. We have had a talk about families and how families work. When you have a financial problem, you do not tell your children to go out and see how much they can spend. You ask them to get smart about what they have been doing.

When the economy goes into a recessionary period, people start watching their spending. They decide they do not eat out as much. They decide they cannot buy as fancy clothes. They decide they cannot afford a big, expensive house that has also been going up in price, and maybe it is not going up now, so they wisely decide to stay renting or stay in the house they have, which depresses the price of housing. This is the business cycle, I will just say.

I feel like we work our way through that. As people get their debt paid down, they start buying more. In the meantime, certain companies get hurt. Companies that are selling big gas-guzzling vehicles and are committed to that product are going to be one of the groups that gets hit the hardest. I wish it were not so. I know this is not a matter of insignificance that domestic automobile companies are in financial trouble. But they have been promoting a product the American people do not want right now and they are committed to that product and it is troubling as to how we work our way out of it. But I think rewarding misbehavior is not the way to do it.

So it is pretty clear now that we are in a recession and that credit had been too cheap in the years leading up to this. We had a bubble in housing. People thought prices would never go down, and they bought houses larger than they could afford, made payments that stressed them to the very limit to afford those big houses, pretty much on the theory that the housing prices were going to continue to go up and would never go down. Those of us who have been around a while should have known that is not a good way to go. We have known, and we have seen it in our very neighborhoods, the young couple buying huge automobiles, borrowing money to do so—$40,000, $50,000, $60,000—that they could not afford. It also guzzled fuel, cost them more at the pump, and each month they ran up debts on their credit card, including gasoline. When you get to the maximum limit, you have to cut back.

So what do you do? You do not buy as many of these things, you do not add as much, you do not buy the big cars, some people cannot afford to hold on to their big houses, and you go through a recessionary period. It is not a matter we ought to treat lightly. I certainly recognize that.

But as USA Today said a month or so ago, an economy founded on excessive personal debt, excessive Government debt, and huge trade deficits, is not sound. That is just it. We have to change our ways. We cannot buy our way out of this situation. There is no free lunch. For anything that somebody puts in front of you to eat, somebody has had to pay for it to get it there. Debts have to be repaid. We have to be honest about it. We cannot continue to throw money at this problem. We are going to have to take our lumps now and come out of it stronger rather than trying to postpone the problem, kicking the can down the road in some desperate attempt at stimulus to avoid any pain in a normal recessionary cycle.

So I worry about it. Let me tell my colleagues about the deficit. The deficit surged after 9/11. We had increased spending at airports and we did all kinds of things and the deficit went up to almost $420 billion—one of the biggest deficits in dollar terms we have ever had, not as a percentage of GDP, but a huge deficit and a reversal of the situation prior to that. That deficit has gone down. A year ago September 30, our deficit for the year was $161 billion; still large, too large, but going in the right direction. As of September 30 of this year, after we popped $150 billion earlier this year directly into the deficit to fund the stimulus that was supposed to avoid a recession, now the deficit this year was $455 billion. And the one we are in today, I saw an article recently that said the deficit will clearly be in excess of $750 billion, the largest deficit in the history of our country and, probably, as a percentage of GDP, one of the largest we have ever had. Now we are talking about more spending, more spending, more, more, more; we have to bail out this industry, that industry, the other industry.

Alabama was heavily reliant on textiles. Now, seventy percent of our textile industry is gone. You can go to town after town where sewing plants existed—no longer there. Should the Federal Government have stopped that? The little community in which I grew up, the original community was on the river where steamboats plied the river. After railroads came, the community sort of moved a few miles over to the railroad. That is where I grew up, in a little railroad community. Then the passenger trains stopped, and the freight trains stopped and people had interstates and other ways to communicate and travel and airplanes came along. Should we have passed—we had a railroad depot there, and my friend's dad ran it. Well, it is closed. Should we have passed a law to keep the railroads just as they always were and all the depots out there? Years ago you remember the debate over whether the union should require a fireman, who used to shovel coal into the steam engines, to sit on a diesel train. That was part of the union contract. For decades after we ended steam engines, the union contracts required a person named a fireman to sit on a diesel train with the engineer. This is not sound.

Change is inevitable. We have to adjust to it. That is what we need to do. Maybe there are ways we can help the automobile industry—I assume there are, and I would be prepared to discuss that—but we have to be realistic and honest. When we start throwing money at private corporations to save them from the forces that are at work in our economy, we are taking on a big challenge.

This is a metaphor I have in my mind. Do my colleagues remember the story of the folks who flew airplanes over the hurricanes and threw out dry ice and they believed if they could just throw out enough dry ice, they could stop the hurricane? Well, we can't throw money into this financial hurricane and stop it either. We have to hunker down and do what we have always done to work through difficult financial circumstances. We can be sophisticated and come up with some good ideas that can help—and I am certainly for that—but I would tell my colleagues as a matter of principle we need to be very cautious about picking and choosing who we are going to reward with Federal taxpayer money.

In a meeting yesterday, Secretary Paulson was quite correct. He said: Look, any time you take Federal money and insert it into the marketplace—and he was talking about the automobile industry and the banking industry at the time—you distort the market. You help some companies and industries and you hurt others. I would just add, you do so with taxpayer money, you are taking sides in the process. That is dangerous, and we need to be as careful about it as we possibly can. So I would just raise those points.

Do my colleagues know our savings rate in America fell below zero at the height of this boom, at the height of this housing bubble, this automobile bubble? Gasoline prices were through the roof, commodity prices through the roof, farm prices surging, gold and other metals going up at incredible rates. They are all falling now, but during that time we didn't have any savings. Our savings rates fell below zero. Now that we are going into a recessionary period—and we are in a recession—people are saving. The savings rate I saw recently was about 3 percent. So people are not consuming as much. Is that all bad?

When people don't consume as much and don't travel as much, the hotels are not as full, the restaurants are not as full, the automobile companies can't sell as many automobiles, and they are going through tough times. But when you have an excessive boom, this is the kind of thing that is bound to happen.

One observer of the scene made this comment in 2006 about the housing market. He said:

> Housing prices cannot continue to increase at twice the rate of the growth of GDP, and they cannot continue to increase at this rate when wages are basically flat.

Now, doesn't that make sense? Didn't we know people who couldn't afford a house because the prices were outrageous? There are some benefits from the collapse and the boom on housing prices. An average person now may be able to buy a house at a more reasonable price than they were before. So these are the cycles we go through.

The timber industry in my State depends on home building. When construction is down, our saw mills are shutting down in small towns, and that is the only business they have. Are we going to bail out the saw mills today? Is anybody proposing that? Then, the people who work in the woods to harvest the timber—good, honest, hardworking Americans—if the saw mills can't buy the lumber—are they getting an hourly wage? Are they being laid off? Yes, they are, as part of this tough cycle that we are going through.

I wish to ask this fundamental question: Who is going to bail out the American Government? Who is going to bail out the American taxpayers for the expenditures that we are increasing? I ask this: Isn't it true there are three basic ways to deal with money we are borrowing today, perhaps $1 trillion this fiscal year? When I say $750 billion to $1 trillion, I am not counting the $700 billion bailout. That has not been scored yet. I am talking about other spending, including some of these bailout proposals.

So there are three ways we could do it. We could cut spending. Our Democratic colleagues were pretty hard on Republicans for, they said, spending too much, and they were right more than I would like to admit. I would just say this: Are we getting any better now? The talk we are hearing today, is it spend more, more, more, more, or is it a discussion about a contained spending? No. What we are hearing from the change group, I am afraid, is spend more.

Well, that is one way to pay off your debts. Another way would be to raise taxes. None of us want to see taxes raised, for heaven's sake, especially not in a time of economic slowdown, so taxes is not a likely way to pay off the debt.

What has happened throughout history? Fundamentally, the way debts are paid off is by debasing the currency.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CARDIN). The Senator's time has expired.

Mr. SESSIONS. Is that 10 minutes, I believe?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Yes.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I would ask unanimous consent for 5 additional minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection? Hearing no objection, the Senator is recognized.

Mr. SESSIONS. So I am afraid of inflating the currency, reducing the value of currency so that when the government has to pay back debts, it pays back in dollars less valuable than the ones it borrowed, and we basically cheat the people who loaned money. When that happens, they are going to demand a higher rate of interest on the trillions of dollars of debt we have today.

Let me briefly share with my colleagues some thoughts about the bailout and why I cannot support the plan that is being proposed and offered by Senator REID, the Democratic leader. I commend to my colleagues the article by Michael E. Levine entitled, ''Why Bankruptcy Is The Best Option For GM.'' He is a former airline executive and is a distinguished research scholar and senior lecturer at NYU School of Law. He just points out this fact—and as a lawyer, I think he is absolutely correct. Regarding contracts and ways that would really reform and streamline and make these companies competitive, he said this:

> Contracts would have to be bought out. The company would have to shed many of its fixed obligations. Some obligations will be impossible to cut by voluntary agreement.

Why would somebody agree to have you not pay them what you have been paying?

Then he said: ''GM will run out of cash and out of time.'' That is even if we give them $25 billion. They cannot fix themselves until they confront their costs that are pulling them down.

Mitt Romney, whose father was a CEO at American Motors, in his recent op-ed estimates that the average American automobile is carrying a $2,000-per-car excess cost. If you wonder why foreign automobiles are better, it is because they can put 2,000 more dollars in it. So how do you get out of that? You have to get out of these contracts.

> Mr. Levine fundamentally points out that through the process of reorganization—not chapter VII liquidation but the process that Delta Airlines used to reorganize itself—is the one way you can get out of these contracts and restructure the company, reduce some of its burdens, and come back again as a fighting, competitive company, producing automobiles that people will buy in large numbers. I think that is very possible.

So in bankruptcy, those kinds of things can occur that can occur outside. Mitt Romney, in his editorial, said:

> A managed bankruptcy may be the only path to the fundamental restructuring the industry needs. It would permit the company to shed excess labor, pension, and real estate costs. The Federal Government should provide guarantees for post-bankruptcy financing and assure car buyers that their warranties are not at risk.

Now, those are the kinds of suggestions that come close to making sense to me.

He talked about his father, George Romney, the Governor of Michigan, who also ran for President at one point. This is what he said his father did when he saved American Motors at the time:

> My dad cut his pay and that of his executive team, he bought stock at his company—

To show faith in it—

> and he went out to the factories to talk to workers directly. Get rid of the planes, the executive dining rooms—all the symbols that breed resentment among the hundreds of thousands who will also be sacrificing to keep the companies afloat.

I think that is the right way to do it. I think we can do that. I really would urge my colleagues to look for ways for this to happen.

Now, you cannot trust the automobile dealers when they come forward and say: Well, we are doing all of these things.

They don't have the power to do these things. I know they don't want to go into reorganization and bankruptcy as Delta Airlines did. But it is not going to be a horrible thing. Delta went in and emerged about a year and a half later. They reorganized, reduced expenses, altered and amended contracts and obligations, and they recently bought Northwest. They went bankrupt in 2005, and they came out leaner and more competitive and are now a viable company. But these CEOs—if you give them money, they are going to have less leverage with the unions, less leverage with their 7,000 automobile dealers, when Toyota has 1,500 automobile dealers. They are going to have less leverage with the lease agreements and health care agreements they entered into years ago, in a different situation, to deal with people's health care requests and demands at that time. They are stuck with that until they can break loose from it.

A bankruptcy judge whose motive would be to help them become leaner and more effective and sends them out as a viable entity so that jobs are saved and debts are fundamentally repaid—that would be the goal of reorganization and bankruptcy. I don't think we ought to be putting a lot of money into this company until we see it in a position that would actually break the chains of $2,000 per car that is slowing them down, actually pulling them down hopelessly.

I thank the Chair for the opportunity to share some of my thoughts. I believe when we violate the principles of intervening in the free market and picking winners and losers, we are taking a great risk. If we do so, it ought to be done with the greatest of care, the least exposure to the taxpayer, and with the greatest potential for creating a successful company in the end.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Pennsylvania is recognized.

THE LIFE OF DR. RANDY PAUSCH

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the life of Dr. Randy Pausch, who died this past July 25 from pancreatic cancer. Dr. Pausch was a rare hero who rose above his illness and fought to the end for increased public awareness of this devastating illness. In doing so, Dr. Pausch captured the attention of the country, inspiring people with his extraordinary grace, courage, and love of life.

Dr. Pausch was a professor at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, in my home State of Pennsylvania. He was an accomplished researcher and dedicated teacher.

Many people know what Randy did because of his famous ''Last Lecture,'' which he delivered at Carnegie Mellon in September of last year. The video of the lecture became an inspirational phenomenon on the Internet. Literally millions of Americans wrote and blogged about the transformational impact Dr. Pausch's lecture had upon them and their lives. Recently, ''The Last Lecture'' was turned into a best-selling book.

The lessons from Dr. Pausch that have inspired so many people are simple, but ones we all too easily can forget. He reminds us about achieving childhood dreams and maintaining a sense of childhood wonder. He also encourages his listeners to work hard, tell the truth, be earnest, help others, apologize for mistakes, listen to advice, and never, ever give up. He helps us remember how important it is to simply enjoy life and that each day is a gift.

As his disease progressed, Dr. Pausch was also an impassioned advocate for pancreatic cancer research. He testified before the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, saying:

> We don't have advocates for this disease because they don't live long enough. We don't have a Michael J. Fox because people die too fast. Pancreatic cancer is absolutely ruthless. Part of my job is to put a face on the disease.

So said Dr. Pausch so poignantly about this disease, because indeed pancreatic cancer is ruthless. It is the fourth leading cause of cancer death in the United States of America. Seventy-five percent of pancreatic cancer patients die within 1 year of diagnosis. The 5-year survival rate is barely 5 percent. The survival rate for pancreatic cancer today is the same as it was 30 years ago.

Randy was only 45 when he died of pancreatic cancer on July 25 of this year. He left behind his wife Jai and their three children, Dylan, Logan, and Chloe.

Dr. Randy Pausch lived life to the fullest in every sense of that word, in every sense of that phrase. He was a loving husband and father, a dedicated educator, and an impassioned advocate. While his life was cut short by pancreatic cancer, his legacy for living is one we should all cherish. I ask my Senate colleagues to join me in commemorating the life of Dr. Pausch with the resolution that I and others have introduced. This resolution calls upon communities across this country to recognize November as National Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month, and urges greater public awareness and resources for prevention, early detection, and treatment of this disease.

Let us, with this resolution, recognize the extraordinary gift that Dr. Pausch's life was to humanity and strive to make progress with this deadly, ruthless disease.

I commend Senator CLINTON for her leadership on this issue and for introducing this resolution. I am joined as a cosponsor by my colleague from Pennsylvania, Senator SPECTER. For their help, we are greatly appreciative.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maine is recognized.

TRIBUTE TO RETIRING SENATORS

PETE DOMENICI

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, as the 110th Congress draws to a close, I rise to say thanks and farewell to one of our hardest working and most dedicated Members, Senator PETE DOMENICI of New Mexico.

PETE DOMENICI's story is truly the American dream come to life. The son of immigrants, PETE worked in the family grocery business, earned a college degree, taught school, obtained a law degree, and served in local government before his election to the Senate.

I cannot overlook one vitally important part of his biography, and that is his stint as a pitcher for a farm team of the old Brooklyn Dodgers. Who knows how much different history would be if his fast ball had had a little more ''pop'' to it?

For 36 years, however, baseball's loss has been the Senate's gain. The character developed by athletic competition—determination, hard work, a sense of fair play—is fully evident in PETE's six terms in office.

When the people of New Mexico chose PETE DOMENICI to be the longest serving Senator in their State's history, they chose wisely. His tireless work on a wide range of issues has helped to ensure a better future for all Americans, rural or urban, large State or small. He is a respected leader on some of the most important challenges of our time, such as strengthening energy security, curbing nuclear proliferation, and promoting sound Federal budget policy.

PETE's understanding of the budget process is matched only by his appreciation of the critical role fiscal responsibility plays. His service on the Budget Committee established his universal reputation as one of the Senate's hardest working, most intelligent, and best-informed Members. His focus on results rather than the limelight led one colleague to describe him as having ''a terminal case of responsibility.''

Senator DOMENICI is also a true champion for biomedical research, and especially for Americans suffering from mental illness. He has worked unceasingly over the years to increase the understanding and to eliminate the stigma associated with mental illness. He has led the effort in the Senate—first in partnership with Senator Paul Wellstone, and later with our colleague Senator TED KENNEDY, to pass legislation that requires insurers to cover mental illness in the same way they cover physical illnesses.

Thankfully, those efforts have finally borne fruit with the inclusion of his legislation in the economic stimulus bill, the stabilization bill passed in the Senate. It is a victory not just for Senator DOMENICI's longstanding efforts but also for the estimated 50 million Americans who suffer from some kind of mental illness. It is a testament to his dedication and his compassion.

Senator DOMENICI's tenure has been marked by vision, common sense, and a

commitment to results. When he became chairman of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee in 2003, Senator DOMENICI set to work to craft the first major comprehensive energy bill in more than a decade. Many thought it would be impossible to put together the bipartisan support to pass the Energy Policy Act of 2005, but Senator DOMENICI did it. That landmark law laid the foundation for American energy independence, the responsible use of existing resources, and the development of new technology. We can build on that foundation by following the model he set of informed debate and thoughtful consensus.

While most of his many accomplishments have national significance, there is one that may not be well known outside of his home State. More than a decade ago, PETE DOMENICI introduced a program that has helped the schoolchildren of New Mexico learn trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and citizenship. This program is called ''Character Counts.'' It fully epitomizes what PETE DOMENICI is all about. It fully describes his legacy because, with PETE DOMENICI, character has always counted.

Senator DOMENICI leaves this Chamber with an overflowing and bipartisan store of good will and gratitude. We are all losing an outstanding colleague. On a personal note, I am also losing an outstanding Washington DC neighbor, since PETE and his wonderful wife, Nancy, live right down the street from me. I am pleased to be among the many Senators offering thanks for his years of service and best wishes to him and to Nancy.

GORDON SMITH

Mr. President, for nearly 70 years, the film ''Mr. Smith Goes to Washington'' has inspired Americans and people around the world with its uplifting story of how one man of conviction and character can make a difference. Today, I am honored to offer a few words to the Mr. SMITH of our time: Senator GORDON SMITH of Oregon.

Senator SMITH came to Washington to make a difference—and he has. He and I were sworn into the United States Senate on the same day, January 7, 1997. Although his State and mine are a continent apart, we quickly found that we had a lot in common.

It has been a joy to work with GORDON SMITH on so many important issues. Of course, where I come from, the name ''Senator Smith'' conjures up not just the beloved movie but also a towering, real-life figure, and my inspiration in public service. Although Margaret Chase Smith of Maine and GORDON SMITH are separated by time, they are united in a spirit of independence and integrity. Both served with strong convictions but with respect for the principles of others. Both spoke up when they saw wrongdoing. Both had extraordinary courage that allowed them to speak out when they thought their own party was in error. Both saw the aisle not as a barrier to progress but as a bridge to reaching consensus on behalf of the American people.

This focus on moving forward is especially apparent in GORDON SMITH's effective work on issues of great importance in Maine, in Oregon, and everywhere in between—health care, tax relief, small business, equal rights, and foreign policy. These challenges are ones that require careful consensus-building, a responsible approach that has defined GORDON SMITH's service here.

GORDON SMITH is simply a wonderful person and an extraordinary leader. We all remember the terrible tragedy he suffered with the loss of his son during his service here, a terrible tragedy that gave him and his family such sorrow. But it is typical of GORDON SMITH that out of that tragedy, he chose to do something to help prevent other families from enduring the tragedy of the loss of a child. That is so typical of GORDON SMITH—always thinking of others, always trying to do what is right, always committed to public service.

''Smith'' is one of the more common names in the English language, but in this Chamber the name has special meaning, one of uncommon principles and extraordinary accomplishments. It reminds us of a cherished film, of the great lady from the State of Maine, Senator Margaret Chase Smith, and now of Senator GORDON SMITH. I thank him for his service and his friendship, and I wish him all the best in the future.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The Senator from Maine is recognized.

ELIZABETH DOLE

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, when she came to the Senate 6 years ago, ELIZABETH DOLE brought with her a resume that for most would describe a full lifetime of public service and accomplishment. The intellect, principles, and dedication ELIZABETH applied to her earlier endeavors have been readily apparent in the Senate. America has been enriched by all of Senator ELIZABETH DOLE's public service.

Her record of public service is truly inspiring. From the Office of Consumer Affairs and the Federal Trade Commission to the Secretary of Transportation and Labor, she has served five Presidents. Her tenure in each of these positions has been marked by the dedication, effectiveness, and accomplishments that we have seen firsthand in the Senate.

Nothing more fully describes ELIZABETH's character than the fact that she left Government service only to become the president of the American Red Cross, joining founder Clara Barton as the only women to hold that position. In the spirit of that great organization, ELIZABETH worked as a volunteer her first year, accepting no salary. Under her leadership, the American Red Cross was a model for charitable organizations, with 91 cents out of every dollar contributed going directly to help those in need.

ELIZABETH led the American Red Cross by example. Following the gulf war, she visited Kuwait to assess personally the services provided to our military personnel. She traveled to famine-stricken Somalia and Mozambique and to war-ravaged Croatia. She led a humanitarian relief operation to Rwanda refugee camps. That same commitment, courage, and compassion have been the hallmarks of her work in the Senate.

Those of us who are women also appreciate the many times ELIZABETH DOLE has blazed the path forward for other women. We know she was one of the very first women to attend Harvard Law School. Think how difficult that must have been for a woman raised in the South. Yet she persevered and she excelled and she broke barrier after barrier for other women.

In her campaign for President in 2000, ELIZABETH DOLE had a profound effect. She attracted legions of new voters into the political process. She encouraged women throughout the country and of all political persuasions to step forward and get involved in the campaign and to run for public office themselves. Many of the cracks in the glass ceiling are the work of her hands.

Here in the Senate, I have been privileged to work alongside Senator DOLE as members on the Senate Armed Services Committee. She has been one of our strongest and most eloquent voices for the men and women in uniform, and her commitment to them is inspiring. Her dedication to strengthening our national security and modernizing our military is unsurpassed.

It is certainly no accident that she is married to a man—former Senator Bob Dole—who exemplifies the quiet courage and devotion to duty that are the hallmark of America's armed services and by which both Senator Doles are known.

I know that all in the Senate and throughout our Nation will agree that just a few of the words that best describe ELIZABETH DOLE are ''intelligence,'' ''principles,'' and ''commitment.'' To those, I am proud to add the word ''friend.'' I will miss serving with ELIZABETH DOLE. I wish her all the best in the years to come.

Mr. President, I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CASEY). The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

THE ECONOMY

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, next week Americans across our country are going to be celebrating Thanksgiving. It is a time that we reflect and give thanks for our families and friends and all that we have. But far too many of our families across my State and across this country have far less than they did just a year ago. They lost their homes, their cars, their health care, their 401(k)s, and their jobs. Just this month, we learned that this country has lost a total of 1.2 million jobs this year. Over half of that decrease came in the last 3 months alone.

Across this country, people are hurting, and some of the hardest hit have been our veterans from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Thousands of our veterans are still recovering from physical or psychological injuries that make it very hard for them to pay their bills or to find a job, and too many find themselves sliding quickly into bankruptcy or foreclosure. Yesterday, in fact, the New York Times reported that advocacy groups have seen a huge increase in the number of veterans asking for financial help over the last year.

Americans made it very clear on election day that they want a new direction in this country. They want action that will help pull us out of this economic crisis. President-elect Obama has already announced that his first priority will be an economic recovery plan that invests in our country's infrastructure. As chair of the Appropriations Transportation and Housing Subcommittee, I stand ready to help with that. But, as the latest jobless reports show, we can't afford to wait even until January, when we have a new President, to start providing the help Americans need today. That is why I have come to the floor. We need to take action that will create jobs, diversify and modernize our economy, and help our families cope with this economic downturn.

This week, Senator BYRD and our majority leader, Senator REID, proposed an economic stimulus bill that would do just that. Their bill is targeted at the biggest needs in our country today. It will create more than 635,000 jobs by investing in infrastructure and green energy development, and it would help our most vulnerable citizens put food on the table and keep a roof over their heads.

Congress can make a real difference for millions of families across our country. If there was a mandate given on November 4, it was for Government to work for the people once again. America's working families want a government that will turn our economy around and end this war, and they want true progress on health care and on education. That is our mandate. We have an awful lot of work to do, and we need a bipartisan effort to do it. But we cannot just sit around waiting until we have a new administration and a new Congress. Americans are hurting today.

We have the ability in this Congress to come together across party lines and pass a bill that will put Americans back to work and stabilize our communities across this country. I wish to take a couple of minutes this morning to outline how that package will help get our country moving again and help those most in need.

First of all, it is critically important that we help families who have already lost their jobs and are drawing unemployment today. Especially with employers cutting jobs each month, there are hundreds of thousands of Americans who need help for basic needs while they look for work. This package reaches out to those families by extending unemployment benefits by 7 weeks across the country and 13 weeks in States where the jobless rate is the highest. It also brings relief to communities, since every dollar of unemployment benefits generates $1.64 in additional economic activity. This helps everyone.

This bill also provides help for the millions of families who are struggling today to find safe and secure housing. Across the country, public housing is badly in need of repair and improvement. This bill will allow communities to rehabilitate vacant public housing units, improve energy efficiency, and jump-start construction of new projects that will serve those tenants. It will also help address a growing problem in our community: renters who lost their homes because their landlords were foreclosed on. This bill will help protect these innocent victims of the foreclosure crisis and help them find immediate shelter and long-term housing.

One reason we need this bill badly is because it offers help to those who need it most, those who have lost their jobs and homes who are struggling to find housing today. But this bill will also help our communities and jump-start our economy by creating more than 635,000 jobs, investing in new technology and repairing our infrastructure. For example, this package would make investments in highway and bridge construction in every single State—all 50 States—by providing $10 billion to help fund projects that are ready to go today. We know that for every $1 billion we spend on highways, we create more than 34,500 good jobs. So this package will create more than 345,000 jobs.

Additionally, it is important to note there are no earmarks in this bill, no special projects as part of the highway funding in this bill. All highway dollars will be spent according to the formula that has been established for the Surface Transportation Program in our SAFETEA–LU highway bonds. States would have to put this money to work in 180 days.

We also know that roads are not the only area where communities need transportation dollars. Cities across our country are struggling to repair and expand their bus and rail systems as demand for mass transit and public transportation is skyrocketing. So this bill will improve and expand mass-transit systems so that millions of commuters can get to work smoothly and on time. It will help repair and improve our Nation's airports. It will make needed investments in our Nation's ferry transportation system and modernize our Nation's shipyards to make them competitive and efficient.

While creating these jobs will help get our economy going again, we also need to work to make sure our workers are prepared to compete for the jobs of the future. So this package does that by helping 160,000 dislocated workers and youth get education, training, counseling, and job assistance. This is particularly important for young people who are disengaged from school and for disadvantaged teenagers who are often hurt the most when our unemployment rates are high. It is critical that we enable these young people to get work experience now because if they lose out, they are less likely to move successfully into a career later.

We know teens without jobs are more likely to turn to crime or join gangs which cost our communities millions in law enforcement and lost productivity. Not only will the programs this bill supports pay off as the economy picks up over time, they will help stimulate the economy in the short term too, because, you know, teens spend immediately all the money they make. So that will help everyone.

This package also recognizes that we need to start investing in new and healthy industries that will help create new, good-paying jobs and help strengthen our economy for the long term. I think one of the most promising fields is green technology. That is why this package would invest almost $7 billion in research and development that would help us create new energy sources and improved energy efficiency.

Not only is the research and development absolutely vital in order to create the technology and the new jobs that come with it, but research and development and clean technologies are critical if we are going to become energy independent.

So these are parts of the package which I believe will be a shot in the arm, that will help our economy for many years to come.

Before I finish today, I do want to address the provisions in this bill that would help the country's struggling auto industry. I want the auto industry to remain viable and continue to support the millions of jobs across this country which depend on its success. But I cannot support any more funds without concrete assurance the automakers have a strategy to restructure and become viable, competitive companies. The auto industries cannot continue to follow a failed business model and then come here and ask for help.

I supported the $25 billion with strong restructuring language for the auto industry in the continuing resolution we passed a month ago. I will need to be convinced that adding funding will not only save jobs but the industry leaders will take seriously the issue of restructuring and work to reinvigorate an industry that continues to teeter on the brink of failure.

I am also, I have to say, very concerned about the blame being laid at the feet of the hard-working men and women in this industry. The auto industry's current financial industry crisis is the result of many financial factors, not the result of the cost of employee health care and negotiated contract benefits upon which numerous working families and retirees depend.

If the Federal Government, funded by working and taxpaying families, is expected to explore financial aid to ailing corporations, then I expect to hear about sacrifices industry management will make during these tough times. I am very hopeful we can do that.

A month ago this Congress came together and passed a bill to help restore stability in our financial markets. Well, we need this bill to provide stability for our communities and for our working families at home. We need it to help the most vulnerable among us to keep food on their table and a roof over their head.

We need it to help unemployed workers pay the bills while they start another job search. We need it so that we can create jobs, invest in our communities, and support new developments in sustainable and emerging industries.

We can start solving this economic crisis now. We can provide our families with the help they need for the holidays and before this economic situation gets worse. I hope our colleagues will join together, work across party lines, pass this stimulus bill, and offer hope this year to millions of struggling families across this country.

I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MENENDEZ). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO STUDS TERKEL

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I want to take a few minutes to say thank you and farewell to a Chicago legend and a national treasure.

Studs Terkel—author, actor, television pioneer, civil rights champion, law school graduate, social historian, jazz critic, disc jockey, champion of little guys and all the underdogs in America—died quietly in his Chicago North Side home on October 31. Studs was 96 years old.

His interviews over 50 years with the celebrated and the uncelebrated made him famous around the world. But there was no place on Earth where he was better known or loved than in Chicago, his adopted hometown.

When he turned 95 in 2007, Chicago threw a party, complete with a skywriting plane that proclaimed: ''Happy Birthday, Studs.'' No last name was needed.

What was remarkable, however, is not how many Chicagoans knew him by his first name, but how many Chicagoans Studs knew by their first names.

After Studs died, a British journalist recalled a day he spent with Studs more than a decade ago when Studs was still doing his syndicated radio program 5 days a week at WFMT in downtown Chicago. This person wrote:

> The journey to and from [Stud's] office was through a subterranean labyrinth of corridors and shopping arcades linking the WFMT building with the tower containing the luncheon club. Beside the elevator door was an Irish attendant he knew, and they burst into song. Then there was an extraordinary ritual, involving an employee at Johnny's Shoe Shine. ''Another day!'' bellowed Terkel from quite a distance. ''Another triumph!'' boomed back the reply.

Forget Sinatra. Chicago was Studs Terkel's kind of town. He loved Chicago because, in his words, ''Chicago is the country. It is America; it is a metaphor for everything.''

Elizabeth Taylor, the Chicago Tribune's literary editor and one of his good friends, said Studs Terkel ''was Chicago and everything good about the literary world—make that the world in general.'' I agree.

The last time I saw him was about 2 months ago at a bookstore in Chicago. Studs was signing copies of his second to last book, a wonderful memoir called ''Touch and Go.'' He wore his trademark red-checkered shirt. The bookstore was packed with people. Studs was nearly deaf by then, but if he looked straight at you, he could tell what you were saying. But that is what he was doing—still listening, listening, listening to everyone who approached him.

It was a slow moving line as we waited to have our books autographed. I waited more than an hour to say hello and get my book signed, but I am glad I did.

''Calling [Studs Terkel] a 'writer and broadcaster' would be like calling Louis Armstrong a 'trumpeter' or the Empire State Building an 'office block.' Strictly and sparsely speaking, it is true.'' So read his obituary in London's Guardian newspaper.

On radio, TV, and more than a dozen books, Studs Terkel interviewed some of the most famous of the 20th century—Simone de Beauvoir, Margot Fonteyn, Arthur Miller, John Kenneth Galbraith, Tennessee Williams, Margaret Mead, Leonard Bernstein, Louis Armstrong, Buster Keaton, Marlon Brando, Bob Dylan, Aaron Copeland, Zero Mostel, Mahalia Jackson, James Baldwin, and the list goes on and on.

He interviewed a 90-year-old Bertrand Russell in a village in North Wales during the 1962 Cuban missile crisis and almost erased the tape of their conversation because he was pretty clumsy with his tape recorder. Studs never overcame that ineptitude. He said it was actually an asset because it made the people he interviewed want to help him.

But it was Studs Terkel's interviews with ordinary Americans, not celebrities, that set him apart. What guided his work? Studs said: ''The principle is that ordinary people have extraordinary thoughts—I've always believed that—and that ordinary people can speak poetically.''

Accepting an honorary National Book Award medal in 1997, he said:

> When the Chinese Wall was built, where did the masons go for lunch? When Caesar conquered Gaul, was there not even a cook in the army? And here's the big one, when the Armada sank, you read that King Philip wept. Were there no other tears?
>
> That's what I believe oral history is about. It's about those who shed those other tears, who on rare occasions of triumph laughed that other laugh.

By talking and listening to ordinary Americans, Studs Terkel harvested what the Economist magazine called ''not only the most complete American history of this century, but the most compassionate.''

''De Tocqueville with a tape recorder,'' is what the Times of London called him.

Robert Coles, professor of psychiatry at Harvard, told the L.A. Times:

> I think he was the most extraordinary social observer this country has ever produced.

Said his son Dan, Studs ''led a long, full, eventful, sometimes tempestuous but very satisfying life.''

He was born in the Bronx on May 16, 1912, a month after the Titanic sank. He used to like to say: ''I came up when she'd gone down.''

His real name was Louis. He took the name ''Studs'' in the twenties, after Studs Lonigan, the protagonist of James T. Farrell's 1930s novels about an Irish kid from Chicago's South Side.

His father Samuel was a tailor. His mother Anna was a seamstress who moved to America from Poland.

The Terkel family moved to Chicago in 1922 after his father suffered a heart ailment. They ran a rooming house at Wells and Grand.

It was there in a small park nearby formally known as Washington Square but better known as Bughouse Square—a place, Studs said, ''where free speech is the power and the glory''—where he first met the workers and activists who would shape his view of the world and fill up his books and tapes.

He graduated from the University of Chicago with degrees in philosophy and

law in 1934 but did not care to work as a lawyer. Instead, after a brief stint as a civil servant in Washington, he joined the Work Projects Administration's Federal Writers' Project, writing radio scripts.

Soon he was acting in radio soaps. Usually, he was the voice of the gangster.

He served a year in the Army Air Corps but was discharged after a year because of perforated eardrums.

He landed his own TV show at the beginning of the television age, the pioneering ''Studs Place'' but lost it after a few seasons when he was blacklisted during the dreaded McCarthy era.

In the early 1950s, he hooked up with WFMT, a new arts station in Chicago. It was the start of a great partnership. His syndicated radio talk show, ''The Studs Terkel Program,'' ran on WFMT every weekday from 1952 to 1997—45 years.

He played a sports reporter in the 1988 film ''Eight Men Out,'' about the Chicago Black Sox scandal of 1919. And he continued to write almost to the day he died.

He was, said an obituary by the Associated Press, ''an old rebel who never mellowed, never retired, never forgot, and 'never met a picket line or petition' he didn't like.''

What made him so good? Bob Minzeshimer, a USA Today reporter who knew him, said:

> He had the listening skills of a psychologist, the timing of a comic, the curiosity of a scholar, and the gravelly voice of a boxing promoter.

He wrote with honesty, empathy, eloquence, and humor. Above all, he wrote with real respect for the people he interviewed.

As the writer for the Economist said, ''Talking to Mr. Terkel, the copyboy or the short-order clerk or the welfare mother felt, at last, like somebody. They counted; they had possibilities.''

His first book, ''Giants of Jazz,'' was published in 1957. Nearly a decade passed before he wrote another, but it was worth the wait. ''Division Street,'' released in 1966, contrasted rich and poor along that same Chicago street and won him international recognition.

Studs' best known book, ''Working,'' was published in 1974. In 1999, a panel of judges organized by the Modern Library, a book publisher, ranked ''Working'' as No. 54 on its list of the top 100 best English language works of the 20th century. He won a Pulitzer Prize in 1985 for ''The Good War: An Oral History of World War II.''

Among his other books are ''Hard Times: An Oral History of the Great Depression''; ''American Dreams: Lost and Found''; ''The Great Divide: Second Thoughts on the American Dream''; ''Race: How Blacks and Whites Think and Feel About the American Obsession''; ''Coming of Age: The Story of Our Century by Those Who've Lived It''; ''Will the Circle Be Unbroken? Reflections on Death, Rebirth''; ''Hope Dies Last: Keeping the Faith in Difficult Times''; ''Touch and Go''; and his final book, ''P.S. Further Thoughts from a Lifetime of Listening.'' They just released it last week. It was at his bedside when he passed away.

He received so many awards: a Peabody Award for excellence in journalism; the National Book Foundation Medal for contributions to American letters; the Pulitzer Prize for his book ''The Good War''; the Presidential Humanities Medal; the National Medal of Humanities; the Illinois Governor's Award for the Arts; and the Clarence Darrow Commemorative Award.

He was the only white writer to be inducted into the International Literary Hall of Fame for Writers of African Descent at Chicago State University.

But the recognition that meant the most to him didn't come from the media. It was comments from people he worked with, people whose eyes he opened. Like the man who stopped him on the Michigan Avenue bridge and told him that after reading the words of Delores Dante in ''Working,'' he was never going to be rude to a waitress again.

Besides Chicago, the other great love of Studs Terkel's life was his wife Ida, with whom he shared a happy marriage for 60 years until she passed away in 1999.

Mischievous to the end, Studs said he wanted to be cremated and have his ashes mixed with Ida's, and he wanted them both to be scattered in Bughouse Square. ''Scatter us there,'' he said. ''It's against the law (so) let 'em sue us.''

In ''Touch and Go,'' Studs Terkel worried that our Nation suffered from ''a national alzheimer's disease,'' as he said it, and a lack of historical perspective that made government the perceived enemy.

He believed that government ought to stand up for the little guy and hold the powerful accountable. He believed it because he had seen it before.

There would never be a good time to lose Studs Terkel but now seems like a particularly bad time for such a loss. Our economy is in crisis. Real people are hurting. Ordinary people who worked hard all their lives are watching their savings disappear. Millions of Americans are losing their jobs and their homes. They are seeing hundreds of billions of their tax dollars handed out to banks and to Wall Street, and I guess they are wondering: Is anybody in Government listening to them?

In these hard times, in this rare lameduck session of Congress, we in the Senate would do well to follow Studs Terkel's example: to listen not only to the wealthy and well connected but also to the quiet hopes and concerns of everyday Americans. As Studs Terkel showed in his immortal works, those everyday Americans are the soul and real strength of America.

Our condolences go out to Studs' and Ida's son Dan and to all who knew and loved Studs Terkel.

He stood only 5 feet 5 inches tall, with a slouch that made him look even shorter. But in Chicago and so many other places, Studs Terkel was a giant; and he will be greatly missed.

Mr. President, I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ECONOMIC RECOVERY ACT

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I rise to speak about the Economic Recovery Act, which is a comprehensive stimulus package. We need it. Our Nation needs this. It is a much needed shot in the arm for our ailing economy. When the economy is ailing, there are two choices: We can choose the path of, say, Herbert Hoover and say: Government should not be involved, let an ideological straitjacket tie us up—We know what happened then—or we can choose the course economists on the left, the middle, and the right have said we should choose, which is we need a major stimulus package to get the economy going.

I would have hoped we would have made the choice to help this economy and help the millions of Americans who are worried. Hundreds of thousands have lost their jobs, millions more are worried about losing their jobs, and tens of millions see every week that the paycheck does not stretch as far as it did.

We face an economic crisis of a scale and scope that we have not experienced in 25 years, if not longer. By every measure we are headed toward a cliff. We are in the midst of the greatest housing crisis since the Great Depression. Unemployment has been rising rapidly and is expected to hit levels we have not seen at least since the early 1980s.

States and localities face massive budget shortfalls that may force them to raise property taxes unless Federal assistance is delivered. Families are running harder just to stand still, seeing their incomes shrink while their costs, especially their food and energy costs, are far greater than they were 1 year ago.

The credit contraction that has spread from the financial system to average households has pummeled American businesses in every part of the country, businesses big and small. Not even the most optimistic among us can argue that our economic problems will take care of themselves.

The question before us is: What are we, as stewards of the public trust, going to do? I believe the answer is clear: The Federal Government should, it must, provide an economic stimulus to Main Street as we have to Wall

Street. It must be significant and substantial and it must be targeted at our most pressing needs.

The plan before us does that. It will prime the pump of America's job machine, by fast-tracking $13.5 billion of investment into our Nation's infrastructure which forms the bedrock of our economy. It will help the States avoid the difficult decision to raise property taxes; you cannot do that now. But some of them may have no choice because they have budget shortfalls. But we can avoid that terrible choice by delivering $40 billion in emergency fiscal aid through the FMAP.

The stimulus package before us will jump start renewable energy production by making major investments in the technologies that will not only help America become energy independent but will make us a global leader in the next generation of fuel-efficient vehicles.

Importantly, this bill will also resuscitate small business lending. We all know small businesses are the engine of our economy. But small businesses have been overlooked in the financial rescue efforts to date.

So working with my friend and colleague from Massachusetts, Senator KERRY, we have worked to include provisions in this stimulus package that will throw our small businesses a life vest to weather this storm so they can emerge from it as leaders in job creation.

Small businesses generally rely heavily on loans from banks to build inventory, meet their payroll consistently, and fuel the growth of the business. These loans have all but dried up, threatening the survival of car dealerships, mom-and-pop pharmacies, restaurants and shops all across the Nation.

The Federal Reserve recently reported that 75 percent of domestic banks said they had tightened their lending standards for small-business loans, 75 percent. At the same time, 70 percent of the lenders told the Fed that they would charge more for those loans. According to the New York Times in an August opinion poll, two-thirds of entrepreneurs told the National Small Businesses Association that their companies had been hurt by the credit crunch.

Traditionally, Small Business Administration loans have filled this gap. But chronic underfunding of the SBA under the Bush administration and its outdated fee structure have greatly reduced lender participation and undermined the valuable function that SBA lending could play during this credit crisis.

In October alone, the number of loans made under SBA's largest loan program dropped over 50 percent compared to the same month last year. So the economy desperately needs this shot in the arm.

And SBA's loan program is cut in half. What foolishness. Why do we not change it? That is why Senator KERRY and I fought to include in the economic stimulus package provisions that will modernize the SBA and jump start lending to small business.

Our bill provides $615 million to support $22.5 billion in zero-fee loans to small businesses under the 7A and 504 programs. Providing zero-fee loans will deliver needed relief to small business on Main Street during Wall Street's financial crisis.

The bill also provides $1 million to support $10 million in new microloans for small businesses and $4 million for critical technical assistance for these new ''micro'' borrowers.

In sum, our Nation needs this stimulus package, not just for the small businesses or the large businesses across the Nation but for the American families who have faced devastating hits to their wealth and economic security. We need to build a platform from which we can emerge from this credit crisis as a global leader in energy and innovation and high-paying job creation. I strongly urge the passage of this proposal.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CARDIN). Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator is recognized for 10 minutes.

Mr. BARRASSO. Thank you very much, Mr. President.

MEDICARE

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, today I come to the floor to tell the Nation a story, and it is the story of a Wyoming doctor, a doctor by the name of Randy Johnston. He is an ophthalmologist who practices in Cheyenne, WY. He is very qualified. He is very capable. He is also a good friend.

The reason I come to tell you this story is because, like many doctors across the country, Randy takes care of people on Medicare, and occasionally in his practice as an ophthalmologist he gives shots to people on Medicare. As a matter of fact, there is a picture of Dr. Johnston on the front page of the American Medical News. This is an article dated November 10, written by Jane Cys, and it shows Dr. Johnston in his office in Cheyenne getting ready to give a shot.

Well, in the past, Randy would buy the drugs that his practice uses and then bill the patients for the treatment. The drugs that Randy uses are typically injected, but under this Part B Medicare drug program some are infused through a patient intravenously right into the vein.

Two years ago, Randy enrolled in a new program created by the 2003 Medicare Modernization Act. This Medicare Part B program was called the Competitive Acquisition Program—CAP is the phrase they use. It was designed to give doctors a choice in the way they administer the drugs.

Under the program, the doctor would first see the patient, then order the medicine from a Government vendor, then get the medicine, and then give the injection.

Well, the way it worked is, Medicare would then pay the vendor for the drugs. Medicare also would bill the patient if there was a copay or a premium the patient owed. Randy was only responsible to bill Medicare for the actual treatment of the patient, not for the medicines.

Congress and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services hailed this new program as a way to alleviate administrative burdens and reduce Medicare costs—a good idea. Doctors could now spend more of their time with their patients rather than serving as drug purchasers and bill collectors.

Randy signed up for the program early, and the program that was passed as part of the 2003 bill finally got started in 2006. Randy thought it made good sense for him, good sense for his patients. Some of his Medicare patients could not afford to pay for their office-administered drugs, and Randy saw great potential in this new program. He could transfer the Medicare billing part of it to someone equipped to handle the administrative redtape, and this freedom would leave him more time to focus on practicing medicine.

The program has now been in place for 3 years. What are the results? Well, only 4,200 doctors signed up for the program. You may ask, why is that? Dr. Johnston can tell you, and this article in the American Medical News explains it very well. Administrative hassles, burdensome drug transportation and storage rules, and vendor delivery problems—and that is just to name a few.

For example, the Government rules require doctors to give patients the drugs only in the facility where the vendor delivered the medicine—no exceptions, none. This requirement prevented doctors from moving drugs between their main office and a part-time satellite office they may have in another community.

Washington bureaucrats simply do not understand what a burden this policy can be in rural and frontier communities. Seniors living in rural States such as Wyoming often have to travel great distances—hundreds of miles—to see a specialist like Dr. Randy Johnston. This program, with good intentions, clearly was not designed to meet the unique needs facing rural patients and health care providers who work tirelessly to serve their patients.

Dr. Johnston was also required to order the drugs for a specific individual patient by name. He was not allowed to restock a general office supply to use on multiple patients.

I understand the Government is trying to prevent drug stockpiling. But this rigid program requirement does not give doctors the flexibility they need to practice medicine. This is especially true in emergency situations.

So who is liable when a patient comes to the doctor's office needing immediate treatment but the doctor cannot help because he has to call the Government to send the medicine in the first place, even if he has a supply on hand for another patient? The program's current design has turned out to be a bureaucratic nightmare.

After only 3 months in the program, Randy Johnston wrote Medicare a letter begging—I say begging—to be let out of the program. Why? Well, it was not just the excessive paperwork and the excessive phone calls to get the medication; Randy saw how absolutely wasteful this Government program had become.

When Dr. Johnston purchased Medicaid vials himself from a local pharmacy, the local pharmacy would divide it into multiple doses that could be used for different patients. Using the new Medicare program, Dr. Johnston had to order an entire vial for each patient, use the one dose the patient needed, and then throw the rest away.

Why would Medicare force seniors and taxpayers to foot the bill for an entire vial of medication containing 400 doses when the patient only needed 1 dose? At a time when Americans are facing such painful financial times, this wasteful Government spending is appalling. We are talking about life-saving medicine, expensive medicine. I do not know anyone who buys a loaf of bread, takes out one piece and eats it, and throws away the rest of the loaf. This makes no sense to anyone.

It is well past the time that Washington bureaucrats start treating taxpayer dollars like the money in their own personal checkbooks. When emergencies, illnesses, or major household repairs occur in our families, we find a way to pay the bill. We look at our budgets, we tighten our belts, and we find alternative places to save. We eliminate luxury items. We stop wasteful spending.

Dr. Johnston was absolutely right to try to get out of this absolutely wrong, wasteful program. Washington bureaucrats who have never been on the front lines treating Medicare patients developed this program. They do not understand the practical applications. So I was not surprised when Medicare announced in September of this year they were putting the entire program on hold starting in January 2009. Washington bureaucrats claim they are considering alternative ways—alternative ways—to improve the program because they want it to succeed.

The new administration has a tremendous opportunity to learn from Randy Johnston and from the 4,200 other participating doctors. Rather than hamstring providers, perhaps Washington should start to focus its efforts on eliminating waste, eliminating fraud, and eliminating abuse in the Medicare system.

This year alone, we have seen one news report after another uncovering Medicare wasting money. These news reports sound the alarm to every hard-working taxpayer in the sound of my voice and all hard-working taxpayers across America.

Who is holding these bureaucrats accountable? Just this week, the Department of Health and Human Services issued the Agency Financial Report. This document shows that in fiscal year 2008, these Government check writers made $10.4 billion—$10.4 billion—in improper Medicare fee-for-service payments. We can do better. We can do much better than this.

Wasteful spending strips Medicare of the vital resources that are needed to care for our elderly, to care for our frail, to care for the vulnerable. The new administration has a real opportunity to show leadership. Working together, we can fix this flawed policy. Medicare patients, doctors who take care of Medicare patients, and the American taxpayers deserve nothing less.

Mr. President, I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll of the Senate.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until the hour of 4 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 2:28 p.m., recessed until 4 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mrs. MCCASKILL).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will come to order.

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BYRD. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from West Virginia is recognized.

ECONOMIC STIMULUS

Mr. BYRD. Madam President, in September, the Senate considered a $56 billion economic recovery bill, authored by Senator REID and myself. While the bill received 52 votes, the minority succeeded in blocking its consideration.

In the following 2 months, the economy has continued to deteriorate. On Monday, Senator REID and I renewed our effort to stimulate the economy and help the millions of Americans hurt by the recession by introducing a $100 billion economic recovery bill.

In response to higher unemployment, rising food costs, higher energy costs, State budgets in crisis, and increased dependence on foreign oil, President-elect Obama has called for passage of a second stimulus bill. I spoke with the President-elect yesterday, and I committed myself to helping the President implement his agenda.

Madam President, it is time to deliver to Main Street USA. S. 3689 is a $100.3 billion economic stimulus package that would create over 635,000 jobs. I will repeat that. S. 3689 is a $100.3 billion economic stimulus package that would create over 635,000 jobs. The unemployment rate now stands at 6.5 percent, the highest rate since March 1994. The unemployment rate is up by 1.7 percentage points since October 2007. The U.S. economy has lost jobs every month this year—a total of 1.2 million jobs, with almost half of the job losses coming in the last 3 months alone. New unemployment claims filed exceeded 500,000, the highest number since just after 9/11.

In order to respond to these grim statistics—and they are grim—the stimulus package extends unemployment benefits by 7 weeks in all States, as well as another 13 weeks in high-unemployment States. Thirty-seven States are facing a shortfall of over $70 billion in their fiscal year 2009 budget, necessitating cutbacks in education, cutbacks in health care, and cutbacks in law enforcement.

The stimulus package includes $37.8 billion—that is $37.80 for every minute since Jesus Christ was born—to reduce the State's share of Medicaid costs by increasing the Federal share—increasing, I say—the Federal share by 8 percent.

The economic recovery package also—I emphasize the word ''also''—includes a temporary increase in food stamp benefits. These funds—hear me now—these funds will be spent quickly, and they will help to stimulate the economy.

Over $37 billion is included for essential infrastructure and investment programs. Now hear me, listen closely. I measure each word. There are consequences for failing to invest in America. For 8 years—8 long years—we have failed to make adequate investments in highways, transit systems, housing, in clean and safe drinking water systems, and in energy independence. This bill funds such investments, as well as small business loans, assistance for rural communities, and disaster relief for farmers hurt by the hurricanes and the floods this summer.

I understand, I am sorry to say, there is going to be an objection to debating this bill. This would be a mistake. I will say that again. I understand there will be an objection to debating this bill. This would be a mistake—a mistake. Why? Because it is time to act.

Delaying is not acceptable. And so I ask all Senators, every Senator, to do the right thing for this country—your country, our country—and support this measure.

Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD information related to rule XLIV of the Standing Rules of the Senate for title I of S. 3689.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

CONGRESSIONALLY DIRECTED SPENDING ITEMS

Account	Project	Funding	Member
SUBCOMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES			
Department of Agriculture: Farm Service Agency.	Agricultural crop disaster assistace		Senators Landrieu, Hutchison, and Vitter.
SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT			
Department of Energy	Extend a certain cooperative agreement to carry out the FutureGen program		Senators Durbin and Bond
SUBCOMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT			
GSA	District of Columbia, DHS Consolidation and development of St. Elizabeths campus	$346,639,000	The President, Senators Lieberman and Collins

Mr. BYRD. I yield the floor. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO SENATORS

ELIZABETH DOLE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, it is my sad task today to say farewell to our friend, the Senator from North Carolina, ELIZABETH DOLE. It is hard to know where to begin with a woman who has done it all and is admired across America.

There is an old saying that all politics is local. That is true even for the Senator from North Carolina, who was the first viable female candidate for President, held two different Cabinet positions, and worked for four Presidents. You see, ELIZABETH's first campaign was for the presidency of her third grade Bird Club. She won that race.

ELIZABETH began impressing many early on as she earned her bachelor's degree from Duke University and both a master's and a law degree from Harvard. Of the 550 members of her Harvard Law class, only 29 were women.

From there, ELIZABETH went to the White House Office of Consumer Affairs, and then the Federal Trade Commission. In 1972, she met a Senator from Kansas when she lobbied him on a consumer-affairs issue.

In 1975, ELIZABETH and Bob Dole were married in Washington Cathedral, creating one of the most prominent and successful partnerships in American public life.

ELIZABETH later headed President Reagan's Public Liaison Office, and then in 1983 became his Secretary of Transportation. She served for 4½ years, longer than any previous transportation secretary at that time. And as transportation secretary, she was fond of pointing out that she was the first woman to ever head a branch of the Armed Services: the Coast Guard.

When her husband Bob introduced ELIZABETH at her confirmation hearings, he displayed some of his trademark wit by remarking, ''I only regret that I have but one wife to give for my country's infrastructure.''

When ELIZABETH had her turn at the microphone, she got him right back. She assured the committee that she knew all about airbags, because she had been driving around with one for years.

In 1989, ELIZABETH became one of the few Americans honored to lead more than one Federal department by becoming the first President Bush's Secretary of Labor. Among the highlights of her tenure there was playing a key role in resolving a bitter 11-month coal strike in southwest Virginia.

I would even go so far as to say that ELIZABETH was the second-best Secretary of Labor this country's ever had.

ELIZABETH went on to become the president of the Red Cross, and revitalized that important institution. And of course, she became a familiar face to all Americans in 1996 when Bob became the Republican nominee for President of the United States, and when ELIZABETH blazed yet another trail in 2000 as the first viable female candidate for that same office.

During her time here in the Senate, ELIZABETH used the same desk her husband used. From behind that desk, she has been a powerful advocate for her State and her country.

North Carolinians can be proud of her record to strengthen our military and to support military personnel and veterans. She worked to craft a farm bill to benefit North Carolina agriculture. She has done much to address hunger in America, by championing tax incentives to encourage volunteerism and charitable giving, and through grant programs to benefit food banks and relief organizations.

The ''Dole'' in the McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program may be for her husband, Bob, as the program is named after him and former Senator George McGovern. But it was ELIZABETH DOLE who secured more than $400 million for the McGovern-Dole program to go toward school-feeding and child-nutrition programs in the world's poorest countries.

Let me take this moment to say, on behalf of my wife Elaine and myself, that ELIZABETH and Bob have been dear friends of ours for many years. In fact, had it not been for ELIZABETH, Elaine probably never would have come to Washington in the first place, therefore I obviously never would have met her, so I feel a special obligation to—and thanks to—Senator DOLE for that. We value their friendship, and I know we will continue to do so for many years to come.

ELIZABETH, I want to thank you for always bringing wisdom, grace and integrity to this chamber. Over decades of accomplishments in many prominent posts, you have served the people of America and of North Caroline extremely well.

I know your constituents are proud, and Bob is proud, of your service. Elaine and I wish you both well in whatever the future has in store for you. And we look forward to hearing all about it.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Carolina is recognized.

Mrs. DOLE. Madam President, I wish to express my deepest thanks for the very kind words of the distinguished ''gentleman'' from Kentucky. I feel very close to this gentleman because we have been very good friends for so many years. Certainly your wife, Elaine Chao, who is doing a tremendous job as Secretary of Labor, has been a friend for many years. In fact, we worked together at the Department of Transportation as colleagues and then also when she was president of United Way and I was president of the American Red Cross. So our paths have continued to cross in terms of our professions but also in terms of personal relationships and the warmth and friendship.

MITCH, I can't tell you how proud I am of your leadership as the Republican leader, and I am so proud you have been reelected by your colleagues. You do a tremendous job. You are a master of the Senate. Through the years, you and I have had a chance to work together on many issues. Of course, it was my privilege early on—I believe in my first year in the Senate—to visit the University of Louisville and the McConnell Center for Political Leadership and to speak to the McConnell Scholars. That is just one of many things you are doing to help others outside the Senate as well as the tremendous work within the Senate.

Just know I treasure your friendship. I look forward to being in close touch

and hope there will be many other initiatives on which we can work together, Elaine and Bob and I, in the years to come. Thank you so much for those most kind words wishing me well. I wish you all the very best.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, you just witnessed the classic ELIZABETH DOLE. I came out here to do a tribute to her, and she turned around and did a tribute to me. This is, I would say, indicative of the way Senator DOLE has conducted herself in public life throughout her service. We are going to miss her in the Senate, but I know she will continue to make important contributions to our country.

We revere your legacy and look forward to continuing our friendship in the coming years.

Mrs. DOLE. Thank you so much.

GORDON SMITH

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I rise with sadness to say goodbye to our friend the Senator from Oregon, GORDON SMITH. For 12 years, he has made the people of Oregon proud by serving as a model legislator: thoughtful, independent, and focused on getting results for our country and his State.

GORDON heard the call to serve others early in life, becoming an Eagle Scout as a boy and taking a 2-year mission to New Zealand for his church. He earned his bachelor's degree at Brigham Young University and his law degree at Southwestern University.

He then bought back the family business, a frozen vegetable company, and transformed it into one of the largest and most profitable in the country. With GORDON's departure, we are losing the Senate's only member of the Frozen Food Hall of Fame.

GORDON's desire to serve led him to run for the Oregon State Senate in 1992. His peers recognized the star in their midst when they elevated him first to minority leader, then to Senate president during his first term in office.

GORDON then entered a special election to fill a vacant U.S. Senate seat. Election day fell in January 1996, and GORDON lost that race—the winner was our colleague, his fellow Senator from Oregon.

But then GORDON did something no one else has ever done, and proved to the people of the Beaver State how much he cared about making sure every Oregonian's voice was heard in Washington.

He ran for the Senate again in the regularly scheduled election later that year, making him the only American in history to run for two Senate seats in the same year. The people of Oregon gave him their trust and GORDON has never let them down.

Oregonians can rightfully be proud of his conservation record, as he championed legislation to successfully secure the protection of 170,000 acres of wilderness on Steen Mountain and the Bull Run watershed.

While protecting our natural resources, he also understands the importance of the many working Oregonians who depend on his State's natural resources for their livelihood. The foremost example of his work in that regard is his tireless effort to protect the farmers of the Klamath Basin area, and keep their agricultural lands in production.

He has fought to lower the number of uninsured and drive healthcare costs down, and has been a tireless advocate for the disabled and mentally ill.

He has sponsored legislation to strengthen the prosecution of child-exploitation cases, fought for new protections against Internet predators, and led the effort to increase funding for programs that help victims of rape, sexual assault and domestic violence.

GORDON has also been a leading voice on issues of education, and has fought to secure rural schools throughout Oregon. And he has fought for lower taxes, so more Oregonians can keep more of what they earn.

But there is one issue in particular where GORDON led the way in a very personal manner for a cause close to his heart. In 2003, GORDON's son, Garrett, committed suicide just one day before his 22nd birthday.

The torment a parent must feel after losing a child must be the worst horror imaginable. No amount of sympathy, no words, nothing any of us could do could possibly ease the pain in GORDON's and his family's hearts.

Yet even in his grief, GORDON showed us the strength of his character when he wrote about his loss in his moving memoir, ''Remembering Garrett.'' And he channeled his sadness into successful legislation, the Garrett Lee Smith Memorial Act, to create screening programs to identify and help youths at risk for suicide.

I'll never forget his powerful words on behalf of that legislation in this very chamber. He said:

> [There's] no owner's manual to help you bury a child, especially when the cause is suicide. So I've committed myself to trying to find meaning in Garrett's life.

GORDON, with that brave act you prevented the tragedy of suicide from befalling countless other families. I can think of no more profound example of strength and leadership than that.

Every Senator knows what a pleasure it is to work with GORDON. He believes we were sent here to find solutions, not confrontations. And for every day he has served in public office, finding solutions has been his goal.

GORDON, it has been a privilege to work with you these many years, and to spend time with you and your wife Sharon. America is a stronger Nation thanks to your dedication and spirit of public service. Please don't forget you have many friends here, and we all wish you well in your bright future.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. CANTWELL). The Senator from Oregon is recognized.

Mr. SMITH. Madam President, I thank my leader, MITCH MCCONNELL. Winston Churchill observed that ''Democracy is not always a polite employer.'' That is the case in my reelection effort. Yet I feel nothing but gratitude to the people of my State.

I acknowledge the wisdom of the people of Kentucky in your reelection and of the wisdom of my colleagues for electing you again as our leader. You are an articulate advocate for causes that I think are important for America not to forget in the coming days. It is one of the high privileges of my life that I have been able to serve with you as a friend and as a colleague.

I thank you and I thank my Senate family, without respect to party, for the help that was given to Sharon and me at the most painful time of our lives—to find additional meaning in the life of our son by helping the sons and daughters of others. I hope and pray that my Senate colleagues, while I am gone, will not forget those who struggle with mental illness. I am so proud of Senator DOMENICI, Senator KENNEDY, and others who championed mental health parity. It has been a privilege to be on their team in this cause. It is a silent cause. It is one that does not get a lot of ink or much attention because America is still opening its mind to this important area of medicine. But we have blazed a new trail, and much of it was because of your leadership, sir.

For the privilege of serving with you, of serving my State, of serving with these colleagues here, I thank God and I thank the State of Oregon and I say God bless America.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, may I just add a word to my friend from Oregon. He has had an extraordinarily successful tenure here. In my view, I would say to my friend from Oregon, you can always look back on these 12 years with a sense of accomplishment. You have been a major player in this institution on a variety of different, extremely important matters that will affect each generation to come. So on behalf of all of our Republican colleagues, and I am sure on behalf of everyone in the Senate, I thank you for your extraordinary service.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, before the Senator leaves the floor—I am sorry I had to leave, I was called away from my desk—I wanted to say through the Chair to my friend GORDON SMITH that I, of course, watched all the election results very closely. But my wife watched one election result, and that was yours, because of the longstanding relationship she has with you and Sharon. The record is very clear of our longstanding friendship and our having had a similar experience with our loved ones following suicide.

I am sorry I didn't have more time to maybe write something out that may have been more meaningful, but I hope the Senator from Oregon will always understand the affection, respect, and admiration I have not only for what

you did in your Senate service but for what you do in your personal life.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut is recognized.

Mr. DODD. Let me say as well, I don't have a prepared statement to make, either, but I want to tell my friend from Oregon how much I have enjoyed my work with him over the years on a number of very important issues dealing with the issue that the Senator can speak of not only with eloquence but with a great deal of passion, and that is the issue of mental illness. We were able to pass, in the waning days of our session, of course, the mental health parity bill. How important that was. PETE DOMENICI, TED KENNEDY, Paul Wellstone, and others worked on it, but GORDON SMITH was invaluable in that discussion.

I enjoyed immensely my work with him during his two terms in the Senate. I will say to my friend, the good Lord is not through with you yet. There are a lot of things you can do for our country. You have done a lot already. So I hope you come back often and see us and know you have friends who care about you and cherish you very much. Although there is an aisle here that separates us politically, the aisle doesn't exist when it comes to respect and admiration. In those terms, I am your seatmate in terms of my respect for you. I thank you for all you have done.

JOHN SUNUNU

Mr. MCCONNELL. I also rise today to say farewell to the Senator from New Hampshire, JOHN SUNUNU. Although JOHN is the youngest Senator, he is one of our brightest. A reporter once wrote that one of JOHN's fellow Senators said that if we were ever to lose JOHN, the rest of us would have to argue over who would be the smartest person in the Senate. But as long as we had JOHN around, there was no argument.

JOHN impressed people at a young age, earning both a bachelor's and master's degree in mechanical engineering from MIT and an MBA from Harvard. He received real-world experience working as an engineer in jobs I daresay few of our colleagues could try to explain, myself included.

Then one day a seat from New Hampshire in the House of Representatives opened up, and JOHN took a good long look at it. JOHN has never been the kind of man who felt he deserved a job on the public payroll. He did not crave the power and respect that came with holding office. Yet we are certainly thankful his great State has sent him here.

Now, 12 years later, I think we can say with confidence that New Hampshirites could not have had a more dedicated and principled public servant.

After 6 years of service in the House, New Hampshire sent JOHN to this Chamber in 2002. To reach the Senate, he had to face an incumbent Senator in the primary and then a sitting Governor in the general. Since then, JOHN has compiled a record of which every citizen of the Granite State can be proud.

A student of the free market, JOHN strongly believes lower taxes promote growth and expand opportunities. That is why he fought so hard to extend the ban on taxes to access the Internet. That tax ban was signed into law, and it protects consumers from taxes on Internet access, e-mail, and instant messaging for 7 years.

Just think, if online communications and commerce grow as rapidly over the next 7 years as they have over the past 7, JOHN's tax ban will not only have promoted economic growth, it will have spared countless small businesses and families from a tremendous burden. For that, he deserves all of our thanks.

JOHN's voice was one of the loudest to say that we must tackle tough issues now, such as entitlements and the future of Social Security. He stood up time and again, calling on Congress to reduce Government spending, expand telecommunications service to rural areas, and clean up air pollution.

He also learned firsthand the principle that has made America great, our commitment to personal freedom. It is what this country was founded on. JOHN understands what makes America work is not what we do in this Chamber but what millions of Americans do every day for their families and communities.

JOHN is a kind and compassionate man who is a joy to know. I remember well when the senior Senator from Pennsylvania underwent chemotherapy in 2005 as part of his treatment for Hodgkin's disease.

Like many chemotherapy recipients, the Senator from Pennsylvania's hair fell out. In a generous act of solidarity with his colleague, JOHN shaved his head. That certainly took more commitment than sending a get-well card. But that is JOHN SUNUNU.

JOHN, I am going to miss you. It has been an honor to work by your side over these past 6 years. It has been a joy to know you, your lovely wife Kitty, and your family.

I want them and you to know that we in the Senate admire the depth of your convictions and the strength of your heart. I am sure that whatever the future holds for you, you will be a huge success.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Hampshire is recognized.

Mr. SUNUNU. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for a few minutes in response to the very kind remarks of the Republican leader.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SUNUNU. First, it is probably appropriate for me to note that the haircut that I now sport is an echo of that summer a couple of years ago when I cut my hair, or cut all of my hair, in tribute to the sacrifice and the celebration of the final chemotherapy treatment of Senator SPECTER.

He underwent another round of chemo this past summer. In the middle of the campaign, I did not think it was appropriate to shave my head. So the day after the election, 2 weeks ago, I thought there was some pent-up demand in my own heart to remember those tough weeks for ARLEN SPECTER. So I was happy to go out and shave my head again. That is why it looks a little bit different than it might have during the campaign.

The Republican leader has been very kind in his remarks. And I cannot help but note that I am a little bit too young to have anyone paying tribute to my career, as it were, in public service. I believe very strongly that you go out, you find work that you love, a job that teaches you great things, and if you have some opportunity to serve your community, your State, your country in public service, then you think seriously about that opportunity.

That is how I came to the House and even my work in the Senate. I am going to have the opportunity to go back and do things that I find challenging being an engineer, coming out of a small business community. I know there are a lot of great challenges and opportunities that await. But I also know there may come another time when there is an opportunity to serve, and I will always take those opportunities very seriously.

On election night, whether you win or lose, you always thank the people who matter most to you. You thank your family, you thank the people of the State of New Hampshire who have been good enough to give you the privilege to serve, but you also thank the people who made your work possible in the Senate, your colleagues. I cannot think of any colleague who has been more supportive and more helpful to me over the 6 years I have been in the Senate than Senator MITCH MCCONNELL of Kentucky.

The Senator mentioned my work on the Internet tax ban, but the Senator from Kentucky did not mention his own work. This was a case where it helped to have someone with Senator MCCONNELL's leadership and experience because while I waited patiently in the midst of a reauthorization of the Amtrak bill, once we had the opportunity to offer amendments, I happened to be prepared with an amendment that would ban taxes on Internet access. And the leader from Kentucky just happened to be prepared with a motion to close debate on that amendment so we could finally get a vote.

While that procedure may sound very arcane to people who may be listening to the Senate debate at home, it was absolutely essential in bringing that issue to a successful completion. So only by working closely with the Senator from Kentucky were we able to get that work done on the Internet tax ban. And it is perhaps the work that I am most proud of. I think it is the work I have been able to do in the Senate that will probably have the most

lasting economic impact. It is important to leave behind a record that you are proud of, but it is also maybe even more important to leave behind many fond memories of that work, fond memories of colleagues with whom you were able to spend time and, of course, fond memories of the friendships you were able to form, both with members of your own party and with those on the other side of the aisle.

Perhaps what I am most proud of overall is that the pieces of legislation I was able to sponsor and pass, whether it was the Internet tax ban, civil liberties protection that we added under the PATRIOT Act, the Wilderness Act that protects 25,000 acres of the White Mountain National Forest, were all bipartisan pieces of legislation. That means a lot to me.

I think it will serve me well in any future endeavors I undertake in public service. I thank Senator MCCONNELL, the Republican leader.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, let me just say to my friend from New Hampshire, it has been a real privilege to serve with somebody of your intellect and ability. I know you are going to be a huge success. You have, as we discussed, a lot of your life left. I know you are going to be a huge success in the coming years, and I am looking forward to seeing more of you in the future.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

UNANIMOUS-CONSENT REQUEST—S. 3684

Ms. MIKULSKI. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of a bill I have at the desk which is the text of title VII of S. 3689 regarding the auto sales tax deduction, and further that the bill be read a third time and passed, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. SUNUNU. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Ms. MIKULSKI. It is my understanding I still have the floor?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator has the floor.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Boy, am I sorry that is the last act of JOHN SUNUNU in the Senate. I hope it is not the last thing. I feel so badly about people objecting to me bringing this up. Mine is a bipartisan bill that I thought maybe I would win, maybe I would lose, but at least we could bring it up and debate it and discuss it and vote on it.

My bill was a straight-forward bill. My bill was to help save jobs in the automobile industry, from manufacturing, sales to service, to the little people who are the bookkeepers in our communities.

My bill would give a tax deduction to someone who would buy a car in these 6 weeks and they would be able to take a deduction of interest and sales tax. The total cost of my bill was $8 billion. But the cost of not doing my bill is going to be horrific. It is going to be absolutely horrific. I cannot get over how these economic conservatives have their ostrich heads in the quicksand of our economy.

You know what is going to happen when our automobile industry goes down. Well, let them go. Well, I will tell you, we are going to lose $156 billion over the next 3 years in lost taxes, unemployment, and health care assistance.

We are facing the possibility that 3 million people could lose their jobs. But oh, no, we object. We object to debate. We object to discussion. We object to taking our ideas and putting them into the sunshine and being able to do what I thought you do in a democracy, vote ideas up or down.

If I lose my bill in a vote, that is the way democracy works. But to move it through a parliamentary maneuver of something called, ''I object,'' I object to the objection. I have no idea why anyone would object to bringing up an idea that has bipartisan support to see if we could stimulate demand in the automobile industry.

Well, I tell you what. Senator BARB MIKULSKI is not the only one who objects. The American people object. And that is what they did when they walked into that voting booth on November 4 and voted for change. They said: Yes, we can. They were objecting to what goes on in this institution and what has been going on in the White House for the last 8 years.

They said: I object. And they voted. They objected and then they voted. And they object by their vote. There is a reason a political tsunami hit this institution. It is because of this continual way of throwing sand in the gears of democracy. So they said: I object. That is what the people said.

So we can go through these parliamentary shenanigans. We can delay what we could do in the next 48 hours to get our economy going. But, oh, no.

We are going to do it. The question is, are we going to do it today or are we going to do it 8 weeks from today? The longer we wait, the deeper and more prolonged the recession will be. Right now we could begin to not only turn the page but begin to turn the economy around.

So those are the rules of the Senate. I signed up for the Senate, so I take the rules as they are. But I will tell you, I stand with the American people. I object. And I object to the objection. I am going to keep fighting this until we leave. It is my view we shouldn't leave until we pass legislation to get this economy going. If we cannot do it this week, come back next week because the real turkeys will not be in our oven. The real turkeys will be close at hand.

I yield the floor.

UNANIMOUS-CONSENT REQUEST—S. 3656

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I inform the Republican leader, I had arranged to do a unanimous-consent request when the Senator from Iowa could be on the floor.

I ask unanimous consent the Finance Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. 3656, the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration, the bill be read a third time and passed, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, I reserve the right to object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is recognized.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, throughout the years, the Committee on Finance has worked to safeguard and improve the programs under its jurisdiction, including the Medicare and Medicaid Programs. The Finance Committee has a unique expertise on these programs and is the only committee in a position to assess the possible effects of individual changes on all Social Security programs as a whole. Accordingly, it is essential that any legislative proposals impacting these programs be considered by the full Senate only after the Finance Committee conducts a thorough analysis of the issues involved and the potential solutions.

I would like to bring up one example of how this bill needs scrutiny. There is a provision buried in here that would allow California to escape its responsibilities to ensure that illegal aliens are not getting Medicaid benefits to which they are not entitled. Do the American people support giving Medicaid to illegal aliens? I don't think so. Simply bypassing the committee process with legislation on complex issues runs contrary to how this body should function. In fact, as my friend from New York is aware, Congress already had extensive debate and enacted a Medicare bill already earlier this year. That bill was authored by the chairman of the Finance Committee. So the Senate and the full Congress have already had extensive Medicare debate this year. The Senator from New York, as a member of the Finance Committee, had ample opportunity to raise the issues earlier this year that he now raises in a bill he wants to bring up right now. So regardless of the merits of the Senator's proposal, I believe that ship has set sail.

I have a more extensive statement on the provisions themselves. Some of them, I want the Senator from New York to understand, I actually support, and I oppose some, obviously. Perhaps we can work together on some of these issues where we agree, if the Senator is interested. Today, however, I am forced to object to the Senator's consent request.

Notwithstanding the significant jurisdictional and process issues I just

raised, I would also like to note that there are several provisions in the bill I strongly support. However, there are several provisions in this bill that I oppose at this time and do not believe the Finance Committee has given proper consideration through hearings and investigations.

One of the provisions in S. 3656 that I support would delay implementing provisions of a proposed CMS rule that would change conditions of participation for rural health clinics and decertify rural health clinics that are no longer in nonurbanized areas. It would also delay proposed changes to the existing payment methodology for rural health clinics and federally qualified health centers. While I am very concerned about the proposed CMS rule and its impact on rural health centers, RHCs, unfortunately I cannot support this legislation which is within the jurisdiction of the Finance Committee but which has not been given any consideration by the committee.

The CMS proposed rule would impose new location requirements for RHCs and require that clinics be located in a nonurbanized area, as defined by the U.S. Census Bureau, as well as meet shortage area designation requirements. Only new RHCs applying for the program are currently required to meet these criteria but the CMS proposal would extend these requirements to already certified RHCs. According to CMS, about 500 of the approximately 3,700 RHCs operating today may not meet these requirements.

Iowa is currently in the throes of a growing shortage of physicians, especially in the more rural areas of the State, due to inequitable geographic adjustments in physician payment that result in Iowa physicians receiving some of the lowest Medicare reimbursement in the country even though they provide some of the highest quality care. These geographic payment disparities, which discriminate against rural areas, have further exacerbated the problems of rural access to care.

The CMS proposed rule could have a severe adverse impact on a number of rural health clinics in Iowa, including many located in counties that have been declared disaster areas from the severe flooding Iowa suffered earlier this year. Rural clinics in Iowa also could be severely impacted by the CMS proposed payment changes since RHC costs in Iowa and other States are already higher than the existing Medicare reimbursement cap. If the CMS rule is finalized as proposed, rural health clinics in Iowa and elsewhere may be forced to close their doors, even though they have served rural populations very well for many years, leaving Iowa with fewer physicians and some patients with little access to primary care and other critical medical services.

This bill would prevent the application of a CMS policy to phase-out a payment adjustment for indirect medical education, IME, under the Medicare capital Inpatient Prospective Payment System, IPPS. Currently, teaching hospitals receive this upward payment adjustment under the capital IPPS. CMS announced in the fiscal year 2008, Medicare Hospital IPPS Final Rule that they would begin to phase out the IME adjustment for capital IPPS in fiscal year 2009.

As the former chair and currently the ranking member of the Senate Finance Committee, it has long been one of my priorities to ensure Medicare payments are both accurate and equitable. I question whether this bill would further this goal, which many of us share.

The appropriateness of the IME capital IPPS adjustment has been analyzed not only by CMS, but also the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission, MedPAC, which advises Congress on Medicare payment issues. CMS has documented relatively high and continued positive margins for teaching hospitals under the capital IPPS compared to nonteaching hospitals. In fact, from 1998 through 2006, teaching hospitals had an aggregate capital IPPS margin of 11.2 percent while nonteaching hospitals had an aggregate capital IPPS margin of −0.8 percent.

Based on these figures, many, including myself, question the appropriateness of this payment adjustment. This is a case in point of why legislative proposals such as this must first go through the committee process.

S. 3656 puts a moratorium on a CMS rule regarding Medicaid payments for hospital outpatient services. Early this year, Congress placed moratoriums on six other CMS Medicaid regulations. Just as I opposed those moratoriums, I strongly oppose this one as well. The Finance Committee has not held the first hearing as to why this action is necessary. We have not considered whether payments currently being made are not consistent with the statute. Medicaid is a critical program for children, pregnant women, the disabled, and the elderly. We have a responsibility to the people who depend on the program to make sure that funds are being appropriately spent. This moratorium is not consistent with that responsibility.

This bill also intervenes in a dispute by CMS and the State of California. The State of California has been seeking approval of an extension of their family planning waiver for 6 years. For 6 years, CMS has been pushing California to improve their collection of Social Security numbers and citizenship documentation for women enrolled in the program. This bill essentially requires CMS to approve of the extension of California's waiver without requiring California to do anything further to improve their process of ensuring people who receive benefits are actually eligible for those benefits.

I would also like to point out that a comprehensive Medicare bill written by the Chairman of the Finance Committee was passed by the Senate this summer. One can presume that the proposals in this bill were considered and rejected for inclusion in that Medicare bill.

I understand that legislation is often the art of compromise. We can't always get everything we want in every bill and keep everything we dislike out. It is a balance. However, I think both in terms of process and policy, this bill does not sufficiently achieve a balance I think is necessary and I must, therefore, object to its consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from New York.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I introduced this bill in October in response to overwhelming concerns New York health care providers have about three devastating health regulations that the Bush administration is pushing.

My bill would put a 6-month delay on the Medicare Hospital Capital IME payment policy to teaching hospitals, a 6-month delay on the now-final Medicaid Outpatient Clinic regulation, and a 6-month delay on the Medicare Hospice rule—three regulations that affect the heart and soul of our health care system—the facilities and health providers that take care of all Americans, rich or poor, rural or urban.

Given the urgent challenges we face in our economic health, now is not the time to be cutting hospitals or clinics that serve our physical health. We should be making health care more effective and efficient—not slashing reimbursement and running these providers out of business.

The new Medicare Hospital Capital Indirect Medical Education, IME, payment policy is a disaster for teaching hospitals. It went into effect on October 1 and will be fully implemented in 2010.

This new policy runs counter to what works in American medicine. The Medicare program has long served the public good by funding the training of new doctors in our academic medical centers and teaching hospitals, using IME payments.

Across the Nation in large and small communities there is a shortage of physicians—from primary care to surgeons. We rely on our Nation's academic medical centers, 13 of which are in my State, and teaching hospitals to train new physicians.

The new policy eliminates critical funding that supports teaching.

The total cost of this new policy to New York's teaching hospitals would be $62 million when it is fully implemented in 2010. The total for all U.S. hospitals is $380 million.

Let me illustrate what these cuts mean to New York hospitals: Albany Medical Center Hospital, $1.2 million; Kaleida Health in Buffalo, $1.3 million, Montefiore Medical Center, $3.7 million; Strong Memorial Hospital, $1.6 million; Stony Brook University Hospital, $1.6 million; Bassett Hospital in Cooperstown, $426,000; and Coney Island Hospital, $565,722.

These facilities are the same ones in my State who provide the lion's share of uncompensated care to the uninsured.

One of the hardest hit hospitals in my State is Mt. Sinai Medical Center in Manhattan. They stand to lose $4.1 million by 2010.

This lost funding means Mt. Sinai Medical Center will be forced to take cost cutting steps:

First, delay completion of their inpatient electronic medical record rollout; second, they won't be able to expand their already crowded emergency room that provides over 100,000 patient visits a year; and third, they will scale back many free medical screenings and other programs for patients.

These are not the actions we want hospitals to take.

Hospitals need our help. The Medicare Payment Advisory Commission, MedPAC—which is a nonpartisan group—has said that in 2006, hospitals' Medicare margins nationwide were in the red at negative 4.8 percent.

In New York in 2006, rural hospitals were hit the hardest by low Medicare reimbursements with even lower margins of negative 8.2 percent.

After 7 consecutive years of overall negative margins, the hospitals in my State did little better than break even in 2006. It doesn't make sense to me that we would gut a source of training for high-paying jobs in this country at a time when we are bleeding jobs.

This is not just a New York issue. In July, 51 Senators signed a bipartisan letter to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, CMS, that opposed implementation of the capital IME. We need to pass my bill so that these cuts don't hurt all U.S. hospitals.

Now I want to speak briefly about the Medicaid Outpatient Clinic Regulation that my bill places a 6-month moratorium on.

For months I fought with CMS about this regulation. Unfortunately, they finalized it last week.

But, I am pleased that in the final version free-standing health clinics were saved from massive cuts. There were many clinics in New York that were saved from either closing their doors or saying no to their patients.

I want to talk about Ed, a 62-year-old Buffalo resident, who can only move his head due to his cerebral palsy. With the help of a free-standing clinic in Buffalo, called Aspire, Ed learned to operate his power wheelchair with his chin.

Even more amazing he can operate a computer using his chin. Ed spent 5 years mastering desktop publishing and then formed his own successful business.

If free-standing clinics were included in the final regulation, Ed could not attend Aspire of WNY's wheelchair clinic, where physical, occupational and speech therapists customize all sorts of things for him. Without that service, Aspire tells me that he would be completely immobile and not as independent.

Let me discuss another New Yorker that the Buffalo-based Aspire Clinic helped. In 1998, Aspire wanted a woman named Alice to have a colonoscopy. When she did, it was revealed that she had colon cancer. But luckily they found it in time and she had surgery to remove the cancer and now, 10 years later, she is doing fine.

Alice is just one of hundreds of individuals who receive primary medical care through these essential primary care clinics.

Enable, a Syracuse agency that serves children and adults with disabilities, told my office that they would have to stop providing physical and occupational therapy to more than 300 clients on Medicaid if the Rule had included freestanding clinics.

I wish CMS hadn't made this regulation final, but at least it isn't as bad as it could be. We will know the extent of pain that other clinics and hospital outpatient services may face on December 8, when the rule must be implemented.

Therefore, I hope that the Senate will pass the PATH Act. As we have heard, there are just too many terrible cuts underway in health care, and we need to be doing all we can right now to stop the bleeding.

I understand my colleague has objected. That is unfortunate. To wait another 3 months or 6 months at a time when our economy is in such dire shape will do severe damage to health care throughout the country. In my State of New York, for instance, the new Medicare Hospital Capital Indirect Medical Education payment policy is a disaster for teaching hospitals. It runs counter to what works in American medicine. It affects large and small communities. We have a desperate shortage of physicians, from primary care to surgeons. The country relies on academic medical centers. This clobbers them at a time when it should not have happened. Many of us believe this regulation was not within the purview of CMS to enact. They went ahead and did it. I would hope that maybe my colleague will reconsider. We will return to this issue when we come back in January, but some damage, unfortunately, will be done.

I understand why my colleague has objected. I regret it. There was no time to move in the Finance Committee because this regulation didn't take effect until very recently, having many bad affects. I will work hard and not rest until we overturn the regulation.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNANIMOUS-CONSENT REQUEST—S. 3689

Mr. REID. Madam President, with the daunting challenges we face on our road to economic recovery—and that will come; it is a question of when—there is no reason to wait for a new year, a new Congress and a new President. We could vote now. We could take action now. We can't solve our economic challenges with one vote, but we could get started. So I say, why wait. Every day that goes by, thousands of Americans lose their jobs. Thousands of homes are lost. Scores of companies file for bankruptcy. So why don't we staunch the bleeding, stop some of the pain, and begin to turn things around? We have before the Senate a comprehensive economic stimulus plan worked out with the Appropriations Committee, the Finance Committee, and the Agriculture Committee, that we could pass and we should pass. I wish to express my appreciation to the members of the Appropriations, Finance, and Agriculture Committees. They have worked very hard to put this package together under the leadership of Senators BYRD, BAUCUS, and HARKIN.

What do I mean by ''comprehensive''? Instead of addressing just one part of our economic crisis, this legislation takes many steps that economists agree we need.

I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 1122, S. 3689; that the bill be read a third time, passed, and the motion to reconsider be laid on the table, and there be no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Arizona.

Mr. KYL. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. REID. Madam President, we have a matter on which the objection was made. I did not cover it all, of course, in that matter. We have significant things in that piece of legislation that were objected to dealing with infrastructure; unemployment benefits; FMAP, which is the matter to give some fiscal relief to our States; and it would give help to the auto industry. So this is the type of issue on which I wish we could move forward. I understand my colleagues. They are not going to accept this.

I think the provision we have dealing with taking the money out of the financial bailout that we have, that the White House has, the Treasury Department has—I have talked on the floor over the last 2 days about that. There is no need to belabor that point. But it is too bad we could not move forward on that basis.

It is my understanding Senators LEVIN and BOND are going to try to come up with some alternative proposal. When they come up with that, I would be happy to see if there is any way we can move procedurally. That is not going to be easy with what is going

on in the House and, actually, what is going on here. But I will confer with my counterpart, Senator MCCONNELL, and we will do what we can to move forward.

UNANIMOUS-CONSENT REQUESTS

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that we move forward on this bill, S. 3689—there is a provision in that dealing with what we call FMAP—that the FMAP provision be taken out, that it be considered as separate legislation, be read three times and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid on the table, and there be no intervening action or debate.

The reason that is so very important is that FMAP is something that every State—every State, all 50—is in desperate need of. No part of our country has proven immune from our economic struggles. We are all sharing the heavy burden of these difficult times. But few places are suffering, though, more than we are in Nevada.

Budget shortfalls in Nevada are causing deep cuts in bedrock programs the Government must provide, programs that help and protect children, senior citizens, and people with disabilities.

The State of Nevada has been forced to cap enrollment in Nevada Check-Up, our form of children's health insurance. The State recently had to institute cuts to provider reimbursement. What is worse, these cuts will not end here unless we act to provide fiscal relief by increasing the Federal Medical Assistance Percentage; that is, FMAP.

What are the consequences of inaction? It was reported in the media this weekend that due to the provider rate cut, University Medical Center in Las Vegas, our public hospital, is discontinuing outpatient cancer treatment. And that is not just for Medicaid patients, it is for all patients. It is not clear if all those patients will be able to afford chemotherapy elsewhere, but it is pretty clear they will not be able to.

Low-income children who need orthopedic treatment will have to leave Las Vegas altogether for services elsewhere. They will likely have to leave the State.

There is more to come. The cuts are not over. This is the way it is in many States around the country. The budget shortfalls are deep. When States have to cut provider reimbursement for some of the things I have outlined, they have real difficulties in making the safety net not be one that has big holes in it. States have found no choice but to look at cutting services such as mental health and cutting actual people from the program, adding to the ranks of the insured at the worst possible time.

We have been working in the Senate to provide help. The stimulus bill we introduced includes a temporary 8-percent FMAP increase to stave off these cuts. It will not fix the problem, but it may make a difference in ensuring that our children are not without the care they need. I hope we can take that step.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, reserving the right to object, this is a spending measure of $37.8 billion which has not been considered by the Finance Committee. We should be asking the States to pay it back. We should require the States to agree to not raise taxes. For all of those reasons, Madam President, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I have one final consent request on which I would like to move forward. This is the matter dealing with automobiles. We know the issue before this body. There have been speeches given the last several days about where the automobile industry is. We have watched on national TV the congressional hearings that have taken place on this side of the Capitol and on the other side of the Capitol. We need to try to figure out some way to move forward.

We believe the best way to move forward is taking the money, as I have indicated, out of the so-called TARP money. I do not believe we need the legislation. I think—well, I don't know. I have talked to Secretary Paulson twice today. He knows he has authority to take money out of that; he just does not want to do it.

So I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of a bill I have at the desk, which is the text of title VI of S. 3689 regarding automotive industry assistance; that the bill be read a third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid on the table, and there be no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. KYL. Madam President, reserving the right to object, the longer this legislation has been lying around, the more objections have been heard to it. So, yes, I do object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Missouri.

Mr. BOND. Madam President, the distinguished majority leader was kind enough to mention the fact that several of us on our side have been working with leading Members on his side of the aisle to come up with a compromise proposal that would come to the aid of the auto companies which are facing a very serious situation, without mentioning specific ones or others, but to say this is a critical time to move to prevent perhaps the bankruptcy or the disappearance of a major auto company, which would cause chaos in our country. Over 3 million jobs are related to the auto industry—from the auto assembly plants, to the auto dealerships, to the parts suppliers.

So we have been working on a bipartisan basis. On my side of the aisle, Senator VOINOVICH and I have been working with others on the Democratic side. We took the basic construct of the measure the majority leader had introduced. We took the money out of a previously passed bill, which would not cause as much concern down Pennsylvania Avenue, and we provide that the money will go back into that program as it is returned.

In my view, it is essential we work something out. I will tell the majority leader we have made great progress. We are down to the point now where wording challenges are about the only remaining things to deal with. I strongly believe it is in the interest of the country, particularly all of those families whose jobs depend upon the auto industry, and the States, the local governments, and the Federal Government to move something forward.

So I ask unanimous consent that at a time to be determined on Thursday, November 20, the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of a bill to be introduced by Senators BOND and VOINOVICH and others; I further ask that there be no amendments in order, with 2 hours of debate equally divided, and following the use or yielding back of the time, the bill be read a third time and the Senate proceed to a vote on passage, and that if there are not 60 votes in the affirmative, the bill be placed on the Senate calendar.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. REID. Reserving the right to object, Madam President, we have had no hearings. We have no text. I know my friend, Senator BOND, is a man of faith. I think I am too. But this is carrying it a little too far. We do not know anything about this. I look forward to a piece of legislation we can look at. Hopefully, it can be done tonight or tomorrow, and we will be happy to look at it.

I have had many conversations today and yesterday with the senior Senator from the State of Kentucky, Mr. MCCONNELL, and we understand the importance of this issue. We will try to work to move forward on it. But I want everyone to understand, no matter how hard we work, how hard we try, the House of Representatives is going home tomorrow. OK. They are leaving.

I understand the importance. But I would hope that in addition to understanding the importance, we have to face reality. The reality is, we have tried a number of different approaches.

I will be happy to look at the approach my friend from Missouri has. He is a hard-working Senator. I understand how hard he works. He is a real advocate for doing what he thinks is appropriate for his State and our country.

Senator LEVIN and I have had hours of conversation regarding this issue. Every conversation I have with him he mentions the name of the Senator from Missouri. So I understand what this is all about, but, recognizing we have had no hearings, we have no legislation, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that morning business be closed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Morning business is closed.

ADVANCING AMERICA'S PRIORITIES ACT—MOTION TO PROCEED

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to S. 3297.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask permission to withdraw the motion to proceed to S. 3297.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The motion is withdrawn.

UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION EXTENSION ACT OF 2008—MOTION TO PROCEED

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. Madam President, I now move to proceed to Calendar No. 1123, H.R. 6867, an act to provide for additional emergency unemployment compensation and, with that, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 1123, H.R. 6867, the Unemployment Compensation Extension Act of 2008.

Harry Reid, Max Baucus, Patrick J. Leahy, Bernard Sanders, Kent Conrad, E. Benjamin Nelson, John D. Rockefeller, IV, Dianne Feinstein, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Patty Murray, Richard Durbin, Sheldon Whitehouse, Barbara A. Mikulski, Barbara Boxer, Carl Levin, Daniel K. Akaka, Mark L. Pryor.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum required under rule XXII be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I appreciate the patience of all my colleagues.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Republican leader.

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I would ask my friend, the majority leader, now, if consent is not granted, this vote would be on Friday?

Mr. REID. That is right.

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I say to my friend, I will be working on my side to see if it is possible to move that vote forward to tomorrow. Hopefully, he will be doing the same.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I certainly think it would be appropriate if we can do that. I will do everything I can to move this forward.

I again say, Madam President, I appreciate the patience of everyone today. A lot of times we do not spend a lot of time here, but it is hard getting here. I appreciate it very much. And we were interrupted by the President of Bolivia.

I should say—and I am sorry I did not to my friend, Senator McCONNELL—if we do get cloture, then we could even do that, have a 60-vote threshold on that. And if that were done, we would be out of here as far as I know. So we will work together to see what we can get done. We will work to see what we can get done in the next 12 hours.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SUNUNU. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

AUTO MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY BAILOUT

Mr. SUNUNU. Mr. President, I rise to speak on the pending discussion and debate in the Senate about subsidies to the auto manufacturers and whether passing a large bailout subsidy package for the auto manufacturers is a good idea. Earlier this afternoon I objected to a unanimous consent request by Senator MIKULSKI and she responded to that objection by noting that she certainly hoped that objecting to a bailout package for auto manufacturers wasn't the last thing I did in the Senate, given that my term is going to be expiring and I am going to be retiring from the Senate. Well, it won't be the last thing I do. If nothing else, the last thing I will do is to explain why her legislation was such a terrible idea to the people of New Hampshire who elected me and to the American people whom I think I have an obligation to serve in making sure that their interests are protected, that their wallets are protected, and that we act with a commitment to fiscal responsibility.

We don't need to be providing subsidies, special benefits or protection to individual businesses, whether they are auto manufacturers or any other business. This is wrong for a large number of reasons. To be sure, no one is happy about the fact that our country is in a recession, that Europe is in a recession, that we have a global slowdown that will affect hundreds of thousands, if not millions, of lives across the United States and across the world. But by providing subsidies to the auto manufacturers, we do several things that are fundamentally wrong—bad for our economy, bad for taxpayers, bad for consumers.

First, quite frankly, we reward bad decisions that have been made by these firms themselves. The problems within the auto industry are largely the making of those in the auto industry: management choices, production of models that consumers choose not to buy, legacy costs, contracts, health care, pensions. We all understand that within the economic slowdown there has been a significant drop in the number of cars being manufactured, but these businesses were losing money well before the current downturn. By stepping forward now to provide them with $25 billion or $50 billion, depending on which piece of legislation we would be considering and voting on, we, quite frankly, would be taking money from taxpayers across the country and rewarding those poor decisions that have been made by the manufacturers themselves.

Second, this would set a bad precedent. There are many businesses across America that are dealing with tough times, a slowdown in their growth prospects. They have had to deal with layoffs. They have seen a significant slowdown in construction spending or consumer spending. It is affecting every corner of our economy. If we set the precedent of stepping forward with $25 billion in subsidies for auto manufacturers, every other business and industry in America would be looking for the same kind of treatment from the Federal Government. That is simply not in the taxpayers' interests. It is certainly not fair to the average taxpayer. It is not fair to those taxpayers who work for companies that won't get that kind of special treatment. Any time the Federal Government starts putting a significant amount of resources—$1 billion, $10 billion, $25 billion—into a particular firm or industry we distort the marketplace. So we would be rewarding bad decisions. We would be setting a bad precedent.

Finally, we would be placing taxpayers at even greater risk. We need to be honest about the impact of giving $25 billion to the auto manufacturers in order to sustain their unprofitable operations. Many observers have suggested that $25 billion isn't nearly enough, $50 billion probably isn't enough to stave off bankruptcy. So when these firms ultimately did have to file for bankruptcy or when the losses mounted over the next 6 months or 12 months or 18 months and the firms needed additional capital, where would they turn? Back to the taxpayer. So the expectation would be—and I think the likelihood would be—that the $25 billion or $50 billion provided today would simply be a downpayment on even greater losses and greater exposure to the taxpayers in the future.

Now, the proponents of this legislation have said a number of things. First and foremost, they have talked about the number of jobs that would be affected. No one relishes the idea of higher unemployment and job losses that have already begun in this current recession. But there are many businesses and industries across America that employ hundreds of thousands of people, that employ even more than the auto manufacturing segment. The

three largest technology-based firms in the country employ nearly twice as many people as the auto manufacturers. The three largest firms in the financial services industry employ hundreds of thousands more than the auto manufacturers do. These businesses and industries such as the auto manufacturers have their own customers and suppliers and vendors and contractors who would also be affected by the slowdown or by layoffs at those businesses.

We care about the auto manufacturers. We care about manufacturing. We care about every job in our economy, because each job is important to that worker, their family, and their dependents. But we can't be providing unique benefits, unique treatment to one business at the expense of others and at the expense of taxpayers.

A second argument that has been made is that since we passed a financial stabilization package a month ago, we should be willing to keep passing additional subsidy or bailout legislation. I think we need to understand that taking the action we took when the credit markets in the United States and across the world froze was action taken only with the greatest imaginable reluctance, and it was only taken to protect access to credit for a home loan or car loan, a small business loan that our economy needs to function every single day. Moreover, only action of the Federal Government—and the European governments as well—only that action could provide the capital or had the capacity to provide the capital necessary to enable those credit markets to function normally again. And they have begun to function more normally today.

Now, normal functioning of credit markets doesn't guarantee economic growth in this quarter or next quarter, but it does prevent a collapse of the credit system that our economy needs to operate on a daily basis.

So I think the arguments that there are jobs at stake in the auto industry is a false argument, because there are jobs at stake in every corner of our economy. The argument that an economic recovery package passed last month is justification for these kinds of subsidies to other manufacturers is mistaken as well, because that was legislation designed to protect every family, every business in America, given the unique crisis we have had in our credit markets.

Our economy is built on the idea of freedom, transparency, and entrepreneurship. I think we should never forget that. We have the freest economy in the world. If you look at the freest and most open economies in the world and compare them to their more heavily regulated counterparts, in every measure, free and open, transparent markets performed better than their more heavily regulated counterparts. I think there is a lesson here: that we should avoid Government intervention wherever possible. We should minimize the cost of regulation wherever possible. Of course, we should avoid legislation such as that being proposed for the auto manufacturers that would intervene and subsidize bad economics, poor performance, and bad management choices.

I hope this legislation will be dealt with in an appropriate way. I hope my colleagues will see the value in protecting the taxpayers by opposing this kind of intervention, this kind of unnecessary subsidy. A lot of people have made the observation that a failure to pass subsidy legislation would make bankruptcy for the auto manufacturers more likely, and that may well be the case. But the bankruptcy protection process is designed to allow firms, large and small, to reorganize, to restructure, to establish a better, more effective business model, a better system for producing the kinds of products customers want, for delivering the services our economy needs, improving efficiency and, in doing so, provide strong, well-paying jobs that are secure for as many of their employees as possible and for an employment base that suits the marketplace. But when you have a business model that has been proven to be as problematic as those of the large three auto manufacturers, sometimes bankruptcy protection is the best possible methodology for restructuring, reorganizing, and putting together a firm that is more competitive and stronger and healthier for the long term.

I appreciate the opportunity to speak on these issues. I think it is important that we protect our economy to the greatest extent possible by keeping taxes on capital low, by creating a Tax Code and a regulatory structure that encourages manufacturing and investment, that rewards entrepreneurship, but none of these things requires that we single out one firm or one business over another for a handout or a subsidy at the cost of the taxpayers.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. PRYOR). The Senator from Colorado is recognized.

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, what is the regular order of business?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate is considering the motion to proceed to H.R. 6867.

Mr. ALLARD. I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

IDENTITY THEFT

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, first, I wish to thank the Senator from New Hampshire who just spoke for his leadership in the Congress, and it has been a pleasure serving with him. I also will be retiring, but one of the people I will miss is JOHN SUNUNU from New Hampshire, because I think he has contributed a lot to the process.

I wish to also take a moment to bring to your attention and the attention of my colleagues an issue I have worked hard to address in legislation I proposed this Congress. The issue is identity theft. I was hopeful Congress would pass legislation that addresses the problem of unauthorized foreign workers stealing Social Security numbers and then using the numbers to obtain employment and then, eventually, accruing Social Security benefits.

Almost 2 years ago, I introduced S. 699. It is legislation that facilitated the sharing of existing information among government agencies in instances where the infrastructure, if shared, could expose cases of identity fraud. Unfortunately, my bill stalled in committee and has not since received further action. Congress's failure to enact such legislation is disappointing, because it has left in place existing law which is ineffectual in deterring unauthorized foreign workers from stealing the identity of citizens—that is Americans—and nationals. Individuals continue to engage in this activity in violation of our criminal laws as well as our immigration laws while also defrauding Social Security and citizens.

Identity theft continues to plague our country at an alarming rate.

If there was ever any doubt, let last week's discovery—in Weld County, Colorado—of 1,300 stolen Social Security numbers by illegal immigrants serve as a reminder of the pervasiveness of this problem. A single additional case of an unauthorized worker stealing a U.S. citizen's identity is one case too many, for it is well within the Federal Government's ability to stop this rampant problem. If my legislation had been enacted, the 1,300 illegal aliens using fraudulent Social Security numbers and resulting in more than $2.6 million in stolen tax dollars would have caught the attention of law enforcement much sooner.

Last week, after an intense and lengthy investigation by the Weld County Sheriff s Office, the Greeley Police Department, and District Attorney Ken Buck's office, a series of arrests began in a case that is far-reaching and has national implications.

What is upsetting is that Congress has had foresight about the devastating effects of identity theft. We have also been educated, notably by Secretary Chertoff, of the susceptibility for citizens' identities to be stolen by aliens that are in the United States illegally and without authorization to work. I introduced legislation that recognizes the compelling need to modify the law in order to allow our Government both to enforce immigration laws and also protect the victims of identity theft. Under the current law, by the time identity theft is discovered, the damage has already been done. For instance, an 84-year-old Grand Junction woman was deemed ineligible for Federal housing assistance because her Social Security number was being used at a variety of jobs in Denver, making her income too high to qualify. Several individuals had been using her I.D. number, and each individual's salary was then being reported to Social Security. As a result, her income was recorded much higher than

what she was receiving. If the discrepancy had been discovered earlier, before she had applied for her housing grants, there would have been an opportunity to address the disparity before she became a victim twice over.

What is incredible is that the Federal Government, specifically the Internal Revenue Service, is enabling this. Under current policy, the IRS is under no obligation to share information with other agencies upon the discovery of a Social Security number being used with multiple names or in the case where it is discovered that an individual has more than one person reporting earnings for him or her during a single tax year.

I propose to allow the Commissioner of Social Security to share information with the Secretary of Homeland Security, where such information is likely to assist in discovering identity theft, Social Security misuse or violations of immigration law. It is worth noting Secretary Chertoff supports my proposal, believing it is a practical solution that overcomes the current limitations on information sharing.

Despite the force of these arguments supporting legislation that tears down the wall that prevents the sharing of existing information among Government agencies, Congress has so far rejected Secretary Chertoff's call for a legislative solution.

The 1,300 cases of suspected stolen identities exposed in Weld County alone were brought to light after authorities discovered that an illegal immigrant accused of stealing and using a man's Social Security number to get jobs, loans, and other services, had also been filing and receiving tax returns from the Federal Government. It did not take long for investigators to come to the realization that this particular illegal immigrant's suspected use of stolen identity was not an isolated case. As it turns out, these 1,300 other illegal immigrants filed tax returns using the same tax preparer based in Greeley. This is one tax preparer handling 1,300 fraudulent returns. Take a moment and consider the 1,300 illegal aliens' tax returns, which yielded $2.6 million in tax refunds, were handled by a single tax preparer; now consider the number of tax preparers nationwide and the exorbitant amount of tax dollars—likely in the billions—distributed among illegal aliens using fraudulent Social Security numbers. The way our system works, the tax preparer is relieved of liability, absent reckless misrepresentation or a finding of exceptional negligence.

With whom should the liability lie? The obvious answer is the illegal alien guilty of stealing someone else's identity. But what happens to the helpless victim of the identity theft? Shouldn't our law protect the person who has had their identity compromised, and shouldn't our Federal agencies be required to communicate information about an individual's compromised identity before the individual is robbed of opportunities such as taking out a student loan, purchasing a home, or purchasing tools or equipment with a small business loan? Shouldn't we do all that we can to prevent law-abiding citizens falling victim to identity theft?

Occurrences of identity theft perpetrated by illegal immigrants have risen and will continue to rise as better systems are developed for verifying employment. Illegal immigrants will continue to assume the names and Government-issued ID numbers of American citizens in order to thwart detection at workplaces, get driver's licenses and obtain credit. Once a person takes a job in the U.S., one of the first things his employer will likely ask for is his Social Security number. The integrity of the immigration system depends on the genuineness of our efforts to protect citizens from immigrant-related identity fraud. Identity theft prevention and immigration enforcement will be greatly enhanced by legislation that permits the sharing of social security data among agencies.

The Weld County Tax I.D. case is just the tip of the iceberg. If more than 1,300 illegal immigrants can receive more than $2.6 million in tax refunds using stolen Social Security numbers in a community of 100,000 people, how many other cases exist throughout the country? It adds insult to injury that a legislative solution is easily within reach of Congress.

I know we have a lot on our plate this week, but I would ask the Senate to act to close this loophole.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

MORNING BUSINESS

TRIBUTE TO SENATORS

ELIZABETH DOLE

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, today I commend Senator ELIZABETH DOLE for her dedicated work on behalf of North Carolina in the Senate and her decades of service to our Nation. In the Senate she has worked hard to ensure our veterans and servicemembers receive the benefits they have more than earned. I was pleased to have her cosponsorship and support for my measure allowing servicemembers to terminate cell phone contracts free of penalties.

Senator DOLE has also demonstrated a commitment to solving the most difficult crises in Africa, particularly in Zimbabwe and Darfur. We both joined with Senator CLINTON and Senator LUGAR on legislation to assist Zimbabweans in their efforts to promote democracy and human rights in their country. I also welcomed Senator DOLE's support on a resolution condemning the recent flawed elections in Zimbabwe. Her voice in the Senate on these issues will be missed. I thank her for her service to the Senate and the people of North Carolina, and wish her all the best for the future.

GORDON SMITH

Mr. President, today I want to thank Senator GORDON SMITH for his service to the people of Oregon. During my time on the Senate Foreign Relations African Affairs Subcommittee I have watched Senator SMITH fight ardently for the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief that has saved countless lives around the globe. His leadership on legislation to fight HIV/AIDS and other diseases has been vital to our efforts to bring help to many African nations.

I also applaud his work to pass the Employment Non Discrimination Act, which I was also pleased to cosponsor. His efforts to end employment discrimination based on sexual orientation represent an important step toward ensuring equal rights for all Americans.

Finally, I want to recognize Senator SMITH's work on legislation to require health insurers to include mental health benefits in their health insurance coverage. This excellent example of bipartisan cooperation, the Paul Wellstone and Pete Domenici Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act, was made possible in part by the commitment of Senator SMITH to ensuring those suffering from mental illness have access to medical treatments that will improve their quality of life.

Once again, I thank GORDON SMITH for his dedication to the people of Oregon and the country while in the Senate, and I wish him all the best in the future.

JOHN SUNUNU

Mr. President, today I want to take a moment to recognize the service of Senator JOHN SUNUNU during his time here in the Senate. It has been a pleasure to work with him on a wide range of issues, from protecting the rights of law-abiding Americans to strengthening our foreign policy toward Africa.

Senator SUNUNU has made many important contributions during his time in this body, but his work to protect the constitutional rights of innocent Americans is certainly among the most important. He recognizes that our government can wage an effective fight against terrorism that still respects our basic freedoms. Senator SUNUNU has been a crucial voice on civil liberties issues like reforming the PATRIOT Act and keeping tabs on government data mining efforts. I am proud that we worked together on a number of bills. Most recently, we introduced legislation addressing the serious misuse of the FBI's national security letter authorities to obtain information about innocent people without judicial review. We also successfully passed legislation last year requiring Federal agencies to inform Congress about the use and development of the kind of government data mining technologies that raise the most serious privacy and efficacy concerns. I will miss his voice on these issues here in the Senate.

Finally, I want to recognize Senator SUNUNU's work on the Senate Foreign

Relations Committee's Africa Subcommittee. I had the privilege of working side by side with him when he was ranking member of that subcommittee, and I saw firsthand his commitment to ending devastating conflicts in Africa. I deeply appreciate his commitment to his work on Africa, and to so many other issues during his service in the Senate. I wish him all the best in the future.

PETE DOMENICI

Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, I wish to honor our distinguished colleague, PETE DOMENICI, who will be ending his historic Senate career at the end of this Congress. For the past 32 years it has been my privilege to serve with PETE DOMENICI in the Senate. During that time, he has epitomized devotion to public service and to his State of New Mexico. He will leave the Senate having cast more votes than all but six other Senators in the history of this body. He is the longest serving Senator in New Mexico's history, and he rightly occupies an iconic status in his home State.

PETE DOMENICI experienced a modest upbringing as the only son of first generation Italian immigrants. He secured his first job after college as a pitcher for the Albuquerque Dukes, then a farm team for the Brooklyn Dodgers. Following a stint as a teacher, PETE won a seat on the Albuquerque City Commission in 1966. The next year, we both became mayors of our respective cities: PETE served Albuquerque as I served Indianapolis. After 6 years in the Albuquerque City Hall, he became the first Republican to win a Senate seat from New Mexico in 38 years.

I entered the Senate in 1977, 4 years after PETE. By that time, he already was recognized as a leading Republican authority on the budget process. I looked to PETE as a mentor on the intricacies of the Federal budget, and he graciously tutored me on both substance and process. Year after year, as the lead Republican on the Budget Committee, PETE was indispensible as floor manager of the budget resolution. Frequently, when the Senate lost its way during a difficult budget debate, Senator DOMENICI functioned as a touchstone to bring the debate back to sober reflection and verifiable statistics. I doubt the Senate will ever experience a leader who has a more detailed command of the budget process and who could explain it with greater clarity.

It is telling that even though PETE derived much annual power from his roles as Budget chairman and Appropriations subcommittee chairman, this status did not dissuade him from proposing a reform idea that implicitly would reduce his opportunities to exercise this authority—namely a 2-year budget cycle. I have always been impressed by his embrace of this idea, and his endorsement influenced my own support for a 2-year budget process. Senator DOMENICI's advocacy went against standard expectations that Members of Congress will protect their own prerogatives even if their best judgment tells them that reforms are necessary. But PETE's service in the Senate was never based upon accruing personal authority or maximizing his notoriety.

I was extremely pleased that Senator DOMENICI's assiduous efforts over many years were recently brought to fruition with the passage and signature into law of the Mental Health Parity Act. PETE joined the late Senator Paul Wellstone in promoting this bipartisan legislation that will ensure that health plans make mental health treatment available for those in need. It will provide parity between health insurance coverage of mental health benefits and benefits for medical and surgical services and help avert the development of future physical problems that could arise from untreated and increasingly debilitating psychological illness.

I am especially sad to see PETE leave because he has been an outstanding partner in work to prevent nuclear proliferation and to improve response to attacks involving weapons of mass destruction. In concert with the efforts of Senator Sam Nunn and myself to establish the Nunn-Lugar Cooperative Threat Reduction Program at the Department of Defense—which is aimed at securing and destroying weapons of mass destruction in the former Soviet Union—Senator DOMENICI spearheaded the expansion of the Energy Department's involvement in safeguarding nuclear material. He also was an effective advocate for the role of our National Laboratories in nonproliferation work. Scientists from the National Laboratories have been on the frontlines of our engagement with the brain trust of the Soviet nuclear program. PETE understood the unique skill set possessed by our laboratories, and he made sure that they were well funded and authorized to implement numerous nonproliferation projects. Senator DOMENICI also joined with Senator Nunn and me to pass the Nunn-Lugar-Domenici Act of 1997. Long before September 11, 2001, this legislation was working to improve the capabilities of local and State first responders, especially with regard to weapons of mass destruction attacks. The experience, awareness, and structure established by this program have been valuable to our Nation's post-9/11 homeland security efforts.

The Senate will miss deeply Senator DOMENICI's experience displayed over 36 years. He will be remembered as a workhorse able to shoulder the daily burdens of a thousand details, but also as a thoughtful observer who saw beyond the politics of the moment to provide perspective on the direction of our country. I wish my good friend the best as he leaves the Senate to experience new adventures with his family.

CHUCK HAGEL

Mr. President, I wish to take this opportunity before the 110th Congress adjourns to honor our distinguished colleague and my good friend, CHUCK HAGEL, who will be leaving the Senate after 12 years of achievement.

Senator HAGEL has applied his estimable talents to many of the most critical areas of public policy. Throughout his time in the Senate he was a stalwart member of the Foreign Relations Committee, where he became one of the Senate's experts on international affairs.

Upon CHUCK HAGEL's arrival in the Senate in 1996, he had already distinguished himself in service to his country. He was decorated for his service as an infantryman in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam war; He went on to careers as a congressional staffer, a deputy administrator of the Veterans Administration, and a successful businessman.

When CHUCK came to the Senate, it was clear that his unique background would be an asset to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. I encouraged him to join the committee and was pleased that he did so. In the Senate, CHUCK embraced responsibility for U.S. national security as few Senators have in recent decades.

Senator HAGEL's years in the Senate will be remembered for his willingness to challenge conventional wisdom and his ability to see issues from multiple perspectives. He has been a determined advocate for an independent point of view, but also a good listener who has often forged compromises that benefited our Nation.

For the last 9 years, CHUCK has sat next to me through hundreds of Foreign Relations Committee hearings and meetings. I greatly enjoyed the opportunity to exchange ideas with him, to compare perspectives on our witnesses, and to develop common approaches to problems. He was always candid and thoughtful in both his public statements and his private advice.

He understands that the world's problems are our problems; that our economic health is tied to the prosperity of the rest of the industrialized world; that the cleanliness of our environment is deeply affected by the environments of those even beyond our continent; and that our access to global natural resources and energy supplies depends on maintaining stable conditions in some of the most volatile regions on Earth. In a ''Memo to the Candidates'' written last summer, he underscored the interconnected nature of our world, saying:

> America's long-term security interests are directly connected to alliances, coalitions, international institutions, and our standing in the world. The next President will have to reintroduce America to the world in order to regain its trust in our purpose as well as our power.

CHUCK contributed greatly in recent years to the committee's efforts to improve our Government's stabilization and reconstruction capacity, to elevate the priority of energy diplomacy, to facilitate NATO expansion, to reauthorize the PEPFAR program, to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass

destruction, and to safeguard the international environment.

I have greatly appreciated his personal friendship and thoughtful remembrances of events in my public and private life. My entire office benefited from his personal generosity in 2001 when the Senate endured the anthrax attack. My staff and I were displaced from our office for more than 3 months. Senator HAGEL stepped forward and offered us a large room in his suite in the Russell Senate Office Building, which became the nerve center of my Senate office while we were displaced. Senator HAGEL's thoughtfulness allowed us to continue operations during this difficult period.

I will greatly miss CHUCK's presence in the seat next to me at committee hearings, and I know that the Senate as a whole will miss his wisdom and well-deserved reputation for humor. But I have no doubts that he will encounter other opportunities to serve the United States. His counsel on foreign and defense policy will be sought out by Members of Congress and Presidential administrations for many years to come. I look forward to many insightful conversations with my friend and to witnessing all that he will achieve in the future.

JOHN WARNER

Mr. President, I am pleased to join with other Senators in honoring our distinguished colleague, JOHN WARNER, who will be retiring at the end of the 110th Congress. When he steps down, Senator WARNER will have the distinction of being the second longest serving Senator in Virginia's history. He stands as an example of the type of temperament, foresight, and dedication that the Founders envisioned when they created the Senate. For the past 30 years it has been my privilege to serve with JOHN WARNER. During that time, we have shared a common commitment to the national security of the United States. We have worked together on innumerable issues, and I have witnessed with admiration his strong character, his intellectual independence, and his unfailing devotion to public service.

Even before JOHN was elected to the United States Senate, he had distinguished himself in service to our country. He joined the U.S. Navy before his 18th birthday and went on to serve honorably in World War II. After college and before he was able to complete law school, he returned to the military as an Active Duty marine during the Korean conflict. After his service, JOHN came home to complete law school. Subsequently he worked as a Federal prosecutor and private lawyer. President Nixon appointed JOHN to be Under Secretary of the Navy, and he went on to be Secretary of the Navy from 1972 to 1974. When he was elected to the Senate in 1978, he was extremely well prepared to take on the role of a Senator and to contribute greatly to the national security of our Nation.

Senator WARNER has played a prominent role in almost every major Defense policy accomplishment of the last three decades. In the Senate, he has been a steadfast supporter of the well-being of the American soldier, sailor, and airman. I know that not a day goes by that he does not devote thought to how he can contribute to improving our Armed Forces and making our country more secure. It was a special pleasure for me to have chaired the Foreign Relations Committee during a 4-year period from 2003 to 2007 when JOHN was chairing the Armed Services Committee. I believe relations between the two committees became stronger during this time, as we cooperated closely on arms control matters, policies toward Iraq and Afghanistan, arms sales, and many other matters.

My friendship with JOHN has been strengthened by our mutual membership in the Beta Theta Pi Fraternity, and I was privileged to participate in the awarding of Beta's Oxford Cup to Senator WARNER in April 2008. The award ceremony and dinner took place in the Foreign Relations Committee hearing room, and this was a wonderful opportunity for us to share experiences with other Beta members.

It is difficult for me to imagine the Senate without JOHN WARNER. He loves this institution, and he derives great satisfaction from both its collegial nature and the daily opportunities Senators have to improve life in the United States.

Senator WARNER leaves the Senate after 30 years, having established a legion of friendships and a memorable legacy. We will miss his kindness, his steadiness, and his unfailing confidence in the United States. Even as we will miss seeing our friend every day, we know that JOHN will be blessed by the opportunity to spend more time with his family. I am sure that he will continue to serve the public, and I join the Senate in wishing him all the best as he moves on to new adventures.

PETE DOMENICI

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, the departure of Senator PETE DOMENICI will deprive the Senate of our foremost expert on energy and budget legislation, For 36 years, I have enjoyed and learned from PETE's frequent presentations in our Republican Senators' caucus meetings.

His chairmanship of the Budget Committee during the Reagan administration led to sensible economies in Federal spending which have not since been duplicated. If his comprehensive ideas on energy had been followed, the United States would long ago have shed its dependence on foreign oil.

Through it all, PETE has been a most congenial colleague. Always smiling, always helping, PETE has constantly been available to offer guidance to Members not as well-versed on his areas of specialty. Enormously popular in New Mexico, it is understandable why he is called ''Saint Pete.''

Senator DOMENICI came to my rescue when I was called upon to make the presentation at the Senate Wednesday prayer breakfast after I had been a member for a short period of time. I chose to talk about a new edition of the New Testament which had been published by a friend, Irwin Borowsky of Philadelphia. The text omitted all references which might have been interpreted to be critical of Jewish people in connection with the crucifixion.

I made the point that these references had caused young Jewish boys to be beaten up in some communities on Christian religious holidays motivated by the anti-Jewish comments in the Bible. My theme was sharply, really vehemently, opposed by some Senators at the breakfast. PETE DOMENICI then supported my contention reciting some of the barbs, insults and worse which had been inflicted on Italians.

When PETE told me of his plan to retire because he thought he was failing, I urged him to make a full disclosure of his medical condition to his constituents but to stay on. I told him of a conversation I had with Senator Paul Tsongas in 1984 when Tsongas had announced his intent to retire because he had lymphoma, as I recall it. Since the medical evidence suggested Paul might well serve out his term, I urged him to stay on, leaving the voters to decide after making full disclosure as to his medical condition. Paul Tsongas felt otherwise and elected to leave. He not only could have served his full term through 1990 but then became a candidate for the Democratic nomination for the Presidency in 1992. After telling him about the Tsongas situation, PETE stuck by his decision. In recent days, Senator DOMENICI has looked stronger than ever but I totally respect his decision, saying only that we will miss him very much.

JOHN WARNER

Senator JOHN WARNER's retirement is a great loss to the Senate. He brought to this body in 30 years of service wit, wisdom and gallantry. An old-style Southern gentleman, Senator WARNER held a unique position as the Senate squire. His experience in military matters going back to his sailor days in World War II, to Secretary of the Navy in 1972, and Chairmanship of the Armed Services Committee, made him a preeminent figure in the Department of Defense legislation. When Senator WARNER made a recommendation on defense matters, his word carried great weight.

Some of my fondest recollections of JOHN WARNER come from the squash court where we regularly engaged until he said his knees wouldn't take the twists or turns any longer although he continued to be an avid tennis player. In a squash match more than 20 years ago, I sustained a serious gash under my left eye requiring six stitches for closure. At that time, I had read about a Washington hockey player who sustained an eye injury but came back immediately to play with headgear and a

plastic cover over the face. I secured one the same day of my injury and was back on the squash court the next day.

JOHN claims responsibility, perhaps, credit for inflicting the wound. Memories fade after a couple of decades, but my recollection is that Senator Bob Packwood was the malefactor, although I never challenged JOHN's recitation because he seemed to enjoy it so much.

Some of our longest discussions occurred in the Senate gym where we would talk while awaiting our turn on the massage table. He would always say we came at about the same time although he was precise to assert his 2 years' seniority.

Senator WARNER was a help to me even before I became a Senator when he and his new bride, Elizabeth Taylor, were the star attractions at a fundraiser for me in New York City.

Senator George Mitchell tells an interesting story about Senator WARNER. Senator Mitchell recalls a filibuster where cots were set up in the Senate Marble Room where Mitchell was feeling sorry for himself about giving up a lifetime appointment as a Federal judge then becoming a Senator and wasn't too happy about the all-night sessions. As George put it, he was stumbling his way through the cots during the 1980 filibuster all-nighter when he stumbled across newly wed JOHN WARNER snoring on one of the cots. George commented that JOHN was giving up more than he was so it wasn't so bad after all.

My speculation is that Senator WARNER will be called back for more public service because he still has a lot of vim, vigor and vitality, but we will sorely miss him in the Senate.

LARRY CRAIG

LARRY CRAIG has made significant contributions to the Senate during his three terms. He has been a leader on energy, agriculture policy and veterans affairs. During the debate on immigration, he was a forceful spokesman for a guest farm workers program. When we next take up important subjects, his leadership will be missed,

I worked with him closely on veterans affairs where he chaired that committee after I moved from chairman there to chair the Judiciary Committee. His leadership on a Codel to the World War II battlefields in France over Memorial Day 2006 was particularly noteworthy. Our visits to U.S. cemeteries in France and inspection of the Normandy beaches were memorable.

I was glad to see LARRY finish out his full third term after the incident at the Minneapolis airport. When I heard the recording of the police officer's questioning him, I immediately thought that there was insufficient evidence of wrongful conduct. I heard the reports that he planned to resign at the end of September 2006 and called him to suggest that he modify his public statement to allow for reconsideration of that decision. He did so, and as the record shows, his legal challenges well within his rights, enabled him to stay through the conclusion of the 110th Congress.

Since that event, he has weathered the storm, conducted himself with dignity on his official duties and made a real contribution to the Senate. It was definitely in the interests of his Idaho constituents and the Senate for him to stay on and complete his term.

CHUCK HAGEL

Senator CHUCK HAGEL's intellectualism and independence will be sorely missed in the Senate. CHUCK HAGEL's service in Vietnam, where he earned military decorations and honors including two Purple Hearts, has given him special standing on key defense issues. With that background, he enjoys a sort of immunity from a charge of being soft on defense and his views are more closely followed.

Senator HAGEL will be especially missed by the few Republican moderates who were encouraged by his independence.

My sense is that CHUCK HAGEL will stay in public life in one form or another, but I would have preferred to have seen him stay in the Senate to promote the resurgence of moderation within the Republican ranks and bipartisanship extending across the aisle for important legislation.

WAYNE ALLARD

The Senate Appropriations Committee, as well as the Senate generally, will miss Senator WAYNE ALLARD. WAYNE has been a strong voice for fiscal responsibility. His background as a veterinarian has provided an interesting dimension beyond members who have legal, business, or academic backgrounds.

Senator ALLARD has led by example, demonstrating his frugality by returning more than $4 million in unspent office funds to the U.S. Treasury since being elected to Congress. In retiring after two terms, he has stuck by his commitment on term limits. My personal preference would have been for WAYNE to stay on because, building on his experience, he would have made additional significant contributions to the benefit of his State, Colorado, and the Nation.

GORDON SMITH

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, when a departing colleague has been a strong working partner as well as a friend, saying good-bye is not easy. I have had the pleasure of serving on several committees with GORDON SMITH over the course of his career. We have sat across the dais from each other at the Budget Committee, the Indian Affairs Committee, and the Finance Committee.

I am proud of what Senator SMITH and I have been able to accomplish in promoting savings and capital preservation for people in their retirement years. He recognized a long time ago that the sooner workers begin saving for retirement—and the longer they sustain that commitment—the better off they and their families will be when they have to depend on those savings.

The successes we enjoyed in getting some of our ideas included in the Pension Protection Act of 2006 led to more ambitious proposals to address the special retirement savings and income needs of women and older workers. And GORDON SMITH was the first to join the effort to promote lifetime income instruments as a response to longevity advances, which constitute the greatest threat to the retirement income security of the baby boom generation.

In view of the economic situation the country now faces, the efforts that Senator SMITH and I began must continue. I sincerely regret that he will not be my primary partner on this agenda in the 111th Congress. I certainly hope that he will continue to use his influence and intelligence to keep the focus on this clear national priority.

Finally, I want to salute Senator SMITH for the character of his service to his State, this body, and to the Nation. He is the kind of deliberate, open-minded, and thoughtful public servant the Founders must have had in mind when they conceived the Senate. We will truly miss this distinguished gentleman from Oregon.

ELIZABETH DOLE

Mr. President, I rise today to acknowledge my colleague from North Carolina, Senator ELIZABETH DOLE, who will be leaving this body after serving the people of North Carolina for the past 6 years.

Senator DOLE and I have had the opportunity to work together on various issues important to the future of our nation. Senator DOLE has been a strong advocate for the interests of not only her State, but the U.S. in general.

For example, just recently, Senator DOLE and I worked together to pursue a more sustainable energy policy for our country. One of our goals was to transition new vehicles to an alternative source of energy by 2020 and reduce our dependence on foreign oil. This commitment to improving the nation is what defined Senator DOLE's tenure in the Senate.

Senator DOLE has also been active on agricultural issues. Because both of our States have a strong agricultural sector in our economy, this issue is very important to our constituents. From her time on the Senate Agricultural Committee early in her Senate career through the farm bill recently, Senator DOLE has consistently looked out for the North Carolina farming community and the farming industry itself.

Senator DOLE has had a long career of public service. She served as Secretary of Transportation under President Reagan and Secretary of Labor under President George H.W. Bush. This gave her the distinction of being the first woman to serve in two different Cabinet positions during two different administrations. She also served as the president of the American Red Cross, heading one of the largest humanitarian organizations in the world.

This list of accomplishments underscores Senator DOLE's commitment to serving the public at large.

Again, I have appreciated the opportunity to work with Senator DOLE and wish her well as she leaves the Senate.

BUDGET SCOREKEEPING REPORT

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I rise to submit to the Senate the budget scorekeeping report for fiscal year 2008 prepared by the Congressional Budget Office pursuant to section 308(b) and in aid of section 311 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, as amended. This is my final report for fiscal year 2008.

This report shows the effects of congressional action through October 1, 2008. Since my last report, dated September 12, 2008, the Congress has cleared and the President has signed P.L. 110–329, the Consolidated Security, Disaster Assistance, and Continuing Appropriations Act, 2009. The estimates of budget authority, outlays, and revenues used in this report are consistent with the technical and economic assumptions of S. Con. Res. 70, the 2009 budget resolution.

The estimates show that current level spending is below the budget resolution by $5.2 billion for budget authority and $2.4 billion for outlays while current level revenues are above the budget resolution by $3 billion.

I ask unanimous consent that the letter and accompanying tables from CBO be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

U.S. CONGRESS,
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,
Washington, DC, November 19, 2008.

Hon. KENT CONRAD,
Chairman, Committee on the Budget,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The enclosed report shows the effects of Congressional action on the fiscal year 2009 budget and is current through October 1, 2008. This report is submitted under section 308(b) and in aid of section 311 of the Congressional Budget Act, as amended.

The estimates of budget authority, outlays, and revenues are consistent with the technical and economic assumptions of S. Con. Res. 70, the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2009, as approved by the Senate and the House of Representatives.

Since my last letter, dated September 11, 2008, the Congress has cleared and the President has signed the Consolidated Security, Disaster Assistance, and Continuing Appropriations Act, 2009 (Public Law 110–329). Division B of the act provided $22.9 billion for disaster relief and recovery for 2008; the entire amount was designated as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 204(a) of S. Con. Res. 21. Amounts so designated are exempt from enforcement of the budget resolution. As a result, the enclosed current level report excludes these amounts (see footnote 2 of Table 2 of the report).

Sincerely,

ROBERT A. SUNSHINE
(For Peter R. Orszag, Director).

Enclosure.

TABLE 1.—SENATE CURRENT LEVEL REPORT FOR SPENDING AND REVENUES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2008, AS OF OCTOBER 1, 2008

[In billions of dollars]

	Budget resolution [1]	Current level [2]	Current level over/under (−) resolution
ON-BUDGET			
Budget Authority	2,456.2	2,451.0	−5.2
Outlays	2,437.8	2,435.3	−2.4
Revenues	1,875.4	1,878.4	3.0
OFF-BUDGET			
Social Security Outlays [3]	463.7	463.7	0.0
Social Security Revenues	666.7	666.7	0.0

[1] S. Con. Res. 70, the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2009, assumed $108.1 billion in budget authority and $28.9 billion in outlays for overseas deployment and related activities. The Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2008 (P.L. 110–252) designated funding for these activities as an emergency requirement, pursuant to section 204(a) of S. Con. Res. 21, the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2008. Such emergency amounts are exempt from the enforcement of S. Con. Res. 70. Since current level totals exclude the emergency requirements enacted in P.L. 110–252 (see footnote 2 of table 2), budget authority and outlay totals specified in S. Con. Res. 70 have also been reduced for purposes of comparison.

[2] Current level is the estimated effect on revenue and spending of all legislation, excluding amounts designated as emergency requirements (see footnote 2 of table 2), that the Congress has enacted or sent to the President for his approval. In addition, full-year funding estimates under current law are included for entitlement and mandatory programs requiring annual appropriations, even if the appropriations have not been made.

[3] Excludes administrative expenses of the Social Security Administration, which are off-budget, but are appropriated annually.

SOURCE: Congressional Budget Office.

TABLE 2.—SUPPORTING DETAIL FOR THE CURRENT LEVEL REPORT FOR ON-BUDGET SPENDING AND REVENUES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2008, AS OF OCTOBER 1, 2008

[In millions of dollars]

	Budget authority	Outlays	Revenues
Previously Enacted [1]			
Revenues	n.a.	n.a.	1,879,400
Permanents and other spending legislation	1,441,010	1,394,887	n.a.
Appropriation legislation	1,604,649	1,635,118	n.a.
Offsetting receipts	−596,805	−596,805	n.a.
Total, Previously enacted	2,448,854	2,433,200	1,879,400
Enacted this session:			
Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2008 (P.L. 110–252) [2]	0	7	0
Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act of 2008 (P.L. 110–275)	1,942	1,924	1
Housing and Economic Recovery Act of 2008 (P.L. 110–289) [2]	203	203	−968
Higher Education Opportunity Act (P.L. 110–315)	−10	0	0
	2,135	2,134	−967
Total Current Level [2 3 4]	2,450,989	2,435,334	1,878,433
Total Budget Resolution [5]	2,564,237	2,466,678	1,875,401
Adjustment to the budget resolution for emergency requirements [6]	−108,056	−28,901	n.a.
Adjusted Budget Resolution	2,456,181	2,437,777	1,875,401
Current Level Over Budget Resolution	n.a.	n.a.	3,032
Current Level Under Budget Resolution	5,192	2,443	n.a.

SOURCE: Congressional Budget Office.

Note: n.a. = not applicable; P.L. = Public Law.

[1] Includes the following acts that affect budget authority, outlays, or revenues, and were cleared by the Congress during this session, but before the adoption of S. Con. Res. 70, the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2009: National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (P.L. 110–181), Economic Stimulus Act of 2008 (P.L. 110–185), Andean Trade Preference Extension Act of 2008 (P.L. 110–191), Ensuring Continued Access to Student Loans Act of 2008 (P.L. 110–227), Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2008 (P.L. 110–229), Strategic Petroleum Reserve Fill Suspension and Consumer Protection Act of 2008 (P.L. 110–232), Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (P.L. 110–234), SAFETEA-LU Technical Corrections Act of 2008 (P.L. 110–244), and Heroes Earnings Assistance and Relief Act of 2008 (P.L. 110–245).

[2] Pursuant to section 204(a) of S. Con. Res. 21, the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2008, provisions designated as emergency requirements are exempt from enforcement of the budget resolution. The amounts so designated for fiscal year 2008, which are not included in the current level total, are as follows:

	Budget authority	Outlays	Revenues
Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2008 (P.L. 110–252)	115,808	35,350	n.a.
Housing and Economic Recovery Act of 2008 (P.L. 110–289)	4,106	187	n.a.
Consolidated Security, Disaster Assistance, and Continuing Appropriations Act, 2009 (P.L. 110–329)	22,859	0	n.a.
	142,773	35,537	n.a.

[3] For purposes of enforcing section 311 of the Congressional Budget Act in the Senate, the budget resolution does not include budget authority, outlays, or revenues for off-budget amounts. As a result, current level excludes these items.

[4] The scoring for P.L. 110–318, an act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to restore the Highway Trust Fund, does not change current level totals. P.L. 110–318 appropriated approximately $8 billion to the Highway Trust Fund. The enactment of this bill followed an announcement by the Secretary of Transportation on September 5, 2008, of an interim policy to slow down payments to states from the Highway Trust Fund. The Congressional Budget Office estimates that P.L. 110–318 will reverse this policy and restore payments to states at levels already assumed in current level. Thus, no change is required.

[5] Periodically, the Senate Committee on the Budget revises the totals in S. Con. Res. 70, pursuant to various provisions of the resolution:

	Budget authority	Outlays	Revenues
Original Budget Resolution	2,563,262	2,465,711	1,875,392
Revisions:			
For the Strategic Petroleum Reserve Fill Suspension and Consumer Protection Act of 2008 (SPR Act) (section 323(d))	−950	−950	0
For the Heroes Earnings Assistance and Relief Tax Act of 2008 (Heroes Act) (section 323(d))	0	0	8
For adjustment to debt service for the SPR and Heroes acts (section 323(d))	−7	−7	0
For the Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act of 2008 (sections 221(f) and 227)	1,942	1,924	1
For the Higher Education Opportunity Act (section 222)	−10	0	0

	Budget authority	Outlays	Revenues
Revised Budget Resolution	2,564,237	2,466,678	1,875,401

[6] S. Con. Res. 70 assumed $108,056 million in budget authority and $28,901 million in outlays for overseas deployment and related activities. The Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2008 (P.L. 110–252) designated funding for these activities as an emergency requirement, pursuant to 'section 204(a) of S. Con. Res. 21. Such emergency amounts are exempt from the enforcement of S. Con. Res. 70. Since current level totals exclude the emergency requirements enacted in P.L. 110–252 (see footnote 2), budget authority and outlay totals specified in S. Con. Res. 70 have been reduced for purposes of comparison.

SOURCE: Congressional Budget Office.

Note: n.a. = not applicable; P.L. = Public Law.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

CORPORAL SCOTT DIMOND

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Cpl Scott Dimond of Franklin, NH. On Monday, October 13, 2008, Corporal Dimond was tragically taken from us when his vehicle struck an improvised explosive device and his patrol was engaged in small-arms attack in Kandahar, Afghanistan. My deepest sympathy, condolences, and prayers go out to Scott's family and loved ones who have suffered this grievous loss. At 39 nine years old, Scott will always be remembered as a dedicated citizen who consistently put others before himself.

Scott enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps during his senior year in high school but was medically discharged after a serious football injury. Still determined to serve his fellow citizens, Scott began a career in law enforcement. He served 18 years with the Franklin Police Department, retiring in 2006 as a sergeant. Upon his retirement, Scott's unwavering determination to serve others remained. He enlisted in the New Hampshire National Guard while working toward a degree as a registered nurse, enabling Scott to assist others in a new way—the health care profession. To any observer, Scott's professional pursuits will forever echo selflessness, sacrifice, and patriotism, and for that, we are eternally grateful.

As a member of an embedded tactical training team, there is no doubt that Scott's law enforcement background and his willingness to help others successfully contributed to the mentoring and strengthening of the Afghan army and police force, accelerating the eventual return of American military personnel from the battlefield. Consistent with the rest of his life, Scott routinely put his country and his fellow soldiers before himself. Because of his devotion and sense of duty, the safety and liberty of countless Americans is more secure. Unquestionably, Scott is a shining example of the highest caliber of person that New Hampshire, and this country, can produce. We are honored to speak of his contributions, spirit, and dedication. In the words of Daniel Webster—''what a man does for others, not what they do for him, gives him immortality.'' May God bless Cpl Scott Dimond, his family, and all those who are currently serving in uniform.

PROTECTIVE FORESTS AND WILDLIFE IN SUMATRA

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I want to take a moment to call attention to the recent action of the Government of Indonesia to preserve the endangered rain forests an ecosystems of Sumatra.

On October 10, 2008, the Indonesian Government, in cooperation with the World Wildlife Fund, WWF, announced an agreement between the 10 provincial governors of Sumatra to protect biodiversity on the world's sixth largest island. Although long overdue, this is an important first step towards conservation of a unique habitat at a critical time.

Sumatra is the only place on Earth where tigers, elephants, rhinos, and orangutans co-exist. It has also gained a reputation for having lost almost half of its natural forest cover since 1985. The rapid expansion of palm oil and pulpwood plantations, as well as rampant illegal logging, have been largely to blame. These activities have contributed to the precipitous decline in numbers of these endangered species, whose habitat has become a patchwork of disconnected small parcels of forest.

This action to protect the forests is important not only for Indonesia but for the rest of the world. Thirteen percent of Indonesia's remaining forests grow on peat soil, which emits large amounts of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere when trees are felled. Further destruction of these forests will contribute to global warming at a time when we should be doing everything possible to reduce greenhouse gases.

This agreement represents a significant change of attitude and policy, for which President Yudhoyono and his government deserve credit. Implementing the agreement will be difficult, requiring additional resources for alternative economic opportunities for people living in these areas, and for enforcement, and I urge the U.S. Agency for International Development and other donors to support it.

MILLENNIUM CHALLENGE CORPORATION

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, as Chairman of the State and Foreign Operations Subcommittee, I want to take a moment to speak about the budget of the Millennium Challenge Corporation, MCC.

The fiscal year 2009 State and Foreign Operations bill, reported by the Appropriations Committee on July 18, 2008, recommends $254 million for the MCC. Since this is substantially less than the $2 billion requested by the President, it was predictable that the Senate committee's action would cause concerns among the MCC and many of its supporters, as well as governments that seek MCC funding. Those concerns have been expressed and I want to address them briefly today. While differences are inevitable in the legislative process, it is important that such differences not be based on a misunderstanding or confusion about the facts.

During the past several months, I have heard that some of those who have complained about the Senate committee's action have suggested that it was motivated by an antipathy towards the MCC and a desire to close it down or dramatically curtail its functions. That is incorrect.

To begin with, we have commended the MCC for what it has accomplished since its inception 4 years ago. Several compacts are beginning to show tangible results, including the implementation of agriculture, infrastructure and other projects. Ambassador John Danilovich, the MCC's CEO, has been a strong leader at a critical time, and I commend him as well as deputy CEO Rodney Bent. They have both done a fine job of representing the MCC, both here and abroad.

Earlier this year, when the subcommittee was dividing up funds allocated to State and Foreign Operations, we faced many difficult choices. Our fiscal year 2009 allocation was $2 billion below the President's budget request, and the President underfunded or failed to fund many critical programs of interest to both Democrats and Republicans. For example, he cut funding for family planning/reproductive health by over $100 million below the fiscal year 2008 level. He cut the U.S. contribution to the global fund to fight AIDS, TB and malaria by $350 million. He shortchanged humanitarian relief programs, peacekeeping, democracy programs, environment and energy programs. There are many other examples.

We also considered the fact that Congress had appropriated $7.5 billion for the MCC, and by July 18 only $235 million had been disbursed of which a significant portion was for administrative expenses. While we made clear that we were not advocating faster disbursements, we do not support additional compacts until more of the funds we have already appropriated produce sustainable results.

Many compacts were slow getting off of the ground, in some cases because the MCC rightly insisted that governments make further refinements, or because the contracting process took longer than expected. These kinds of delays are predictable and do not reflect poorly on the MCC. Unfortunately, I have heard that some MCC personnel in country are being urged to disburse funds more quickly. As we have said before, this is not our intent, particularly if it risks short-cutting procurement guidelines or other safeguards, or otherwise negatively affects the quality of implementation of compacts.

I do not know what the optimal rate of disbursement is for the MCC. It may be disbursing funds at the right rate.

By pointing out the rate of disbursement the committee has simply sought to explain why, in part, we are unable to support hundreds of millions of dollars for new compacts when compacts that are several years old have only disbursed a fraction of their funds. More time is required to review the effectiveness of the 18 compacts that already exist. I am told that the MCC's board of directors will meet in December to discuss which additional countries will be eligible to apply for compact funding in fiscal year 2009. Since we will not have a final fiscal year 2009 funding level for the MCC until late January at the earliest, I urge board members to act judiciously and to keep in mind that eligibility does not assure that a compact will be funded.

The many competing demands placed on the State and Foreign Operations Appropriations bill will only increase over the next few years, given the global financial crisis, which will have direct and indirect consequences for the world's poorest countries. We also expect to be asked to increase funding for international HIV/AIDS programs due to the recent PEPFAR reauthorization.

The MCC is a new and innovative form of assistance, and we want it to succeed. I was involved in drafting the authorizing legislation that established the MCC, and I have said many times that I strongly support the concept of providing governments with incentives to combat corruption, improve governance, and address the basic needs of their people. If the MCC shows that it can achieve the results we all want, it could become a model for other forms of foreign assistance.

But we cannot ignore other pressing short-term and long-term needs. Some have claimed that not providing another billion dollars for the MCC in fiscal year 2009 will delay progress toward long-term development goals. I would argue that funding to address the acute personnel shortages at the Department of State and USAID, which the President's budget largely ignores, is a priority for effective U.S. diplomacy and development assistance programs now and in the future.

It is also notable that a number of governments that were awarded compacts are not performing as expected. According to the 2009 Country Scorecard Index, 5 of the 8 MCC lower middle income countries that have compacts have failed 8 of 17 indicators. Similarly, with the reports of systemic voter fraud in the recent Nicaraguan elections, I am concerned that President Ortega's government may have jeopardized the MCC compact in that country.

The future of the MCC is now up to the Obama administration, and I expect President-elect Obama will explore all options for how the MCC should by managed and implemented, as he will for other Federal programs. However, before major adjustments, if any, take place, Congress has to finish the remaining fiscal year 2009 spending bills.

Senator GREGG and I will be working with our colleagues in the House. There are several areas in the State and Foreign Operations bill where the Senate and House positions differ, and the MCC is one obvious example. Until then, I would encourage those who care about the MCC, as many of us do, to focus on ensuring that funds already appropriated are used effectively.

TRIBUTE TO BOB MILLER

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the great achievements of a wonderful Vermont businessman, Bob Miller, president of R.E.M. Development Company in Williston.

Bobby started R.E.M. Development in 1984, and over the last quarter century, the company has grown to become one of Vermont's largest commercial real estate developers. While it is hard to travel around Vermont without running into one of Bobby's projects, his lifelong commitment to bettering his community is both admirable and commendable.

Bobby recently received two special awards for his outstanding business practices and devotion to the community. Citing ''their determination, success, and philanthropy,'' the Lake Champlain Regional Chamber of Commerce honored R.E.M. Development as its 2008 Large Business of the Year. In addition, saying that Bobby ''typifies the true spirit of service and self-sacrifice in representing the finest ideals of Vermont citizenship,'' the Vermont Chamber of Commerce presented him with its 2008 Citizen of the Year Award. I congratulate Bobby and R.E.M. Development for both of these well-deserved achievements.

I ask unanimous consent to have a November 17, 2008, Burlington Free Press article about Bobby Miller's successful career printed in the RECORD so all Senators can read about a prosperous Vermont businessman who continually gives back to his community.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Burlington Free Press, Monday, Nov. 17, 2008]

MILLER IS A BUILDER AND A GIVER

(By Adam Silverman)

WILLISTON.—Just about anybody can create and run a thriving business when times are good. When the economic outlook is gloomier, though, success requires more careful planning and management.

That's both a piece of advice from and a guiding philosophy for Bob Miller, president of Williston-based R.E.M Development Co., a 24-year-old company that builds and leases commercial real estate. Even with recession fears spreading, Miller said business is flourishing.

''There is always demand,'' he said last week while sitting behind his granite-topped desk at an industrial park he owns on Avenue D. ''I don't think there's a good time or a bad time to go into business. Either you have a business plan that's going to work, or it's not. Anyone can make it in good times.''

Outside, cars, trucks, big rigs and package-delivery vans frequented the businesses that rent space in his buildings. The park represents just a fraction of the 2 million square feet of real estate R.E.M rents, a total that makes the company ''the region's largest commercial industrial developer of manufacturing, distribution, warehouse, and flex space,'' it boasts on its Web site.

Miller, 73, of Burlington, whose initials compose his company's acronym, incorporates another component into his philosophy: the need for philanthropy, for businesses to give back to their communities. He has donated money and construction services to hospitals, exposition centers and youth recreational facilities, among many others. Miller and his wife, Holly, give what they call the ''three Ts''—time, talent and treasure.

''It's kind of fun to take on one of these projects and stand back and say, 'We really helped this neighborhood,' '' Miller said. ''It's a great way to get your name out. There are rewards for philanthropy. People know you're out in the community giving back and not just taking, taking, taking. That's not why we do it—we do it because we want to—but there is that relationship in getting involved.''

Those components of Miller's work, the successful company and the devotion to philanthropy, led to two awards he received last week.

The Lake Champlain Regional Chamber of Commerce honored R.E.M Development on Tuesday as its large business of the year, citing Miller and the company for ''their determination, success, and philanthropy.'' Three days later, the Vermont Chamber of Commerce presented Miller its Citizen of the Year Award, also championing his business acumen and his good works.

Miller ''typifies the true spirit of service and self-sacrifice in representing the finest ideals of Vermont citizenship,'' the Vermont Chamber says on its Web site. ''His commitment to the prosperity of the people and businesses in Vermont reaches statewide.''

Among Miller's projects is Burlington's Gosse Court Armory, an old National Guard facility the military donated to the city in 2005 for transformation into a community center.

The city approached Miller about a potential contribution after budget estimates exceeded available resources. Miller looked at the plans, said he could do the work for $500,000 less than the $1.3 million estimate, and agreed to serve as general contractor. Later he wrote a check for $100,000.

''It's really extraordinary to have a developer with his skills and expertise step forward to do this for his community,'' the city's chief administrative officer, Jonathan Leopold, said earlier this year.

Sitting in his office last week, Miller fielded a phone call from a construction worker at the armory. Without referring to any plans or drawings, Miller helped solve an engineering challenge from memory, delivering precise instructions. Then he drew a sketch on a blank sheet of paper to help an observer understand the issue: the alignment of basketball hoops and the configuration of lines on the gymnasium floor.

Miller's talent for drawing and engineering came naturally, he said. A Rutland native, Miller thought during high school he wanted to be a mechanic, but after graduation he turned toward engineering. His first job was as a draftsman.

He moved to Burlington in 1959 and helped draft electrical plans for the University of Vermont's library and Burlington High School; because the money wasn't great, Miller also tended bar, he said. In 1972 he started New England Air Systems, which he ran for

a dozen years, and then he sold it to the employees and created the company he continues to run—with 12-hour days during the week and seven hours on Saturdays.

''One of my philosophies is, you've got to make money or you're not going to be in business,'' he said. ''I love the business. I love the challenge of negotiating. I'm fiercely competitive. I may not look that way, but I'm a highly competitive guy. But I'm not a sore loser, either.''

Miller is especially happy to see businesses ''grow with us,'' starting out small and expanding as their success increases. R.E.M Development, which Miller runs with his son, Tim, is devoted to helping its tenants, but expects serious effort in return, Miller said.

''We try to help people get started. I'm a great advocate of the underdog, because that's where I came from,'' he said. ''We want people to make a profit, but they've got to work for it, as we do.''

Businesses first must craft a solid, well-researched, thorough, realistic business plan, Miller suggested. Then they must forge relationships with customers and with vendors, and develop and maintain a positive reputation. That's helped Miller thrive.

''When we really need a product, we can get that product,'' he said, referring to critical building components. ''People know they will get paid. We don't cry wolf every day, but we do cry wolf from time to time.''

Last, and sometimes of special importance, is for an owner to be able to abandon an unsuccessful venture, as he did with a portable-storage project he launched just before 9/11, even though a stigma can be attached, Miller said.

''If you're successful, everyone thinks you're a genius. If you fail they think you're a schmuck,'' he said. ''Don't fall in love with 'em. Drop 'em if it doesn't work. You have to be a realist.''

Regardless of the situation, Miller encourages other business owners to give back. He likes to quote fellow Vermont philanthropist J. Warren McClure, who died in 2004: ''If you can't give a dollar, you'll never give a hundred.''

''Give what you can,'' Miller said. ''We have an obligation. There are many, many, many needs. And you can have a lot of fun doing it.''

HEALTH CARE REFORM

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, I wanted to take this opportunity to share with my colleagues an especially poignant and meaningful column that appeared in the Boston Herald last week by Wayne Woodlief honoring the efforts Senator EDWARD M. KENNEDY has made to enact legislation to provide health care for all Americans—and looking forward to his leadership on this issue. As Senator KENNEDY recently said ''It is painfully obvious that our health care system costs Americans too much, costs employers too much, denies too much needed care and leaves out too many Americans.'' He is right. We need to take immediate action next year to reform our health care system. I look forward to working with Senator KENNEDY to enact broad reform of our health care system to help every American gain access to high-quality, affordable health care.

I ask unanimous consent to have the column to which I referred, printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

BARACK OBAMA, LISTEN TO DR. TED

(By Wayne Woodlief)

Now's the time for President-elect Obama and Congress to seize the moment and enact health care for all Americans. ASAP.

Sen. is pressing a new strategy—shaped in bipartisan meetings—for one consensus bill that can be moved swiftly through the Senate and the House, perhaps even in Obama's first 100 days.

Kennedy has courted and listened to allies on both sides of the aisle. Sen. Mike Enzi (R–Wyo.), ranking Republican on the Health Care Committee that Kennedy chairs, is working with Teddy. And Senate Finance Chairman Max Baucus (D–Mont.) weighed in this week with his own ideas on health care; ideas that look a lot like Kennedy's and like the Massachusetts universal coverage law that Teddy touts as a national model.

Kennedy said Baucus' White Paper ''brings us closer to our goal.'' Especially since the finance committee has to find a way to pay for a law that would cost billions, yet help tens of millions of struggling citizens, many without jobs now, pay their health care bills.

That is different from the early 1990s when then-Chairman Daniel Patrick Moynihan's opposition doomed health care reform championed by Kennedy and the Clintons.

And Obama—though treading carefully—said recently that health reform is ''priority number three,'' right after the economy and energy independence, adding, ''I think the time is right to do it.''

Amen. Passage of universal health care would be the capstone on Kennedy's legacy. And Obama owes him. The passing of the Kennedy torch to Obama by Teddy and niece Caroline just before Super Tuesday was a turning point in Obama's path to the presidency. He also owes it even more to all those people to whom he promised relief.

In last Sunday's Washington Post, Kennedy wrote, ''it is no longer just patients demanding change. Businesses, doctors and even many insurance companies are demanding it ... The cost will be substantial, but the need for reform is too great to be deflected or delayed.''

For those who would say, ''That's just a liberal talking,'' hear this:

David Blumenthal, director of the Institute for Health Policy for the Partners Health Care System and an Obama adviser, said, ''Some of the largest corporations in America are struggling to compete in the world marketplace because of high health care costs.''

Rick Umbdenstock, president and CEO of the American Hospital Association, said the economic turmoil, coupled with health care's high costs, ''will likely mean the loss of jobs and employer-related health coverage ... and possibly even diminishing access to health care services.''

Nancy Nielsen, president of the American Medical Association, said, ''The cost of doing nothing is much higher than the alternative''—the scuffling to pay for good care, including preventive care, and dooming millions to ''live sick and die younger.''

These aren't socialists. These are people who work with health care daily and know the crisis it is in.

Kennedy has worked behind the scenes to craft health reform since Memorial Day, by phone, by e-mail and even by face-to-face meetings despite his illness. He's back in Washington, and he's not slowing down.

As soon as Obama takes that oath that Kennedy's slain brother took 48 years ago, he should start preaching and working for health care for all. And Congress, which Kennedy has served for so long, should do it for Teddy—and for the American people. It's time to strike while those stars are aligned.

SPACE

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, I wish to address the report to Congress of the Independent Assessment Panel on the Organization and Management of National Security Space, which was released on Tuesday, September 16. The Institute for Defense Analyses, led by Mr. A. Thomas Young and a team of six qualified and experienced experts, undertook this project to provide the Congress with a comprehensive assessment of the state of our national space policy, especially as it relates to our national security and our position as the global leader in space.

I raised concerns in 2006 when then-Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld suggested that the commander of Air Force Space Command, based in Colorado Springs, should be downgraded from the four-star level to three stars. I reminded the Secretary that space is critical to our Armed Forces; that nearly every military operation we carry out makes use of assets in space in one way or another, be it using our satellites to locate the position of the enemy, providing instant communications, or gathering dependable intelligence. I was pleased the Pentagon opted not to institute this troublesome proposal.

Following this episode, I authored legislation in the 2007 Defense authorization bill to establish a new space commission, similar to the 2001 Commission to Assess U.S. National Security Space Management and Organization. I wanted an independent panel of space, intelligence, and military experts to study, analyze, and make recommendations to the Congress on the current state and future vision of America's national space agenda. This review began last fall, and I am pleased that it was completed in a timely manner.

The panel began their report articulating what I have always understood to be true, that U.S. leadership in space is paramount to the preservation of our national security. It is key to our lasting ability to ward off modern and unexpected threats against our homeland or our allies and essential to maintaining our economic superiority in the ever-changing information age. Most importantly, the report reinforced that space-based technology is essential to our intelligence gathering and warfighting capabilities. As such, according to the panel, and I agree, updating and modernizing our national space policy and its related personnel structure must be a top priority. America's willingness and capacity to continue to lead in space provides our Nation with a priceless strategic advantage that will pay dividends for generations to come.

As a result of their extensive research and thorough investigations,

the panel uncovered what they believed were fundamental structural and organizational flaws with the Federal Government's space sector. Such flaws include major management problems, poor communication among and between involved agencies, a lack of proper oversight and direction, a lack of expert professional personnel, and a host of others. The panel also recognized a scary reality—space technology is rapidly proliferating to all corners of the Earth, and America is not keeping up with its space competitors. This proliferation, combined with our space industry bogged down by aging legacy space projects that take vital resources away from newer, more modern projects, has taken its toll on our competitive edge with China and other emerging nations.

Although some of these and other deficiencies were recognized and exposed by the 2001 Space Commission, drastic measures to adequately deal with the problems uncovered were not proposed and undertaken. This panel, however, took an alternate route and recommended bold proposals to redirect and radically improve our national space agenda. The panel recommends, and again I agree, that America needs a top-to-bottom overhaul to restore the vitality of our space programs and regain and sustain the competitive advantages afforded the United States by our preeminence in space. In no uncertain terms, the panel outlined a bold new vision for the future of America's role in space. It laid out four suggestions of significant substance to restructure our approach to space and realign our defense, intelligence, and commercial priorities as they relate to space.

First, it calls for the President to create and implement a truly national space strategy. The President should announce to the American people that he is updating and modernizing America's space program immediately and elevating its priority status to the top tier of the national agenda.

The panel recommends the President reestablish the National Space Council in the Executive Office of the President, under the leadership of the National Security Advisor, to implement the new strategy and coordinate its activities with the Department of Defense, the intelligence community, NASA, and other responsible agencies. This will provide one of the President's top advisers with the power to assign responsibilities, set priorities, and break through the barriers to cooperation that have stymied progress on key space programs in the past.

Second, the panel believes that no one is really in charge of the national space agenda. They discovered that in the midst of so much bureaucracy and competing authorities, regrettably there has been no one at the helm. This needs to change.

The authorities and responsibilities for all Government space programs are spread widely throughout the Pentagon and within various intelligence agencies. Therefore, the panel recommends the creation of a National Security Space Authority that will be responsible to the Secretary of Defense and the Director of National Intelligence. The proposed arrangement is needed to remedy the ruinous deficiencies in the current system, including the frequent inability to reconcile budget priorities and the common failure to ensure that innovative acquisition program requirements are affordable and integrated across military and intelligence space domains.

Third, the panel recommends to strip the National Reconnaissance Office and the Air Force Space and Missile Systems Center of their status as traditional, independent entities and incorporate their personnel and functions, as well as the functions of other parts of the Air Force Space Command, into a single National Security Space Organization. Under unified leadership, this organization could allow all the space experts to work more effectively together. The panel recommends this path because it most effectively utilizes the scarce talent available to achieve our Nation's goals in space. Under this type of organizational structure, the Government's space management team can focus on installing best engineering and acquisition practices, including early systems engineering and cost estimating. I am not sure I agree yet with this recommendation, but I think it does warrant serious consideration by the Congress.

It is true that the continual problem of space acquisition program delays, cost overruns, and cancellations has drained resources and caused America to rely heavily on satellite constellations that have matured beyond their original design lives. This is simply unacceptable, and I think the panel is correct when they say that small modifications to the status quo, which have been proposed time and again in the past, are not enough. A new and innovative organizational structure is a good idea, but the details of the panel's third recommendation need to be vetted before I can lend my full support.

Finally, the panel suggests that the intelligence community and each of the military branches adopt and execute strategies for identifying, selecting, educating, training, and managing a sufficient number of Government experts and professionals to support the country's space acquisition obligations. The careers of these space acquisition and technical professionals should be designed and administered so that they can provide continuity for the execution of long-term projects, while remaining eligible and competitive for career advancement.

It is unrealistic to expect that we can modernize our space strategy and succeed in developing complex space systems without enough technically capable and sufficiently experienced Government scientists, engineers, and acquisition experts that are immersed in the space arena and assigned to see projects through to completion. These types of professionals are critical to the success of our future endeavors in space.

Throughout my time in the Congress I have fully supported science-related education. This support includes space, defense, and national security studies as well. For example, I have supported funding requests for the Center for Space and Defense Studies at the U.S. Air Force Academy. The mission of this center is to build and define space policy studies curriculum for the undergraduate cadets. I have long supported the Center for Geosciences and Atmospheric Research at my alma mater, Colorado State University. This center is a national resource for the Department of Defense in the areas of atmospheric and hydrologic research, which are both critical to our national security.

America needs more engineers, physicists, rocket scientists, mathematicians, and the like. We need them now and in the coming decades more than we ever have in the past. The future of our national security and defense capabilities rests with our ability to recruit, train, and equip more and more Americans with the critical knowledge and know-how of the hard sciences. The first step is making this type of education a top national priority, and it is my hope that America's future leaders will do so.

Mr. President, I appreciate all four and fully support three of the panel's suggestions for the improvement of our national space strategy. In my opinion, if we fail to act on these recommendations, we face the possibility that our preeminence in space will erode to the point at which we will no longer enjoy a significant competitive national security advantage in an all-important global arena.

Along with the American people, I am indebted to the panel for their hard and thoughtful work on this study. Their discoveries and suggestions for improvement are invaluable. It is my hope that the next Congress and the next administration will take a serious look at this study and craft an aggressive and coherent strategy for America's future presence in space.

COLORADO DRUG INVESTIGATORS ASSOCIATION

Mr. ALLARD. Mr, President, throughout the past 3 years the Colorado Drug Investigators Association, DIA, has united peace officers and other professionals who share a common interest in illegal and illicit drug enforcement. Through the leadership of State president Ernest Martinez, State vice president, Jerry Peters, regional vice presidents David Arcady, Rick Needham, Brian Roman, Rob Pride, Kevin Hathaway, at-large members Janelle Crain, Mechele Berge, Sandra Evans, Rick Millwright, Gary Graham, Kelly Horton, Jim Welton, Francis

Gonzales, and Ron Hollingshead, the Colorado Drug Investigators Association continues to unite into one organization all Colorado peace officers and individuals committed to protecting the State from all drug-related crime. This organization provides comprehensive counternarcotics training for all members in all aspects of drug enforcement and continues to educate and recommend legislation favorable to effective drug enforcement in Colorado. It recognizes the critical importance of information exchange and actively facilitates this communication between members of the association on the movements of drug violators and new and innovative techniques used by either the criminals or law enforcement.

In addition, the Colorado Drug Investigators Association, through cultural, legislative, political, fraternal, educational, charitable, welfare and social activities, fosters an atmosphere of cooperation and information sharing among all law enforcement in Colorado, private industry and the public. I believe the CDIA represents a valuable tool in the fight against drug-related crime and express my appreciation to all association members for their commitment to the safety and security for the citizens of Colorado.

LABOR DAY

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, Labor Day is our opportunity to celebrate the millions of American workers who have given, and continue to give, so much of themselves to make our Nation great. I am happy to have had the opportunity to celebrate this Labor Day in Racine, WV, with many old friends. Today, on the holiday especially devoted to the social and economic achievements of the American workforce. I would like to thank all of the miners, teachers, nurses, service technicians, firefighters, police, repairmen, and all those who dedicate their lives to making their communities and their country a better place. As summer is winding down and children are preparing to go back to school, we should all take a moment to appreciate what working Americans do for us.

Honest, hard-working people, with the core American values of faith and family, are what make West Virginia such a wonderful place to live and call home. Miners work long shifts, miles under the ground, often in tight spaces with frigid water up to their knees, to get the coal that provides 50 percent of our Nation's electricity. Yet people rarely think of that when they flip on the light switch. Teachers spend much of their own personal time preparing lesson plans and finding creative ways to teach our next generation. They always go above and beyond the call of duty for their students. Those in public service work day in and day out to get Social Security checks processed and in the mail on time, to manage tax returns, or to deliver basic health services to our citizens. I applaud each and every one of these Americans.

I am glad Congress succeeded, finally, this year in raising the minimum wage to $6.55, to help our working families. Increasing the minimum wage so it is a living wage is something I have advocated since 1998, and now all of our workers will get the increase they need and deserve to help make ends meet in this struggling economy. This Labor Day I am especially aware of the need to change the direction of our country and that has to start with turning around our economy. It is unfair for hard-working Americans to have to deal with stagnant wages and rising costs for gas, food, and health care with no help. The minimum wage will continue to rise until it reaches $7.25 in 2009.

These workers are the heart and soul of West Virginia. Opportunities do not come easily to them. They work hard every day to get the things they need for their families—gas, school supplies, and maybe new sneakers or a pair of jeans for the next school year. Before the rise of unions, we did not enjoy a 40-hour work week, the benefits of Social Security, or the right to organize. But West Virginians always fought for the American dream. They have a high regard for quality and strive for excellence in everything that they do. In an unfortunate Forbes survey, West Virginia was listed as one of the least desirable states in which to do business. But that is only because some companies do not yet know the men and women that make up West Virginia's workforce; they do not realize that West Virginia's future and potential is about more than just coal. They do not see the small business owners, the nurses and doctors, the educators, the entrepreneurs, the manufacturers, and artists who keep our State moving and make it so special. They must not have heard that companies from all over the world such as DuPont, Union Carbide, and Phone Poulenc have put plants in West Virginia and tapped into our dedicated work force. Northrop Grumman, MPL Corporation, Orrick, Herrington, and Sutcliffe, that's the real West Virginia—with a bright future fueled by all its abundant resources, the most precious of which are the men and women of our workforce. Our Toyota plant is the fastest growing plant in the history of Toyota Motor Company. It has been named the plant with the most productive workers in all of North America 5 years in a row. This is a testament to West Virginia employees' unmatched work ethic.

As we celebrate Labor Day, we need to remember that it is the commitment and diligence of our workers that makes us great. We as West Virginians are fighters, always have been, always will be, but even fighters need a day off. West Virginians have earned a day of rest.

TRIBUTE TO BRENDAN O'CONNOR

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, as we continue to debate national strategy and the way ahead in Iraq and Afghanistan, there is one thing that is not debatable, and that is the courage and valor of our troops. Today, I wish to honor one of those brave troops, MSgt Brendan O'Connor, a medic in the Special Forces of the U.S. Army.

Master Sergeant O'Connor distinguished himself by extraordinary heroism in action during a fierce battle in Kandahar Province, Afghanistan, when his small detachment engaged an estimated 200 Taliban fighters on June 24, 2006. For his heroism, Master Sergeant O'Connor, who held the rank of sergeant first class at the time of the battle, was honored with the Nation's second highest award for valor, the Distinguished Service Cross.

After awarding the Distinguished Service Cross to Brendan, ADM Eric Olson, the head of U.S. Special Operations Command, hailed the contributions of the Army's Special Forces and said, ''Master Sergeant Brendan O'Connor exemplifies the spirit of these warriors.''

Leading a quick reaction force during a mission against Taliban leaders, Master Sergeant O'Connor and his team found themselves outnumbered and surrounded by hundreds of Taliban fighters in one of the most hotly contested areas of Afghanistan. After calmly maneuvering his force through enemy Taliban positions, Master Sergeant O'Connor crawled over 150 yards alone through enemy machine-gun fire across an open field to rescue two wounded comrades. Rallying and motivating his severely outnumbered team throughout a day-long battle, he saved the lives of 21 soldiers and prevented his detachment's destruction while inflicting heavy casualties on the enemy.

The heroism of Brendan O'Connor and his team in Afghanistan received national media attention on the CBS News program ''60 Minutes,'' which aired a segment on April 20 of this year, ''Ambush in Afghanistan.''

Brendan O'Connor comes from a long and distinguished family history of military service to our Nation, with deep roots in the U.S. Army and at West Point. Brendan's father, LTC Mortimer O'Connor, who graduated from West Point in 1953, was killed in action in Vietnam in 1968 while leading men into battle as commander of the 1st Battalion, 2nd Infantry, in the famed ''Big Red One,'' the oldest continuously serving division in the U.S. Army.

A true ''warrior-poet'', Mort O'Connor was not only decorated several times for valor on the battlefield, but taught English at West Point and earned a graduate degree in English literature from the University of Pennsylvania. A remembrance of Mort O'Connor in a March 1978 West Point Alumni publication recalled his spirit on the athletic fields as a young cadet:

> When victorious he would exultantly claim to be descended from ancient Irish warrior kings. And it may be true, for he had in him a wild romanticism, a tragic lilt of heart, which only the Irish have.

Brendan O'Connor's grandfather, and Mort O'Connor's father, was BG William ''Bill'' O'Connor, a graduate of West Point in 1924. Bill O'Connor served in Europe in World War II, including in the Battle of the Bulge.

And three of Brendan's great-uncles followed their brother Bill to West Point—Richard O'Connor in the Class of 1926, George Brendan O'Connor in the Class of 1936, and Roderic O'Connor in the Class of 1941.

Today, the O'Connor family tradition of military service continues with the next generation. Attending his Distinguished Service Cross award ceremony on April 30th were two of Brendan's cousins, Brian O'Connor, who is now at the Air Force Academy, and Rory O'Connor, who is now at West Point.

We are grateful to families such as the O'Connors, who for generations have answered the Nation's call and worn the uniform with such courage and distinction. There is no finer example of this tradition than MSgt Brendan O'Connor and his heroic action in Afghanistan. I ask unanimous consent to have the full text of his Distinguished Service Cross citation, as well as the narrative that accompanies the award, printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

CITATION TO ACCOMPANY THE AWARD OF THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS TO SERGEANT FIRST CLASS BRENDAN W. O'CONNOR

For extraordinary heroism in combat as the senior Medical Sergeant for Special Forces Operational Detachment Alpha-765 in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in Panjwai District, Kandahar Province, Afghanistan. On 24 June 2006, during Operation Kaika, Sergeant O'Connor led a quick reaction force to reinforce a surrounded patrol and to rescue two wounded comrades. He maneuvered his force through Taliban positions and crawled alone, under enemy machinegun fire to reach the wounded soldiers. He provided medical care, while exposed to heavy volumes of Taliban fire, then carried one of the wounded 150 meters across open ground to an area of temporary cover. He climbed over a wall three times, in plain view of the enemy, to assist the wounded soldiers to cover while bullets pounded the structure around him. Sergeant O'Connor assumed duties as the detachment operations Sergeant and led the consolidation of three friendly elements, each surrounded, isolated, and receiving fire from all directions. His remarkable actions are in keeping with the highest traditions of military heroism and reflect distinct credit upon himself, the Combined Special Operations Task Force-Afghanistan, Special Operations Command-Central, and the United States Army.

NARRATIVE TO ACCOMPANY THE AWARD OF THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS TO SERGEANT FIRST CLASS BRENDAN W. O'CONNOR

Sergeant First Class Brendan W. O'Connor, United States Army, distinguished himself by extraordinary heroism in action as the Senior Medical Sergeant for Special Forces Operational Detachment Alpha-765 in support of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM. On 24 June 2006, while conducting Operation KAIKA, a cordon and search mission to capture or kill Taliban leadership in Pashmul, Panjwai District, Kandahar Province, Afghanistan, the detachment became engaged with an estimated 200 Taliban fighters. MSG Thomas Maholic led a patrol from the detachment's perimeter to secure a compound situated on key terrain. As the assault began, a large Taliban force counterattacked, flooded the battlefield, and immediately separated the assault element from SSG Matthew Binney's support by fire position, creating two distinct detachment elements outside the perimeter, each isolated, surrounded, and receiving enemy fire from all directions. SSG Binney and SGT Joseph Feurst were seriously wounded at the support by fire position. SFC O'Connor volunteered to lead a quick reaction force to reinforce MSG Maholic in the compound, and recover the two wounded soldiers. SFC O'Connor departed the detachment's perimeter under heavy enemy fire, with SFC Mishra, eight Afghan soldiers and an interpreter. By employing fire and maneuver, SFC O'Connor destroyed an enemy machinegun position, broke out from the encircled patrol base, and evaded enemy fighters that were now swarming toward the compound. After link-up with MSG Maholic, SFC O'Connor was directed toward the support-by-fire position. He led his small relief force along a wall that provided cover from the heavy volume of machinegun and rocket-propelled grenade fire, as they evaded attackers and broke out from the encircled compound. At the end of the wall, he encountered an open field, 80 meters across to a small building, which was the next available covered position. The flat field was covered by enemy grazing fire from three directions. He established a support-by-fire position to suppress enemy machinegun fire and began to crawl, alone, across the field, leaving a third isolated element amid the chaos of the battlefield. Afghan soldiers attempted to follow him but turned back under the extraordinary volume of fire. As bullets impacted all around him and cut the grass directly over his body, he quickly realized that his cumbersome load was creating too large a target for the enemy. He returned to the cover of the wall and removed his body armor and assault pack. Informed that Apache gunships were en route to strafe the area he was attempting to crawl through, SFC O'Connor attached an orange panel to his back in order to mark himself as a friendly element to the pilots. Without hesitation he immediately resumed crawling the 80 meters across the field, in plain sight of the enemy, toward his two wounded comrades. He moved slowly, just inches below the enemy fire, miraculously escaping injury from hundreds of Taliban machinegun rounds. He jumped over a wall into a vineyard and moved forward along mounds of dirt, with bullets impacting all around him each time he exposed himself. He continued moving alone, for 150 meters, yelling for SSG Binney. Once again, he evaded enemy fighters that were as near as 3 meters, and were firing over a wall and shouting insults and threats at the surrounded position, and made contact with his wounded teammates. SFC O'Connor fought with his personal weapon, performed life-saving measures on the two wounded soldiers in the open, exposed to enemy fire, shielding the casualties from debris and shrapnel with his own body, and gave instructions to begin the evacuation. As an Afghan soldier assisted SSG Binney, SFC O'Connor picked up SGT Feurst and began carrying him, unassisted, back to the cover of the small building 150 meters away. He dodged rocket-propelled grenade and machinegun fire, while methodically maneuvering from one covered position to another, without the benefit of his protective body armor, carrying the unconscious SGT Feurst. He climbed over a two meter high wall, into the building, as bullets pounded the wall all around him. The frightened Afghan soldiers were unable to assist in lifting SGT Feurst over the wall, which required SFC O'Connor to climb back over the wall in the face of heavy, accurate, enemy fire. He lifted and pushed SGT Feurst over the wall, assisted SSG Binney over by offering his own body as step, and climbed over a third time himself, while a storm of bullets began disintegrating the structure around him. As Apache gunships suppressed the enemy, SFC O'Connor led the group from the surrounded building, while still under fire, back toward the quick reaction force. He then led his entire force back toward MSG Maholic's compound. He engaged enemy fighters and broke through to link up with the last of the isolated elements. Inside the compound, he learned that MSG Maholic had been killed. SFC O'Connor assumed duties as Detachment Operations Sergeant and continued coordinating the defense of the compound against renewed Taliban attacks. He supervised all medical treatment of the casualties, coordinated the medical evacuation flight and organized the movement of ammunition from the resupply aircraft. After nightfall, under SFC O'Connor's leadership, the group broke out once again from their isolated location and moved undetected through Taliban positions to reunite all friendly elements at the detachment's patrol base. SFC O'Connor's extraordinary actions, performed at tremendous risk of life, successfully rescued two wounded comrades, saved the lives of 21 soldiers, and prevented his detachment's destruction. He consolidated four friendly elements, each isolated and surrounded by an aggressive, numerically superior, and well armed enemy force during the confusion of combat, and brought all soldiers to safety. The heroic accomplishments of Sergeant First Class Brendan W. O'Connor reflect great credit upon himself, the Combined Joint Special Operations Task Force-Afghanistan, Special Operations Command-Central, and the United States Army.

TRIBUTE TO LINDA LONG

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I wish to recognize a former staffer, Linda K. Long, for her wonderful contributions to my office and to the State of Tennessee.

Linda began her career with Senator Fred Thompson in 1995 and joined my staff on January 21, 2003, where she soon distinguished herself as one of the best constituent services representatives in the State of Tennessee.

Linda was a wealth of knowledge when it came to working with constituents and their problems. Although she took a very ''no nonsense'' approach to her job, she was very compassionate and always made time to listen to constituents and console them even if she could not help them with their issue.

Linda is loved and respected by people throughout west Tennessee. In fact, she served two terms on the Madison County Commission from 1994 to 2002. There is no doubt that Linda went above and beyond to help all constituents. She was tough, but fair, and always had time for anyone who asked for assistance through my office. Linda retired on February 29, 2008, and we miss her already.

IDAHOANS SPEAK OUT ON HIGH ENERGY PRICES

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, in mid-June, I asked Idahoans to share with me how high energy prices are affecting their lives, and they responded by the hundreds. The stories, numbering well over 1,200, are heartbreaking and touching. While energy prices have dropped in recent weeks, the concerns expressed from June remain very relevant. To respect the efforts of those who took the opportunity to share their thoughts, I am submitting every e-mail sent to me through an address set up specifically for this purpose to the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. This is not an issue that will be easily resolved, but it is one that deserves immediate and serious attention, and Idahoans deserve to be heard. Their stories not only detail their struggles to meet everyday expenses, but also have suggestions and recommendations as to what Congress can do now to tackle this problem and find solutions that last beyond today. I ask unanimous consent to have today's letters printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

I was/am in full support of your GPRA Energy Legislation. You were right on. Please continue to fight for energy independence for Idaho and the U.S. This is essential to our national security and prosperity. It is never too late to do the right thing (even if we should have done it ten years ago). Please keep the pressure to allow Congress to vote on crucial energy legislation. We deserve to know how our Congress stands/votes on important issues like this. I am also in favor of the President calling an emergency session of Congress to pass energy legislation. It is that important.

Drill here, drill now, pay less.

TERESA, *Twin Falls*.

Since July 11, [2008,] crude oil prices have declined over 16% yet gasoline prices at the pump have remained steady. When is Congress going to start putting real pressure on the oil companies to stop gouging the American consumer? If Congress wants to turn the economy around, then start by addressing energy prices. The oil companies raised gas prices as crude oil prices escalated but there is no indication that the reverse is true as crude prices continue to come down. Enough is enough.

GALYN.

You have expressed a desire to hear of our experiences and hardships with the rise in gasoline prices. I have a daily routine when I get to work. I get online and check for recent news on gasoline prices and so forth. The next thing I do is check on local gas prices by utilizing Mapquest.com. It is severely disappointing to see that our eastern Idaho gasoline prices have stabilized at $4.12 a gallon when the national average is below $3.90 a gallon, according to a recent yahoo.com article. Be that as it may, $3.90 is still a harsh amount. This has become a pain not only economically but domestically as well. Between my wife and I for the last month and a half, there has been strife about our finances and being able to afford the next meal, the bills, and all that we wish we could do to make an advance in finances. Colleagues and friends would argue the same domestic problems. So you see that this problem is not only hurting America economically but socially as well.

I have done my part in decreasing the amount I drive and the amount of times I fill up on gasoline but this can only go so far. I bought a scooter back in June just before gasoline prices hit $120 a gallon and it has saved a percentage of what we would have spent on filling our car. Americans are aware of the problem and doing what they can with reservation to consequences that may arise in their conservation efforts. The question is not ''what should Americans do to avoid the high prices in gasoline?'', rather; the question is ''Why is the American government not making a reasonable effort to free its people from economic desperation?''

Start drilling now; let us build up a reserve and release the current one, let us start looking for alternatives and renewables. Our understanding will progress as the science behind these progresses.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL, *Rexburg*.

Since I do not have unlimited income (I am an underpaid Idaho teacher), or someone paying my fuel bills, the rising cost of gas and diesel is taking spending money out of our pockets and into our tanks since we need to drive to perform many daily activities. We also spend less at other retailers since the money went for fuel. We also get less for the same dollar at the store since the price of goods has gone up due to the rising costs of shipping using diesel fuel which is the most expensive and should be the cheapest since it costs less to make and comes off first in the processing of crude oil to fuel. When we spend less the retailers get less and it becomes a vicious circle. Let us start using our own oil and uncap the wells in our country just sitting there. The wildlife will be just fine in Alaska and elsewhere as long as we are careful while drilling and transporting the oil. We need to quit fueling the Arab terrorist groups by buying their oil at inflated prices or at all. Do not tell me the Saudis are our friends. The only thing they like about us is our money.

MEL, *Post Falls*.

Why do not the forces to be work together to get this solved—or is there no representation for improving the energy quantity?

JIM.

We received an email at work stating that you would like to know how we felt about high energy prices, along with ideas on how to improve the situation. The energy prices are a nuisance to me. I can handle the $50 per week it takes me to get to and from work. What concerns me are my neighbors who may be on the edge, or who need gasoline to make a living (trucking, farming, construction).

To me the solution seems simple. Increase the supply. Let us drill in ANWR. A vast majority of Alaskans favor the proposition. We could do so in an environmentally responsible way. Let us drill in the area between 50 miles and 200 miles off the coast in those areas where the population is for it. I understand in Virginia, most are in favor of it. I understand that we are the only country that prevents its people from doing this. And, by the way, why have not we opened a refinery in the last 25 years? Many say that even if we drill in ANWR, we will not see any oil for 10 years. That may be, but if we had acted 10 years ago, we would be reaping the benefits of it now. Besides, that might convince foreign countries who have raised their prices so much that we are serious about using our own resources and it may convince them it is time to lower prices. The solution to energy problems is going to take leadership, not short-sighted thinking.

Also, we need to start building power plants powered by nuclear energy. A power plant that uses petroleum for its power source should no longer be allowed to be built. We can no longer afford to waste petroleum like that, nor should we pollute the air with those wastes, when we can capture and process all nuclear wastes safely.

Of course we can use solar energy including wind where feasible, but that will not solve our energy needs in the future.

We should also not use crops that we need for our food supply to produce ethanol, especially when it takes more energy to produce the ethanol that we receive from the resulting fuel. No wonder food prices are through the roof.

Some want to blame oil companies for making excessive profits. A profit of 6 to 8% does not seem excessive to me. When did it become illegal to make a profit in this country? Higher taxes will not lower the price of gasoline. Let us level the playing field and remove excessive regulations. Sure, global warming is taking place, but we are not the cause of that. It has to do with solar cycles. Spend a winter in Idaho if you want to see global warming at work. The farmers I know had to plant late this season because their fields were covered with snow. The temperature in the world decreased last year. It did not increase. Global warming is not the problem. High energy prices are crippling the economy. The polar bear population has increased, not decreased. We are being sold a bill of goods that we cannot afford to buy.

I know that the liberals are against everything I have proposed. We are opposed to their supposed solution of raising taxes. So does that mean that we have a stalemate and nothing is going to be done? We need leadership.

NORMAN, *Idaho Falls*.

I own a small 5-employee, garbage company that services the cities of Kuna and Melba and indeed the recent run up in diesel prices from $3/gallon to the current $4/gallon in the last ten months has been a major impact on my business of transporting solid waste for my small communities. I have seen my fuel bill increase by nearly $4,000/month, a 63% increase in that time frame.

As difficult as that is for me, the run up in prices has had a major impact on my employees and their ability to come to work and this is so true for all of Idaho's employees, particularly those on the very bottom of the economic scale of which there are too many in Idaho.

I could go on longer, but you know the impact. More importantly, I think you need to hear from your constituents regarding the solutions. We need a Manhattan-style project to electrify our transportation sector of this country. We need tax incentives for production and purchase of electric vehicles.

We need tax incentives for wind, solar, lithium ion batteries and electric motors (retrofitting out current gas fleet with electric drive trains will provide a sustainable new job creation and a finance business model that will be a boon to our poor, who are being priced out of transportation, and this will be paid for from displaced fuel dollars from foreign oil purchases). We need to re-industrialize the USA to create high paying jobs in the energy sector that will give us sustainable energy so we can get out of our many oil entanglements throughout the world.

Our nation mobilized itself to re-tool its whole industrial base during WWII to create a war machine, plus provide all the oil needed to win that war in the short span of 4–6 years. In the same short time frame we have

bankrupted ourselves in this senseless oil war in Iraq. We need to understand that we need to get off of fossil fuels.

We can and we have to do better. The country needs strong leadership and I have watched you, you are a person of integrity. You can give us the leadership, even though it will not be the party line. I pray you have the courage to make a difference.

The American public deserves a choice to our energy needs and tax incentives for solar and wind energy for our homes, will take us in that direction. I know this is not consistent with the Big Business energy and automobile business model, but I think they do not see the wisdom of making hard changes, tough choices and creating our own energy future.

The whole period of deregulation we have just gone through has not been healthy for our country. Deregulation, from Enron to sub-prime lending is bankrupting our country. For the past 60 years the housing market has been stable and predictable. Deregulation has been regulation for the wealthy and well-positioned. We cannot continue to steal the hope for the middle class on the back of the rich.

There have been two major fallacies foisted on the American public. One is that tax cuts will stimulate jobs and drilling oil will reduce gas prices. The wealthy citizens of our country and the oil companies can be multi-national citizens and their allegiances are to their own wealth accumulation, just a factor of human nature.

We do not have nationalized oil, therefore oil drilling will benefit the oil companies and the highest bidders in the world market, yet the American public is led to believe, oil drilling will have an appreciable impact on our local gas prices, but indeed the nations with more wealth, able to bid and buy the commodity will benefit. We are a debtor nation, unlike China. Producing our own source of energy is critical to changing that reality.

Tax cuts given to the wealthiest of our nation, without a requirement that those tax cuts be re-invested in the USA leaves those individuals the option to take those tax cuts and invest them in the country of their choice, wherever they can get the best return, again leaving the human instinct of wealth accumulation to play out.

If we invest our tax cuts, in our own country and our own energy interests, that will create local high paying jobs, we will be investing in our own future, taking us out of the status of debtor nation.

By the way, I, as well as Warren Buffet, am in the tax bracket that was advantaged by the big tax cuts, and I and Warren Buffet have both felt we would be glad to forego those tax cuts for a strong economy.

Again, I ask that you have the courage to engage with any in congress, in a bipartisan way, who is of a like mind to take us to energy freedom. Jay Inslee the representative from Washington State is a great proponent of energy issues and a person like you, who is a person of integrity. I pray that our representatives in Washington will have the sense of urgency required to take the bold steps needed for the American People.

As well, I might suggest, your staff get the hearing minutes from a Senate hearing held this week on the energy grid where T. Boone Pickens gave testimony where he stated ''we cannot drill our way out of our current energy crisis'' proposing wind energy as a major part of the solution. It was a very enlightening hearing.

Thank you for your concern for the plight of your constituents.

TIM, *Kuna*.

As a person living on a fixed income, I find that the soaring costs of energy in all forms are creating a considerable burden on me. With gas at $4 per gallon, the cost of everything is sky rocketing.

The U.S. is being held hostage by two bit dictators in the energy market. And it is unnecessary. We are a country that put a man on the moon over forty years ago, yet we have not found ways of using our abundant coal resources in an environmentally safe manner, and I am not seeing anything being done about it. Why?

We spend hundreds of billions on foreign oil imports yet we allow a few vocal nuts to keep us from developing our own resources. We must tap the oil in the Alaska Wildlife Reserve. Contrary to their claims, oil production and wildlife are not incompatible. The noise and bustle of drilling will cause the animals to leave temporarily, after the drillers leave and the pumps and pipelines are in place they will return.

We are often told that the lack of refinery capacity is also a cause of high gas prices. How many new refineries are currently under construction? How many are planned? When was the last completed?

ALFRED, *Twin Falls*.

I wrote a response to your email about energy yesterday and as I sat here another issue presented itself to me. This is on a community level. My wife and I (with bad forethought) bought The Roxy Theatre in Cascade. I say the above because now many people do not have the extra money to spend seeing movies or plays or concerts. Now after two years, seeing my available credit shrink, and energy costs of my theatre go up, I am looking at hard choices. I have chosen not to hire employees back. This further hurts the overall economy as there are 4 people who now have to find jobs. I have tried, but I cannot find a way to end this bleeding. The power company asked and got two very large rate hikes. Why are we spending almost 2/3 of all the fuel refined in the USA making power for the grids? We have been cut in the heel by a very small but loud group of people who say we should have no more reactors in the USA. Enough—the good of the few do not outweigh the good of the many. We have always been a nation formed on that. From my grandfather to my dad to my service in the military, I know that. I have served for the good of the many. I am still a police officer for the good of the many. It is sure not for the pay. I read bills all of the time that you all are debating on the Hill. I laugh; we spend millions of bucks to help out some performing arts center in New York. I provide the same arts to Americans too. I guess we are too small in Idaho or Cascade, I should say. We could all sit around and cry the blues, but nothing gets done. I put on my uniform 4 days a week and my theatre clothes 7 days a week, 364 days a year. I do this because it is for the good of the many. [I think earmarks should be allowed for projects that provide for the good of the many and my theatre would qualify for assistance.] You, sir, are elected to serve. I hear it just as much as you do. I do not mean that I am your boss. I mean we put you there because we feel you can fix it. I feel, given the responses you have seen, that Idaho's gems have given you the ways to fix the problems you asked about. We have to all give something up. Again, I have not asked you to put me on a spending bill for aid to my 1939 theatre that I am sure will not make it through the year. The small business will not make it that long. When something big happens to this country, everyone asks for federal aid. Major snowstorms happen here, and it is not even reported. Four inches of snow in Florida and every news channel is calling it a disaster. We want this fixed before there is not debate about it. . . It will be a disaster that no one will have thought could happen. Many politicians say all of the time small business is the backbone of the USA. We are all hurting in this town. We are all getting close to going under. No joke, come up here, I will buy you a movie. I'll show you around like when the mill closed in 2000. We are on the threshold of something very bad. Thanks for your time, I know like me you do not have much to spare.

JASON, *Cascade*.

PAYMENTS TO RADIO HOST

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, several years ago, I started looking at the financial relationships between physicians and drug companies. I am doing this because I am concerned that there is very little transparency on this issue. I have also learned that the little transparency that does exist is not being enforced or is being enforced inconsistently.

For instance, the National Institutes of Health requires researchers to report outside payments to their institution if they receive a grant from the NIH. But I have learned that some researchers are failing to properly report this money.

Recently, I examined payments from pharmaceutical companies to a professor of psychiatry at the University of Cincinnati. I found out that she was not reporting tens of thousand of dollars in outside income.

I then looked at a group of the world's most prominent child psychiatrists, in particular, three researchers at Harvard who have taken millions of dollars from the drug companies. These doctors are funded by several NIH grants, but they were not reporting all of their money from the drug companies as required by NIH regulations.

I then discovered a department chairman at Stanford who founded a company that was seeking approval from the Food and Drug Administration to market a drug for depression. The NIH is funding some research on this drug which was being led by this same Stanford scientist. Because there were some obvious conflicts with this situation, the NIH recently forced Stanford to pull this professor off the grant.

I also sent letters to the University of Texas and Emory University about researchers at their institutions.

I would now like to discuss another troubling aspect about the lack of financial transparency in medicine.

''The Infinite Mind'' is a radio show that is independently produced but runs on over 300 public radio stations. It is possibly the most authoritative program on psychology and neuroscience in America. This show has won over 60 journalism awards. According to a biography of the show's host, it has an audience of over half a million people.

Back in my home State of Iowa, ''The Infinite Mind'' is broadcast on most Sundays, early in the evening. My guess is that thousands of Iowans tune in. According to its own website, ''The Infinite Mind'' prides itself on its

''independence.'' But there may be some problems with their financial transparency.

Last May, a couple of reporters for a news site called ''Slate'' wrote about an episode of ''The Infinite Mind'' called Prozac Nation: Revisited. During this episode, three guests on the show discussed problems with antidepressants. After listening to a recording of the show, it appeared to me that the real effect of this particular episode was to undercut any criticism that antidepressants might be linked to an increased risk of suicide. This is an issue I tackled a few years back.

Maybe these three guests felt that there really is no problem with antidepressants. But a large number of experts believe that antidepressants may be associated with an increased risk of suicide, particularly in kids. In fact, last March, two months before this show aired, Britain's Medicines and Healthcare Regulatory Authority MHRA, concluded a 4 year investigation of the antidepressant, Paxil. That report found that GSK had been aware since 1998 that Paxil was associated with a higher risk of suicidal behavior in adolescents.

Now don't get me wrong, experts on public radio have a right to express their own opinions. However, I am concerned that the host of ''The Infinite Mind'' never pointed out that all three of the show's guests had strong financial ties to the pharmaceutical industry.

That is right. Every one of them. And this was never mentioned during the program or by the guests who appeared.

What listeners also never learned is that the host of ''The Infinite Mind'' has his own ties to drugmakers. When a show runs on National Public Radio, NPR, doesn't the public have a right to know where the show's host gets his money?

The host of ''The Infinite Mind'' is Dr. Frederick Goodwin, who I am told, is one of our country's leading experts on bipolar disorder. In fact, he has written the definitive textbook on bipolar disorder. He is now an adjunct professor at George Washington University Medical Center and was formerly the director of the National Institute of Mental Health.

But what you would never know about Dr. Goodwin is that he is also a paid spokesman for several drug companies. Now, I don't know how much money Dr. Goodwin actually receives from all the drug companies, but based on documents my office has received from GlaxoSmithKline, I do know that GlaxoSmithKline pays him around $2500 for every talk his gives on treatments for bipolar disorder and depression. These talks concerned several drugs such as Wellbutrin, Eskalith, and Lamictal.

Based on documents that my office received from GlaxoSmithKline, Dr. Goodwin gives these talks to doctor groups around the country. So far this year, Glaxo reports that the company paid Dr. Goodwin over $130,000 for over 50 different talks. Of course, Dr. Goodwin may be making more money from other drug companies, but I only asked GlaxoSmithKline for their information. I do know from a scientific paper that Dr. Goodwin published that he has also given talks on behalf of Pfizer, Solvay, Janssen, Eli Lilly, Astra Zeneca and Bristol Myers Squibb. And he has served as a consultant for many of these companies, as well.

In fact, Dr. Goodwin was very busy the week that the episode of Prozac Nation: Revisited started airing last March 26. GlaxoSmithKline's records show that the company paid Dr. Goodwin for several talks he gave that week on bipolar disorder and Lamictal.

In fact, records show that he gave around eight talks at $2500 each, bringing him around $20,000 in payments. Several of the talks were done by teleconference, but Dr. Goodwin also spoke about Lamictal at Fleming's Prime Steakhouse in Birmingham, Michigan and the Rosebud Steak House in Schaumburg, IL.

Based upon the information provided to my staff, Dr. Goodwin was also very active on behalf of Glaxo in 2005. That year, Glaxo paid Dr. Goodwin over $300,000 in speaking fees and around $25,000 in expenses to discuss their products. And this was the same year that he hosted an episode for ''The Infinite Mind'' on bipolar disorder in kids. Again there was no disclosure on the show about Dr. Goodwin's financial ties to GlaxoSmithKline or other drug companies.

Let's take this one step further. When an episode on bipolar disorder first aired on September 20, 2005, Dr. Goodwin was once again on the road for the Glaxo. Glaxo's records show that the company paid him $2500 for a talk he gave that day on drug therapy for bipolar disorder. The talk was at Lemonia, a Tuscan restaurant located at the Ritz Carlton Golf Resort in Naples, FL.

I don't think it takes a journalism or ethics professor to figure out that listeners of a national radio show should be told about the host's financial interests. It just seems obvious. This type of information should be out in the open and transparent.

People should know that since 2000, GlaxoSmithKline has paid the host of a radio program on psychiatry over $1.2 million in speaking fees and over $100,000 in expenses. People should know that, based on information from Glaxo, most of these fees were paid to Dr. Goodwin through Best Practice, a pharmaceutical consulting firm that he helped establish in the late nineties. Among the many services that have been offered by Best Practice are marketing consultation, and the ''dissemination of new off label information.''

Now, I have already pointed out that this independently produced radio show runs on over 300 public radio stations. But it also runs on NPR's satellite station. This got the attention of Margaret Low Smith, a vice president at NPR. She has stated that any show that runs on NPR's satellite station, and I quote, ''must live up to NPR standards .''

So I would like to go over some of those standards as found on NPR's own website. According to NPR's own policies, and I quote, ''confidence in us as independent and fair means avoiding actual and apparent conflicts of interest or engaging in outside activities, public comment or writing that calls into question our ability to report fairly on a subject.''

The policy also states that an individual covered under this code ''has the responsibility to disclose potential conflicts of interest.''

I think these are very fair standards on transparency, and I hope that shows running on NPR will try to live up to them in the future.

It is not my job as a Senator to screen newspapers, the evening news or national radio for my constituents. But it is my job to watch out for taxpayers' money. According to its website and promotional comments made during many of the show's episodes, ''The Infinite Mind'' has been made possible, at times, by major underwriting from the National Science Foundation and the National Institutes of Health.

And that is why I am sending out two letters one to the National Institutes of Health and another to the National Science Foundation.

The recently departed director of NIH has already acknowledged that they have problems with their policies when it comes to researchers not reporting outside income. I commend him for recognizing this fact. I also know that the NIH plans on changing its regulations to tighten up disclosure requirements.

But I am not certain about the disclosure requirements when the NIH helps to fund a show like ''The Infinite Mind.'' I am going to ask the NIH to see if they require ''The Infinite Mind'' to disclose the money that drug companies pay to the show's host.

And I am asking the NSF to explain their policies on financial disclosure to see if they might need some changes as well.

I ask unanimous consent to have my letters to the National Institutes of Health and the National Science Foundation printed in the RECORD. I would also like to commend GlaxoSmithKline for their cooperation with the Committee and their commitment to transparency. It is greatly appreciated.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

U.S. SENATE,
COMMITTEE ON FINANCE,
Washington, DC, November 19, 2008.

RAYNARD S. KINGTON, M.D., Ph.D.,
Acting Director, National Institutes of Health, Rockville Pike, Bethesda, MD.

DEAR ACTING DIRECTOR KINGTON: As a senior member of the United States Senate and the Ranking Member of the Committee on

Finance (Committee), I have a duty under the Constitution to conduct oversight into the actions of executive branch agencies, including the activities of the National Institutes of Health (NIH/Agency). In this capacity, I must ensure that NIH properly fulfills its mission to advance the public's welfare and makes responsible use of the public funding provided for medical studies. This research often forms the basis for action taken by the Medicare and Medicaid programs.

Once again I would like to bring to NIH's attention my concerns about the lack of oversight regarding conflicts of interest relating to the almost $24 billion in annual grants that are distributed by the NIH. I understand that you are now attempting to change the regulations covering the extramural research program to ensure more accountability in financial disclosure. I appreciate your work in this area.

As you know, institutions receiving an NIH research grant are required to manage the grantee's conflicts of interest. I would like now to let you know that I have discovered another problem with an NIH grantee and a lack of financial transparency.

In particular, I am concerned about a radio show that discusses psychology and neuroscience called ''The Infinite Mind.'' This show, as I understand it, is independently produced and is distributed to over 300 public radio stations and appears on National Public Radio's (NPR) satellite channel. According to this show's website and promotional comments made during several of the show's episodes, ''The Infinite Mind'' claims to receive major underwriting from the National Institutes of Health and the National Institute of Mental Health.

The host of the ''The Infinite Mind'' is research professor Dr. Frederick Goodwin. However, I have learned that while hosting this radio program, Dr. Goodwin also received substantial compensation from drug companies. In the fine print of an article he published in the Journal of the American Medical Association in 2003, Dr. Goodwin acknowledged that he ''has served on the speaker's bureaus of Glaxo, Solvay, Janssen, Pfizer, Lilly, AstraZeneca, and Bristol-Myers Squibb; and has served as a consultant for Glaxo, Solvay, Pfizer, Lilly, Bristol-Myers Squibb Elan, and Novartis.'' For example, over the last seven years, Dr. Goodwin received over $1.3 million in speaking fees and honoraria from GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) for giving over 480 talks. I discovered this fact through documents that I received from GSK.

I have attached a chart detailing the information that GSK supplied to my staff. Many of the payments to Dr. Goodwin were made through a company called Best Practice LLC (BP). Based upon independent research conducted by my staff, it appears that Dr. Goodwin founded BP along with several other scientists in the late nineties. It is my understanding that BP advises pharmaceutical companies.

As mentioned earlier, when one listens to ''The Infinite Mind'' there is an acknowledgment that NIH money helps to underwrite its production. Accordingly I would appreciate any information that you could provide me regarding financial disclosure requirements applicable to this situation. It seems to me that if the federal government provides financial support for a radio program that is heard by hundreds of thousands of American citizens, then the financial transparency of that show's host is important.

In light of this, I would appreciate gaining a greater understanding of the NIH grants received by ''The Infinite Mind'' and the applicable NIH policies on financial disclosure. Accordingly, please respond to the following questions and requests for information. For each response, please repeat the enumerated request and follow with the appropriate answer. The time span of this request covers January 2000 to the present.

(1) Please provide a list of all NIH grants that have supported ''The Infinite Mind.'' For each grant/contract, please provide the following:

a. Name of grant/contract;

b. Topic of grant/contract;

c. Amount of funding for each grant/contract identified;

d. Amount of funding provided in grant/contract for the host of the show; and

e. Supporting documents on financial disclosure, pertinent to the grant/contract.

(2) Please provide a list of all NIH grants, if any, made to Dr. Frederick Goodwin. For each grant, please provide the following:

a. Name of grant;

b. Topic/purpose of the grant; and

c. Amount of funding for each grant identified.

(3) For each of the above identified grants, please answer the following questions regarding financial disclosure:

a. Please explain the applicable NIH rules on financial disclosure required for the grant; and

b. Please confirm if the applicable rules on financial disclosure were followed by the grantee.

(4) Please provide a list of any other interactions that Dr. Frederick Goodwin has had with the NIH including membership on advisory boards, peer reviewer on grants, or other similar activities.

(5) Please provide a list of all NIH grants/contract, if any, made to Best Practice LLC. For each grant, please provide the following:

a. Name of grant/contract;

b. Topic of grant/contract; and

c. Amount of funding for each grant/contract identified.

(6) Please provide a list of all NIH grants that have supported National Public Radio. For each grant, please provide the following:

a. Name of grant;

b. Topic of grant; and

c. Amount of funding for each grant identified.

(7) For each of the above identified grants/contracts, please answer the following questions regarding financial disclosure:

a. Please explain the applicable NIH rules on financial disclosure required for each grant/contract; and

b. Please confirm that applicable rules on financial disclosure were followed by the grantee.

I request your prompt attention to this matter and your continued cooperation. I would appreciate receiving responses no later than December 3, 2008. If you have any questions, please contact my Committee staff, Paul Thacker. Any formal correspondence should be sent electronically in PDF searchable format to Brian_Downey@finance-rep.senate.gov.

Sincerely,

CHARLES E. GRASSLEY,
Ranking Member.

GLAXOSMITHKLINE PAYMENTS TO DR. FREDERICK GOODWIN

Year	Products	Topics	Speaker honoraria	Expenses
2000	Wellbutrin, Lamictal	Depression: treatment and therapies	$14,400	$2,400
2001	Wellbutrin Lamictal Eskalith	Depression updates on treatments. Frontiers in neuropsychiatry	24,000	3,100
2002	Eskalith Wellbutrin Lamictal	Managing depression. Treatment for bipolar disorder and mania	55,500	5,400
2003	Wellbutrin Eskalith Lamictal BP	Depression. Treating mania and bipolar disorder. Use of Lamotrigine	140,800	16,100
2004	Lamictal BP	Bipolar I disorder: stabilization and treatment	193,500	23,100
2005	Lamictal BP	Strategies and therapies for treating bipolar I disorder	304,500	24,900
2006	Lamictal BP	Managing and treating bipolar disorder. National Speaker Series on Lamictal for treating bipolar I disorder.	223,000	21,400
2007	Lamictal BP	Treating bipolar and unipolar depression. Managing bipolar I disorder	138,000	18,900
2008	Lamictal Paxil	Managing and treating bipolar disorder. National Speaker Series: Maintenance treatment for bipolar I disorder.	132,500	1,800

Total: $1,226,300 in fees and $117,300 in expenses for over 480 talks.

U.S. SENATE,
COMMITTEE ON FINANCE,
Washington, DC, November 19, 2008.

Dr. ARDEN L. BEMENT, Jr.
Director, National Science Foundation, Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, VA.

DEAR DIRECTOR BEMENT: As a senior member of the United States Senate and the Ranking Member of the Committee on Finance (Committee), I have a duty under the Constitution to conduct oversight into the actions of executive branch agencies, including the activities of the National Science Foundation (NSF). In this capacity, I must ensure that NSF properly fulfills its mission to advance the public's welfare and makes responsible use of the public funding provided for scientific studies and education. Research and educational programs sponsored by the NSF may influence public opinion and can affect actions taken by the Medicare and Medicaid programs.

I would like to bring to your attention my concerns about the apparent lack of oversight regarding conflicts of interest relating to the almost $6 billion in annual grants that are distributed by the NSF. As you know, institutions receiving an NSF research grant are required to ''manage'' the grantee's conflicts of interest.

In particular, I am concerned about a radio show that discusses psychology and neuroscience called ''The Infinite Mind.'' This show, as I understand it, is: independently produced; distributed to over 300 public radio stations; and appears on National Public Radio's (NPR) satellite channel. According to this show's website and promotional comments made during several of the show's episodes, ''The Infinite Mind'' claims to receive major underwriting from the NSF.

The host of the ''The Infinite Mind'' is research professor Dr. Frederick Goodwin. However, I have learned that while hosting this radio program, Dr. Goodwin also received substantial compensation from drug companies. In the fine print of an article he published in the Journal of the American Medical Association in 2003, Dr. Goodwin acknowledged that he ''has served on the speaker's bureaus of Glaxo, Solvay, Janssen, Pfizer, Lilly, AstraZeneca, and Bristol-Myers Squibb; and has served as a consultant for Glaxo, Solvay, Pfizer, Lilly, Bristol-Myers

Squibb Elan, and Novartis.'' For example, over the last seven years, Dr. Goodwin has received over $1.3 million in speaking fees and honoraria from GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) for giving over 480 talks. I discovered this fact through documents that I received from GSK.

For your review and future reference, I have attached a chart detailing the information that GSK supplied to my staff. Many of the payments to Dr. Goodwin were made through a company called Best Practice LLC (BP). Based upon independent research conducted by my staff, it appears that Dr. Goodwin founded BP along with several other scientists in the late nineties. It is my understanding that BP advises pharmaceutical companies.

As mentioned earlier, when one listens to ''The Infinite Mind'' there is an acknowledgment that NSF money helps to underwrite its production. Accordingly I would appreciate any information that NSF could provide regarding financial disclosure requirements applicable to this situation. It seems to me that if the federal government provides financial support for a radio program that is heard by hundreds of thousands of American citizens, then the financial transparency of that show's host is important.

In light of this, I would appreciate gaining a greater understanding of the NSF grants provided to ''The Infinite Mind'' and the applicable NSF policies relating either directly or indirectly to financial disclosure. Accordingly, please respond to the following questions and requests for information. For each response, please repeat the enumerated request followed by the appropriate answer. The time span of this request covers January 2000 to the present.

(1) Please provide a list of all NSF funds that have supported ''The Infinite Mind.'' For each grant, please provide the following:

a. Name of grant and/or contract;

b. Topic of grant/contract; and

c. Amount of funding for grant/contract;

d. Amount of funding provided in grant/contract for the host of the show; and

e. Supporting documents on financial disclosure, pertinent to the grant/contract.

(2) Please provide a list of all NSF grants, if any, made to Dr. Frederick Goodwin. For each grant, please provide the following:

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b. Topic/purpose of the grant; and

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a. Please explain the applicable NSF rules on financial disclosure required for the grant; and

b. Please confirm that applicable rules on financial disclosure were followed by the grantee.

(4) Please provide a list of any other interactions that Dr. Goodwin has had with the NSF including membership on advisory boards, peer review on grants, or the like.

(5) Please provide a list of all NSF grants that have supported National Public Radio. For each grant, please provide the following:

a. Name of grant;

b. Topic of grant; and

c. Amount of funding for grant.

(6) For each of the above identified grants/contracts, please answer the following questions regarding financial disclosure:

a. Please explain the applicable NSF rules on financial disclosure required for the grant/contracts; and

b. Please confirm that applicable rules on financial disclosure were followed by the grantee.

In cooperating with the Committee's review, no documents, records, data, or other information related to these matters, either directly or indirectly, shall be destroyed, modified, removed, or otherwise made inaccessible to the Committee.

I request your prompt attention to this matter. In addition, I would request you provide this information to me no later than December 3, 2008. If you have any questions, please contact my Committee staff, Paul Thacker. Any formal correspondence should be sent electronically in PDF searchable format to Brian_Downey@finance-rep.senate.gov.

Sincerely,

CHARLES E. GRASSLEY,
Ranking Member.

Attachment.

GLAXOSMITHKLINE PAYMENTS TO DR. FREDERICK GOODWIN

Year	Products	Topics	Speaker Honoraria	Expenses
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Total: $1,226,300 in fees and $117,300 in expenses for over 480 talks.

I LOVE TO WRITE DAY

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I wish to commemorate I Love to Write Day. The designation of November 15 as I Love to Write Day allows the Nation to focus much-needed attention on the value and importance of practicing writing skills at every age.

I Love to Write Day was created by Delaware author John Riddle in 2002. John came up with the idea for I Love to Write Day while driving from his home in Delaware to the Blue Ridge Mountain Christian Writers Conference in Ashville, NC. That first year, more than 11,000 schools across the country signed up to participate in I Love to Write Day events and activities.

Since Delaware Governor Ruth Ann Minner officially declared November 15th as I Love to Write Day in 2002, nine other Governors have joined in recognizing it, and more than 20,000 schools participated last year.

This year, Children's Way Foundation teamed up with Mr. Riddle to bring together 50,000 elementary schools throughout the country to provide students with the opportunity to discover and develop the talent of writing.

John Riddle currently resides in Bear, DE, and knows the value of writing first hand. For the last 30 years, he has been a freelance author writing for magazines, trade journals and Web sites, and is the author of 34 books. He is a frequent presenter at writers conferences all across the country and spoke last year at the National Press Club in Washington, DC.

Writing is vital to improve communication skills and to challenge minds. It is a skill that is helpful in every career and the ability to communicate effectively through writing not only enhances one's educational opportunities but also serves as a lifelong asset. It doesn't matter if you write a poem, a letter, an essay, or a novel; just as long as you are getting your thoughts down on paper you are engaging your mind. I applaud Mr. Riddle's efforts to get people writing and hope that I Love to Write Day continues to be a success throughout the Nation.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO ALAN AND MARILYN BERGMAN

• Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize an extraordinary couple in the musical world, Alan and Marilyn Bergman, who were recently honored by the renowned Paley Center for Media. Formerly known as the Museum of Television & Radio, the Paley Center for Media is nationally recognized for its efforts to engage communities in a dialogue around the cultural, creative, and social significance of television, radio, and other emerging media platforms.

This year, Alan and Marilyn Bergman are celebrating 50 years of a musical partnership that has enchanted and engaged people around the world. In honor of their extraordinary careers, the Paley Center for Media hosted two very special events to pay tribute to the Bergmans, the first in New York on May 21, 2008, and the second in Los Angeles on November 3, 2008. The two events were part of the Paley Center for Media's ''Paley After Dark'' series, which features only a select few artists each year.

Though Alan and Marilyn's personal life stories may not be widely known—both were born and raised in the same Brooklyn, NY, neighborhood, but it wasn't until they moved to Los Angeles in the 1950s that they met, fell in love, and married—it is hard to find a person who isn't familiar with one of the Bergmans' many famous songs. Starting with one of their first breakthrough successes, a song entitled ''Sleep Warm,'' which appeared as the title track on an album released by Dean Martin in 1959, the Bergmans kicked off a musical career that has lasted half a century.

In 1968, the Bergmans won their first Oscar for ''The Windmills of Your Mind,'' the theme song from the ''Thomas Crown Affair.'' This was just the beginning for Alan and Marilyn. Later, in 1968, ''The Windmills of Your Mind'' also won a Golden Globe award. In 1973, Alan and Marilyn won two Grammys, an Oscar, and a Golden Globe award for ''The Way We Were,'' starring Barbara Streisand and Robert Redford. In 1984, they won another Oscar for the score for ''Yentl,'' and won Emmys for ''Sybil,'' ''Queen of the Stardust Ballroom,'' ''Ordinary Miracles'' and ''A Ticket to Dream.'' In 1995, Alan and Marilyn wrote the Golden Globe-, Oscar-, and Grammy-nominated song ''Moonlight.'' Just a few years ago, Alan and Marilyn were commissioned by the Kennedy Center to write a jazz song cycle which received widespread acclaim. And just last year, Alan released his first album as a vocalist, ''Lyrically,'' featuring some of his and Marilyn's most well-known songs. The reviews were phenomenal.

During their New York and Los Angeles visits, the Bergmans performed a few of their hit songs and treated the audiences to a special question-and-answer session with Pat Mitchell, the Paley Center for Media's president and CEO. Though the Bergmans have been partners for more than 50 years, it was clearly evident that their rapport with each other shines through as strongly today as it did when they first met.

For half a century, Alan and Marilyn have written the lyrics and music to some of the world's most recognizable and unforgettable songs. Their dedication and passion for life is evident in both their marriage and in the work they do. It is no wonder, then, that the Paley Center for Media has honored the Bergmans as part of its ''Paley After Dark'' series.

As their U.S. Senator, I join the Paley Center for Media in honoring and giving my most sincere congratulations to Alan and Marilyn, one of the most respected songwriting teams in music today, for enriching the lives of so many. And for the sake of all of us, I trust that their joint efforts will continue for many more years.●

TRIBUTE TO LAWERENCE CANFIELD

● Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of Sacramento County sheriff's deputy Lawrence ''Larry'' Canfield, who was tragically killed in the line of duty on November 12, 2008, when his patrol motorcycle was hit while pursuing a speeding vehicle.

Deputy Canfield was raised in Galt, CA, where he graduated from Galt High School. After graduation he joined the U.S. Army where he served for 4 years. He later followed his father's footsteps and joined the Sacramento County Sheriff's Department. For 13 years, Deputy Canfield took great pride in his service to the Sacramento County Sheriff's Department. To his colleagues he was known for his dedication to law enforcement and passion for serving with the motorcycle division.

Deputy Canfield is survived by his loving wife of 16 years, Michelle, and children Tyler and Bryce. Deputy Canfield will be remembered as a dedicated husband, proud father, loving son, devoted friend, and respected colleague. Deputy Canfield served Sacramento County with honor and bravery and fulfilled his oath as an officer of the law. His contributions to public safety and dedication to law enforcement are greatly appreciated and will serve as an example of his legacy.

We shall be grateful for Deputy Canfield's heroic service and the sacrifices he made while serving and protecting the community that he loved.●

REMEMBERING JAMES JOSEPH DURANT

● Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, today I wish to commemorate the life of a true American patriot—Mr. James Joseph Durant of Scarborough ME—and to mourn his passing.

Mr. Durant died in the line of duty almost two years ago while serving his community through the Volunteers in Police Services, VIPS, program.

His premature death not only devastated his family but left a void in the life and social fabric of his community and his State.

Mr. Durant led an admirable and remarkable life. He was married for 47 years to his high school sweetheart, Janine. They began dating in their sophomore year when they were forced to share her English book because he had conveniently forgotten his own. Mr. Durant was a dedicated and caring father to their three children and a doting grandfather of five.

He was a decorated U.S. Army soldier and combat veteran of the Vietnam War. Mr. Durant's loyalty to the Army and to his country was so profound that he refused a deferral from deployment to Vietnam to which he was entitled when his wife discovered that she was pregnant with their second child.

After his return from Vietnam, Mr. Durant dedicated his life to public service. He worked with distinction for over 25 years as an electronic technician for the Federal Aviation Administration at the Portland International Jetport. He also volunteered for many activities and programs in Scarborough, including VIPS, where he patrolled parking lots on behalf of the local police department.

Sadly, it was this commitment to public service that ultimately cost him his life. On December 15, 2006, while serving the citizens of Scarborough in his capacity as a member of VIPS, Mr. Durant responded to a nearby traffic accident.

He was helping the under-manned police department by directing traffic when a vehicle struck him from behind. Although Mr. Durant was not a career officer, Scarborough honored him with local law-enforcement honors at his funeral. His was the first death of an officer in the line of duty in Scarborough's modern history.

Mr. Durant responded to the Nation's call for citizens to volunteer to help secure our homeland after the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. Managed on behalf of the Departments of Homeland Security and Justice by the International Association of Chiefs of Police, VIPS provides an opportunity for ordinary citizens to volunteer in law enforcement. As a volunteer law enforcement officer, Mr. Durant made his community safer, stronger, and a better place to live.

Unfortunately, after Mr. Durant sacrificed his life heeding that call to service, the Federal government compounded his family's loss by denying their application for federal death benefits under the Public Safety Officer Benefits, PSOB, program.

According to the Department of Justice which administers the PSOB program, Mr. Durant did not qualify as a ''public safety officer'' within the meaning of the law.

The PSOB program has been plagued with problems since its inception. Most of the national law enforcement and fire services organizations, such as the International Association of Fire Fighters, the International Association of Fire Chiefs, the Fraternal Order of Police, and the National Sheriff's Association, have long complained about the huge backlog of benefit applications and DoJ's overly strict interpretation of the law.

If we truly hope to encourage more Americans like Mr. Durant to engage in volunteer activities that safeguard our homeland, we must ensure that their families are taken care of in the event that they die while performing duties that public safety officers would have otherwise performed.

Mr. Durant is the first and so far only VIPS participant to have died in the line of duty. It would be folly to assume that he will be the last. That is why I believe that Congress should provide volunteers participating in VIPS and the Fire Corps, another potentially dangerous citizen volunteer program, with death benefits similar to those provided under the PSOB program.

I fully recognize that proposing to expand the PSOB program—even if narrowly—is controversial. But I also believe that such an expansion is necessary. In the future, I hope to reach agreement with my friends in the first responder community on a way to protect the families of volunteers, like Mr. Durant, who lose their lives protecting the citizens of this Nation.

I also pledge to continue working with them to ensure that the DoJ addresses their justifiable concerns with the administration of the PSOB program.

As a nation, we owe it to our first responders—whether career or volunteer—to care for their families when they have made the ultimate sacrifice to protect us. While I regret that the Federal Government has not fulfilled this obligation to Janine Durant and her family, I am committed to ensuring that our Nation treats its heroes honorably.

Mr. Durant was an ordinary American who did extraordinary things. Having already served his country in combat, having work and family obligations, he made the extra effort to serve his community, and lost his life in the process.

We are all poorer for his death, but we can redeem it by providing equitable treatment for the families of other volunteers who may perish while serving the public good.●

TRIBUTE TO MARTIN HANSON

● Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, today I would like to commemorate the life of the great Wisconsin conservationist Martin Hanson. Wisconsin lost one of the best environmental stewards of the last century on October 22 when Martin passed away in beautiful northern Wisconsin. I join so many other Wisconsinites, and conservationists nationwide, in paying tribute to Martin Hanson's memory.

Martin Hanson dedicated his life to protecting the Wisconsin landscape he loved. His legacy will carry on for many years to come in the peaceful shorelines, deep forests, and shimmering lakes of our State. Thanks to Martin's tireless work, future generations of Wisconsinites will fall in love with the great outdoors just as he did.

The Apostle Islands, a great Wisconsin treasure along Lake Superior, have been kept nearly pristine because of his environmental advocacy. Like so many other Wisconsinites, I travel to the Apostle Islands as often as I can to enjoy the spectacular scenery. Wisconsin has Martin Hanson, as well as Gaylord Nelson, to thank for protecting this Wisconsin treasure. The work of these two giants of Wisconsin's conservation movement helped make possible my own efforts to preserve the Apostle Islands and designate almost 80 percent of them as federally protected wilderness.

Generations of Wisconsinites are indebted to Martin Hanson, who was a key architect of our State's tradition of environmental conservation. So today I honor his memory, celebrate his extraordinary life, and give thanks for his outstanding legacy.●

TRIBUTE TO BILL QUINBY

● Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, there are few more accomplished citizens of Iowa than Bill—William—Quinby. I use the word ''citizen'' on purpose because along with his wife Janice, Bill's life continues to be a model of ideal citizenship and embodies what it means to be an Iowan.

Bill has spent his life living by a simple mantra: work hard and give back. In college at the University of Iowa, Bill was a two-time letter winner in baseball as an athlete and again in football as a team manager. He used these experiences to help his community, and for 11 years he served as an educator in the Cedar Rapids School District in various positions as an athletic director, teacher, and principal. After a stint in the private sector, he later served as the director of career counseling and as the athletics director at Coe College, one of Iowa's finest small colleges. Along with these years of service to his community, Bill also served for years as a high school, college, and professional football official, serving in such big games as the Rose Bowl, Orange Bowl, and Super Bowl XIX.

Yet despite this impressive career, I know that Bill would tell you that he is just as proud, if not more so, of his combined 150 years of service on boards and commissions of various charitable organizations in his community. Some of these groups include the Hawkeye Area Boy Scouts, the Cedar Rapids Jaycees, the Cedar Rapids Community Theater, Habitat for Humanity, the Cedar Rapids Community Free Clinic, and the Cedar Rapids Board of Ethics in Government.

I would be remiss if I did not emphasize the large amount of time that Bill has put into a cause that is also close to my heart. As a volunteer for the Special Olympics, Bill has been fighting for equality for persons with disabilities. While the legislative work in Washington can help create a more equal legal framework, the work of volunteers like Bill is what allows equality to emerge in practice.

To honor these services to the community, Bill was recently awarded the University of Iowa's Lifetime Achievement award. Congratulations, Bill. And let me extend to you heartfelt thanks for your inspiration and work to better eastern Iowa.

I ask to have an article about Bill from the August 27, 2008, Cedar Rapids Gazette printed in the RECORD.

The material follows.

QUINBY GIVES LIFETIME OF SERVICE

[From the Cedar Rapids Gazette, Aug. 27, 2008]

CEDAR RAPIDS.—Bill Quinby once punched in the stomach a Minnesota football fan who was pestering Iowa Coach Forest Evashevski, thus earning the nickname ''Punchy'' from the appreciative head coach.

But that's not why he'll receive a lifetime achievement award from the University of Iowa on Saturday when the Hawkeyes host Maine.

Quinby, 76, will be honored for his lifetime of community service in Cedar Rapids and the surrounding area. That punch during a Big Ten game at Minnesota in 1952 is just one of the many stories he has from a lifetime of memories as an educator, Big Ten and NFL referee, philanthropist, public servant, and all-around good guy.

Quinby will be saluted Saturday along with retired Air Force Gen. Donald J. Kutyna, who had a distinguished military career. Quinby marvels at the company he's in: A working-class kid from Cedar Rapids and a decorated U.S. general.

''Let's put it this way,'' he said Wednesday. ''I'm humbled as hell. And honored.''

Quinby's many friends and admirers will tell you it's a well-deserved award and has little to do with his work as a Big Ten football official for 13 years or his service as an NFL referee for 17 years. Rather, it's a tribute to all the help he's given others.

He's served on the board of directors for the Hawkeye Area Boy Scouts, Cedar Rapids Jaycees, Cedar Rapids Community Theatre, Cedar Rapids Kids League Baseball, Cedar Rapids Sports Club, Cedar Rapids Professional Baseball Club, Cerebral Palsy Association, Arc of Eastern Iowa, Cedar Rapids Kernels Foundation, Cedar Rapids Ice Arena, Camp Courageous, Habitat for Humanity, Special Olympics, National Shrine Athletic Committee, and the Linn Area Credit Union. He's served on the Regional Planning Commission, the Cedar Rapids Recreation Commission, the Five Seasons Facility Commission, the Civil Service Commission, and the Cedar Rapids Board of Ethics in Government.

''I always felt it was best to help people who possibly needed help,'' he said. ''I mean, look at how lucky I've been. I truly feel very good about being born here, raised here and I've lived here all my life. Look how good it's been for me.''

Quinby and his wife, Janis, have been married for 53 years. They have four children and nine grandchildren, although one of their children, Billy, died tragically in a traffic accident as a young man.

Quinby was an accomplished athlete at Franklin High School in Cedar Rapids, but three knee operations prevented him from playing football at Iowa. He received two varsity letters in baseball with the Hawkeyes and got two varsity letters in football as the team's manager, which is why he was at Evashevski's side when that unruly Minnesota fan left his seat behind the UI bench and confronted Evy, claiming players were obstructing his view of the field.

Quinby, who did a little boxing in college, rushed to Evashevski's side and slugged the guy a couple of times in the stomach, making him double over in pain. ''Thanks,'' Evashevski said after the game.

''See how lucky I've been to be around?'' Quinby said with a smile. ''For a guy that grew up at Daniels Park and was nothing at Iowa, I feel very lucky.''●

TRIBUTE TO GENERAL BRUCE CARLSON

● Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize GEN Bruce Carlson, one of our most distinguished commanders who will retire from the U.S. Air Force on January 1, 2009, after

completing 37 years of distinguished service to our Nation.

General Carlson currently serves as the Commander of the Air Force Materiel Command—AFMC—in Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, OH. As Commander of AFMC, General Carlson manages the command's 77,000 people in research, development, test, and evaluation while providing the acquisition management services and logistics support required to develop, procure, and sustain Air Force weapon systems. His workforce of active duty, civilian, and contractor personnel are the unsung heroes, managing an annual budget of over $56 billion, more than 40 percent of the total AF budget, and ensuring our warfighters are equipped with the best equipment in the world.

General Carlson was born in Hibbing, MN, and began his accomplished career in 1971 when he graduated as a ''Distinguished Graduate'' from the Air Force ROTC program at the University of Minnesota, Duluth. From the day he pinned on his butter bars through his four silver stars, Gen Bruce Carlson has been a leader and continues to lead and mentor airmen in the air and on the ground.

After graduating from the University of Minnesota, he went on to undergraduate pilot training at Vance Air Force Base in Oklahoma—a base I know well and the finest pilot training base in the U.S. His first assignment out of pilot training was in the F–4 Phantom II and then he transitioned into the OV–10 Bronco and A–10 Warthog. During his career he logged over 3,300 flying hours to include combat time in the OV–10. His work ethic and unparalleled skill resulted in his posting to positions of influence in the offices of the Secretary of the Air Force and Secretary of Defense. His skill as a pilot and a leader led to various flying assignments, including commanding the 49th Fighter Wing at Holloman Air Force Base, NM, the Air Force's first stealth fighter wing.

As with every great officer, his star continued to rise as he met every promotion with dedication and integrity. Moving on to serve as the Director of Force Structure, Resources, and Assessment on the Joint Staff and finally, prior to assuming Command of AFMC, General Carlson served as the Commander, 8th Air Force, Barksdale Air Force Base, Louisiana and Joint Functional Component Commander for Space and Global Strike, U.S. Strategic Command, Offutt AFB, NE.

General Carlson has received several distinguished awards including the Defense Distinguished Service Medal with oak leaf cluster, Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters, Air Force Commendation Medal with two oak leaf clusters, and the 2007 Order of the Sword, Air Force Materiel Command. He was also awarded master's degrees from Webster University in St. Louis, MO, and the Naval War College in Newport, RI.

In the Chief of Staff's recommendation for the Order of the Sword, General Schwarz wrote, ''General Carlson culminates a distinguished career of more than 37 years of Air Force service, with focused leadership, a selfless commitment to excellence and tireless dedication. His vision and leadership transformed Air Force Materiel Command into the preeminent provider of war-winning capabilities . . .'' I cannot agree more. In an era of persistent conflict and constrained budgets, General Carson's dedication to making sure the warfighter has what he needs to fight and win is inspiring.

I offer my sincere thanks and appreciation to Gen Bruce Carlson, his wife Vicki, and his three children, Bryan, Jani, and Scott. The strength of our airmen is in their families, and their support allowed him to dedicate 37 years of leadership and service to the men and women of the Air Force and our country. I wish him and his family well in all his future endeavors.●

TRIBUTE TO PABLO RAUL ALARCON

● Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, today I honor the life of Pablo Raul Alarcon. His dedication and achievements in overcoming the tyranny of the Castro regime to found the largest publicly traded Hispanic-controlled media company in America stands as a powerful example of the realization of the American dream. While we mourn the passing of this broadcasting pioneer, we celebrate his legacy and the profound impact his life has had on the United States.

Today, the Spanish Broadcasting System owns and operates 20 radio stations across the country, including the No. 1 Spanish-language radio station in America—which I have the privilege of listening to when I am home in New Jersey. They own a popular television station and operate a bilingual Web site dedicated to Latino culture and news. Under the exemplary leadership of Mr. Alarcon's son, Raul Alarcon, Jr., SBS continues to be the gold standard in Hispanic-operated broadcasting.

The Alarcons were born in Cuba, where Pablo Raul Alarcon founded his first radio station in 1951. He found success creating a network of 14 stations across the country, which were ultimately seized by the Castro dictatorship. The Alarcons fled to America with few possessions. But the tyranny of Castro could not crush the spirit of their entrepreneurship. Mr. Alarcon worked his way up in Spanish language radio, doing programming, sales, and advertising. In 1983 Mr. Alarcon and his son, Raul Alarcon, Jr., fulfilled their long-held dream of once again owning a broadcast station. They purchased a small AM station licensed in my home State and created the first Spanish language format to be introduced into the New York/New Jersey market in over 25 years.

Since 1983, the Alarcons have overseen the expansion of SBS to become one of the premier Hispanic-controlled broadcast companies in America. Soon after its founding, SBS expanded to Los Angeles and Miami. In 1993, their KLAX-FM station achieved a historic overall No. 1 ranking in southern California.

As the torch was passed from father to son, SBS continued its rise. In 1999, SBS completed the second largest IPO in radio history and continued expanding their network of broadcast stations. That same year, SBS went online with the purchase of lamusica.com. In 2001, SBS produced a sell-out Madison Square Garden charity concert to honor the victims of September 11. In 2006, SBS entered the television broadcasting business with the creation of the MEGA-TV network.

Raul Alarcon, Jr., is well known for his tremendous successes as the president and CEO of SBS. He has been recognized as one of the 100 most influential Hispanics and as one of the 40 most powerful people in radio. In 1994, Raul Alarcon, Jr., was given the Lifetime Achievement Award for Business Excellence. In 1995, he received both the Ellis Island Medal of Honor and the Human Rights Committee Radio Contributions Award. He has testified before Congress and his position as an authority in the field of minority media ownership is unparalleled.

There is no doubt that the Alarcons exhibit the embodiment of the American dream. When a cruel dictatorship destroyed their life's work, they came to America and started over by creating a company that impacts the lives of millions of Americans. So I am pleased to pay tribute to the Spanish Broadcasting System, to honor the passing of Pablo Raul Alarcon, and to recognize the tremendous achievement of Raul Alarcon, Jr., in carrying on his father's legacy.●

RECOGNIZING KATE'S HOMEMADE BUTTER

● Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, today I recognize Kate's Homemade Butter of Old Orchard Beach, ME, a family-owned company whose attention to detail and excellence recently earned it the top honors at the World Dairy Expo, also known as the Academy Awards of the dairy industry.

Kate's Homemade Butter is a dairy farm that is recognized worldwide for producing slow-churned butter. The recipe for fresh homemade butter has been passed down for four generations, dating back to the early 1900s. In 1981, Daniel Patry, founder and president of Kate's Homemade Butter, unleashed his family secret and developed it into an award-winning, profitable business. In 2005, Daniel's son Lucas joined the company to continue a family tradition.

The Patry family is committed to maintaining the degree of quality that originated back in the early 1900s. They have stayed true to their grandfather, Alphonse Hemond, who passed down the family secrets to his son, Roland Hemond. Daniel Patry, learned

the business from his uncle, Roland Hemond, making note of textures and tastes, but, most critically, realizing that the key to award-winning products is time, patience, and diligence. The Patrys ensure that all their ingredients come from local farmers so as to maintain the integrity and freshness of their world-class dairy.

After generations of making the butter for friends and family, Mr. Patry decided to share this creamy spread with the world. The same process for making butter that was used in 1900 is still employed today, further proving Kate's Homemade Butter's commitment to quality over quantity. In 2006, the Patry family's hard work was rewarded when Kate's Homemade Butter won the first of its two gold medals from the World Dairy Expo, beating out thousands of entrants from around the world!

Winning their first gold medal in 2006 helped put Kate's Homemade Butter on the map in the eyes of national producers and highly esteemed culinary circles, including Food & Wine Magazine and Down East Magazine. In a move rarely seen at the World Dairy Expo, Kate's won again in 2008, achieving a very improbable score of 98.8 out of a possible 100. This accomplishment was described as a David versus Goliath moment by the Professor Emeritus in the Department of Food Studies at the University of Wisconsin, Dr. Robert Bradley, who is widely regarded as a pre-eminent industry authority. Dr. Bradley noted, ''Here you have this relatively small producer in Maine, who, literally, makes his butter just in time to give his customers the absolute freshest product possible. He comes into the Expo arena this year, going up against the biggest names in the business—the largest manufacturers in the entire industry—and walks away with a near-perfect score. The finished product is his passion.''

So, thank you, Daniel Patry for your passion and commitment to excellence at Kate's Homemade Butter and congratulations to you and your family on your award-winning product at the World Dairy Expo.●

TRIBUTE TO DONALD AND ELEANOR BUNN

● Mr. THUNE, Mr. President, today I wish to recognize Donald and Eleanor Bunn of Colorado Springs, CO. Donald and Eleanor will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary this year on December 23.

Donald and Eleanor first met in 1947 while on a double date to a drive-in movie; however, at the time the two of them were on the date with other people. Following this meeting, they began dating sporadically until Don finished his active duty in the Navy. After Don's service in the Navy, their courtship resumed in full, and Donald and Eleanor were married on December 23, 1958 at the Virginia Avenue Baptist Church in Bristol, TN. The service was performed by Reverend Haynes with Don's father, Silas Clifton Bunn, and Eleanor's sister, Anne Blevins Helms, as their witnesses. Eventually, Don and Eleanor made their home in Garden Grove, CA, where they raised their only daughter, Sharada.

I offer my congratulations to Donald and Eleanor on their 50th wedding anniversary and wish them many years of continued happiness.●

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mrs. Neiman, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR DURING ADJOURNMENT

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of November 17, 2008, the following bills were read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

S. 3526. A bill to enhance drug trafficking interdiction by creating a Federal felony relating to operating or embarking in a submersible or semi-submersible vessel without nationality and on an international voyage.

S. 3535. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to index certain assets for purposes of determining gain or loss.

S. 3646. A bill to authorize and expedite lease sales within the outer Continental Shelf, and for other purposes.

S. 3688. A bill to provide for additional emergency unemployment compensation, to amend the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 to authorize loans to automobile manufacturers and component suppliers, and for other purposes.

S. 3689. A bill making supplemental appropriations for job creation and preservation, infrastructure investment, and economic and energy assistance for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2009, and for other purposes.

H.R. 6842. To restore Second Amendment rights in the District of Columbia.

H.R. 6867. An act to provide for additional emergency unemployment compensation.

H.R. 6899. An act to advance the national security interests of the United States by reducing its dependency on oil through renewable and clean, alternative fuel technologies while building a bridge to the future through expanded access to Federal oil and natural gas resources, revising the relationship between the oil and gas industry and the consumers who own those resources and deserve a fair return from the development of publicly owned oil and gas, ending tax subsidies for large oil and gas companies, and facilitating energy efficiencies in the building, housing, and transportation sectors, and for other purposes.

H.R. 7110. An act making supplemental appropriations for job creation and preservation, infrastructure investment, and economic and energy assistance for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2009, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC–8686. A communication from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Dairy Forward Pricing Program'' (RIN0581–AC86) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 12, 2008; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–8687. A communication from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Addition of Russia and Azerbaijan to the List of Regions Where African Swine Fever Exists'' (Docket No. APHIS–2008–0107) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 12, 2008; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–8688. A communication from the Administrator, Livestock and Seed Program, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Beef Promotion and Research; Reapportionment'' (Doc. No. LS–07–0141) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 12, 2008; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–8689. A communication from the Assistant Director of the Directives and Regulations Branch, Forest Service, Department of Agriculture transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Clarification for the Appropriate Use of a Criminal or a Civil Citation to Enforce Mineral Regulations'' (RIN0596–AC38) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 12, 2008; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–8690. A communication from the Secretary of the Federal Trade Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''Report to Congress: Regarding the Accuracy of the Do Not Call Registry''; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–8691. A communication from the Deputy Chief Counsel for Regulations, Transportation Security Administration, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Rail Transportation Security'' (RIN1652–AA51) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 12, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–8692. A communication from the Trial Attorney, Federal Railroad Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Electronically Controlled Pneumatic Brake Systems'' (RIN2130–AB84) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 12, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–8693. A communication from the Staff Assistant, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards; Seating Systems, Occupant Crash Protection, Seat Belt Assembly Anchorages, School Bus Passenger Seating and Crash Protection'' (RIN2127–AK09)

received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 12, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–8694. A communication from the Acting Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Taking of Marine Mammals Incidental to Commercial Fishing Operations; Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan'' (RIN0648–XF96) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 12, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–8695. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Operations, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Taking of Marine Mammals Incidental to Commercial Fishing Operations; Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan'' (RIN0648–XF27) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 12, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–8696. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Operations, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Taking of Marine Mammals Incidental to Commercial Fishing Operations; Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan'' (RIN0648–XG33) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 12, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–8697. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Taking of Marine Mammals Incidental to Commercial Fishing Operations; Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan'' (RIN0648–XF58) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 12, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–8698. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Taking of Marine Mammals Incidental to Commercial Fishing Operations; Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan'' (RIN0648–XF17) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 12, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–8699. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Sea Turtle Conservation; Shrimp Trawling Requirements'' (RIN0648–XK78) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 12, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–8700. A communication from the Director of the Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pollock in Statistical Area 630 in the Gulf of Alaska'' (RIN0648–XL22) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 17, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–8701. A communication from the Attorney of the Office of Assistant General Counsel for Legislation and Regulatory Law, Office of the Chief Financial Officer, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Advanced Technology Vehicles Manufacturing Incentive Program'' (RIN1901–AB25) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 12, 2008; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–8702. A communication from the Director, Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''New Mexico Regulatory Program'' (SATS No. NM–047–FOR) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 12, 2008; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–8703. A communication from the Director, Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Abandoned Mine Land Program'' (RIN1029–AC56) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 12, 2008; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–8704. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, National Park Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Special Regulation: Areas of the National Park System, National Capital Region'' (RIN1024-AD71) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 12, 2008; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–8705. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, National Park Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''National Park System Units in Alaska'' (RIN1024-AD69) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 12, 2008; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–8706. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Land and Minerals Management, Minerals Management Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Royalty Relief - Ultra-Deep Gas Wells and Deep Gas Wells on Leases in the Gulf of Mexico; Extension of Royalty Relief Provisions to Leases Offshore of Alaska'' (RIN1010-AD33) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 12, 2008; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–8707. A communication from the Acting Division Chief of Regulatory Affairs, Bureau of Land Management, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Oil Shale Management - General'' (RIN1004-AD90) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 17, 2008; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–8708. A communication from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Avermectin; Pesticide Tolerances for Emergency Exemptions'' ((EPA-HQ-OPP-2008-0175)(FRL-8387-8)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 12, 2008; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–8709. A communication from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Inert Ingredient: Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance for (S,S)-Ethylenediaminedisuccinic Acid'' ((EPA-HQ-OPP-2008-0250)(FRL-8362-4)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 12, 2008; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–8710. A communication from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''MCPB; Pesticide Tolerances'' ((EPA-HQ-OPP-2007-0945)(FRL-8387-1)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 12, 2008; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–8711. A communication from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Stay of Effectiveness of Control Measure Regulating Dust Emissions at the Four Corners Power Plant; Navajo Nation'' ((EPA-R09-OAR-2006-0184)(FRL-8739-7)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 12, 2008; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–8712. A communication from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Tetraconazole; Pesticide Tolerances'' ((EPA-HQ-OPP-2007-1161)(FRL-8386-7)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 12, 2008; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–8713. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the Attorney General, transmitting, pursuant to law, an annual report relative to the Health Care Fraud and Abuse Control Program for fiscal year 2007; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–8714. A communication from the Deputy Director, Office of Regulations, Social Security Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Technical Revisions to Overpayment Rules'' (RIN0960-AG02) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 12, 2008; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–8715. A communication from the Regulation Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Medicare Program; Revisions to the Medicare Advantage and Prescription Drug Benefit Programs: Clarification of Compensation Plans'' (RIN0938-AP52) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 12, 2008; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–8716. A communication from the Program Manager of the Office of Strategic Operations and Regulatory Affairs, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Medicaid Program; Clarification of Outpatient Hospital Facility (Including Outpatient Hospital Clinic) Services Definition'' (RIN0938-AO17) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 12, 2008; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–8717. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Information Reporting on Employer-Owned Life Insurance Contracts'' (RIN1545-BG58) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 12, 2008; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–8718. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Election to Expense Certain Refineries'' (RIN1545-BF06) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 12, 2008; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–8719. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch,

Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''2008 Base Period T-Bill Rate'' (Rev. Rul. 2008-51) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 12, 2008; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–8720. A communication from Director of the Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Toll-Free Number for Reporting Adverse Events on Labeling for Human Drug Products'' (RIN0910-AC35) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 12, 2008; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–8721. A communication from the Secretary of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department's Performance and Accountability Report for fiscal year 2008; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–8722. A communication from the President, Overseas Private Investment Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, an annual report relative to the Corporation's audit and investigative activities; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–8723. A communication from the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Inspector General's Semiannual Report for the six-month period ending September 30, 2008 and the Office of Inspector General's compendium of unimplemented recommendations; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–8724. A communication from the Chief of the Trade and Commercial Regulations Branch, Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Advance Information on Private Aircraft Arriving and Departing the United States'' (RIN1651-AA41) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 12, 2008; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–8725. A communication from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 17–536, ''Firearms Control Temporary Amendment Act of 2008'' received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 12, 2008; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–8726. A communication from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 17–537, ''Chief Financial Officer Approval of Payment of Goods and Services Temporary Amendment Act of 2008'' received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 12, 2008; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–8727. A communication from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 17–538, ''Franklin Shelter Closing Requirements Temporary Act of 2008'' received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 12, 2008; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–8728. A communication from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 17–550, ''Public Space Rental Fees Amendment Act of 2008'' received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 12, 2008; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–8729. A communication from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 17–551, ''Workforce Housing Production Program Amendment Act of 2008'' received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 12, 2008; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–8730. A communication from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 17–552, ''District's Opportunity to Purchase Amendment Act of 2008'' received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 12, 2008; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–8731. A communication from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 17–553, ''Consolidated Mt. Pleasant, Ward 2, and Ward 6 Single Sales Moratorium Act of 2008'' received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 12, 2008; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–8732. A communication from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 17–554, ''Targeted Ward 4 Single Sales Moratorium Temporary Act of 2008'' received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 12, 2008; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–8733. A communication from the Regulatory and Policy Specialist, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Indian Trust Management Reform'' (RIN1076–AE59) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 12, 2008; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

EC–8734. A communication from the Secretary of the Federal Trade Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''Hart-Scott-Rodino Annual Report Fiscal Year 2007''; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC–8735. A communication from the Staff Director, U.S. Sentencing Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the compliance of federal district courts with documentation submission requirements; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM–448. A joint resolution adopted by the Alaska State Legislature relative to security and defense matters; to the Committee on Armed Services.

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 40 AM

Whereas the Constitution of the United States imposes on the national government a duty to provide for the common defense, and the states and the national government work together toward the security of each state; and

Whereas the Congressionally mandated Commission to Assess the Threat to the United States from Electromagnetic Pulse Attack found, in its report delivered July 2004, that an enemy using a low-yield nuclear weapon detonated at a high altitude above the United States, delivered by even a relatively unsophisticated short-range or medium-range ballistic missile, could make an electromagnetic pulse attack against the United States, and that an electromagnetic pulse attack has the potential to place our society at risk and to defeat our military forces; and

Whereas the Alaska State Legislature views with growing concern the development of nuclear weapons technology worldwide and the proliferation of ballistic missile delivery systems that are controlled by unstable and potentially hostile foreign regimes; and

Whereas the threat from nuclear-armed ballistic missile attack has been reduced but not eliminated by the initial limited deployments of ground-based interceptors in Alaska and California; and

Whereas the Cold War doctrine of mutually assured destruction no longer represents a plausible security strategy because of the proliferation of ballistic missiles around the world; and

Whereas the testing of ballistic missiles launched from ships by enemies of the United States could indicate the intention of those enemies to use a platform off the coast of Alaska to employ short-range or medium-range missiles for a nuclear-generated electromagnetic pulse attack on American citizens; and

Whereas, in 1997, the Alaska State Legislature was the first of many state legislatures to petition the federal government to develop and deploy a robust and layered missile defense system that includes the most effective combination of land-based, sea-based, air-based, and space-based architectures;

Be it Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature urges the United States to work with the State of Alaska to ensure that the state is prepared to respond to and recover from an electromagnetic pulse attack; and be it further

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature urges the United States to expand its ballistic missile defense system, and also to develop other methods, to defend against electromagnetic pulse attacks delivered by ballistic missiles, including missiles launched at American cities from ships off the coast of Alaska; and be it further

Resolved, That it is the policy of the state to include in its preparedness planning defense against electromagnetic pulse attacks, as those attacks intersect with the full range of risks, threats, and hazards confronting the state; and be it further

Resolved, That it is the policy of the state to educate Alaskans about the threat of electromagnetic pulse attacks causing massive losses of electric power and disruption to telecommunications and other vital services, including health, public safety, food, and transportation services that depend on reliable electric power; and be it further

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature encourages municipalities and private industry in the state to examine critical vulnerabilities in their infrastructures and to prepare for massive disruptions that could be caused by electromagnetic pulse attacks.

Copies of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable George W. Bush, President of the United States; the Honorable Richard B. Cheney, Vice-President of the United States and President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Harry Reid, Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Mitch McConnell, Minority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable Steny H. Hoyer, Majority Leader of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable John Boehner, Minority Leader of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable Robert M. Gates, United States Secretary of Defense; the Honorable Samuel W. Bodman, United States Secretary of Energy; the Honorable

Michael O. Leavitt, United States Secretary of Health and Human Services; the Honorable Michael Chertoff, United States Secretary of Homeland Security; the Honorable Condoleezza Rice, United States Secretary of State; the Honorable Mary E. Peters, United States Secretary of Transportation; the Honorable Henry M. Paulson, Jr., United States Secretary of the Treasury; the Honorable Robert S. Mueller, Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation; the Honorable Mike Mullen, Chair of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Honorable Mike McConnell, Director of National Intelligence; and the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Lisa Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.

POM–449. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the State of Pennsylvania memorializing the Congress of the United States to urge the Comptroller of the Currency for the United States Treasury to add the Pittsburgh Metropolitan Statistical Area as a new Community Reinvestment Act assessment area for Bank of America; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 789

Whereas, Congress passed the Community Reinvestment Act (CRA) in 1977, which states that ''regulated financial institutions have continuing and affirmative obligations to help meet the credit needs of the local communities in which they are chartered''; and

Whereas, the original act established a regulatory mechanism for monitoring the level of lending, investments and services in low-income and moderate-income neighborhoods, traditionally underserved by lending institutions; and

Whereas, in the spring of 1995, the Federal regulatory agencies released new CRA regulations that outlined how Federal agencies are to assess the activities of lending institutions in traditionally underserved neighborhoods; and

Whereas, the regulations, which became effective in January 1996, established three different tests for lending institutions, involving the lending, investment and service records of banks and provided a strategic plan option in lieu of a regulator evaluation; and

Whereas, examiners rate lending institutions as either ''outstanding,'' ''satisfactory,'' ''needs to improve'' or ''substantial noncompliance''; and

Whereas, scores falling within the categories of ''needs to improve'' or ''substantial noncompliance'' can result in delays or denials of mergers, acquisitions or expansion of services; and

Whereas, Countrywide Home Loans currently issues the most single-family home loans in the Pittsburgh Metropolitan Statistical area at 4,763 loans and maintains 8.98% of the market share; and

Whereas, Bank of America is ranked tenth in the number of single-family home loans issued in the Pittsburgh Metropolitan Statistical Area at 888 loans, or 1.67% of the market share; and

Whereas, the total market share of home loans in the Pittsburgh Metropolitan Statistical Area is likely to be 11.38% after the merger of Countrywide Home Loans and Bank of America; and

Whereas, the most recent examination under the Community Reinvestment Act did not include the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania or the Pittsburgh region as an official assessment area for Bank of America; and

Whereas, an analysis of fair lending practices conducted by the National Community Reinvestment Coalition (NCRC) reflected that Countrywide Home Loans provided African Americans with only 2.3% of total prime loans issued, although they represented 7.4% of all households in the Pittsburgh Metropolitan Statistical Area and lagged behind all lenders as a group; and

Whereas, the analysis further reflected that Countrywide Home Loans lagged behind all lenders in the Pittsburgh region in the proportion of both prime and subprime loans to residents of low-income and moderate-income tracts, and borrowers in minority tracts received a disproportionately small share of prime loans at 0.99%; and

Whereas, Bank of America also provided African Americans with a disproportionately small share of prime loans issued, 1.65%, as compared to representing 7.4% of Pittsburgh's population; and

Whereas, the NCRC's analysis further reflected that while low-income and moderate-income borrowers comprised 40.4% of the households in the Pittsburgh Metropolitan Statistical Area in 2006, they received a disproportionately small number of the bank's prime loans, 30.6%, and a larger share of subprime loans, 72.2%; and

Whereas, a merger of these institutions would make Bank of America the largest lender in the Pittsburgh Metropolitan Statistical Area; and

Whereas, without oversight under the Community Reinvestment Act, the credit needs of the local community could be disproportionately affected and impact the level of lending, investments and services in Pittsburgh's underserved populations; therefore be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania memorialize the Congress of the United States to urge the Comptroller of the Currency for the United States Treasury to add the Pittsburgh Metropolitan Statistical Area as a new Community Reinvestment Act assessment area for Bank of America; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Pittsburgh Community Reinvestment Group in appreciation and recognition of its efforts in providing economic justice, equitable investment practices and sufficient financial resources to revitalize communities throughout Allegheny County; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Comptroller of the Currency for the United States Treasury and the presiding officers of each house of Congress and to each member of Congress from Pennsylvania.

POM–450. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the State of Michigan memorializing the United States Congress and the President of the United States to support additional funding to expand Amtrak's capacity and routes in Michigan; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 200

Whereas, ridership has increased 47 percent on all three Michigan Amtrak routes in the last six years. The Wolverine route, from Pontiac through Detroit to Chicago, increased its passenger load 2.5 percent in 2007 alone. The state-supported Blue Water route between Port Huron and Chicago saw increased ridership of 3 percent in 2007. Ridership on the state-supported Pere Marquette route between Grand Rapids and Chicago increased 2.8 percent. All three corridors experienced sold-out trains in 2007, some on a regular basis, which may have limited their true earning potential. The trains contributed $500,000 of unanticipated ticket income to the state of Michigan; and

Whereas, the trend of increasing passenger numbers continues in 2008. Over the first ten months of the fiscal year, Pere Marquette ridership is up 9.8 percent and Blue Water ridership has increased 6.5 percent. Revenues have grown as well, from 4.5 to 9.2 percent. These trends over the last six years suggest continued record numbers of passengers but less than potential revenue because of limited capacity, as witnessed by frequent sold-out conditions; and

Whereas, Amtrak employs 114 Michigan residents and pays over $6.6 million annually in salaries and wages. Amtrak contracts with Michigan businesses for more than $5.7 million in goods and services.

Whereas, Michigan residents continue to face increasing fuel prices, traffic congestion, and limited access to public transportation. We believe the time has come to generate additional economic growth and public transportation alternatives for Michigan and its residents by increasing passenger rail capacity and service; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate, That we memorialize Congress and the President to support additional funding for passenger rail cars on Michigan's three train routes, to consider increasing capacity and routes in Michigan, and to consider the restoration of a second, mid-day passenger train from Chicago to Grand Rapids; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the members of the Michigan congressional delegation, the Governor of Michigan, the Surface Transportation Board, the United States Department of Transportation, the Michigan Department of Transportation, and Amtrak.

POM–451. A resolution adopted by the General Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts relative to recommendations resulting from the New Bedford Fisheries Summit; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

RESOLUTION

Whereas, on May 28, 2008, a fisheries summit was convened in New Bedford with the purpose of sharing concerns regarding the conservation of stocks and maintenance and survival of fishing communities with our congressional delegation; and

Whereas, as a result of this summit, a set of recommendations was compiled to be forwarded to our congressional delegation regarding the regulations of the fishing industry; and

Whereas, the recommendations were as follows:

A) There should be a one-year delay in implementation of Amendment 16 to the Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan to properly align the amendment with the 2010 deadlines set forth in the Magnuson Stevens Reauthorization Act and until better scientific data is available; and

B) The costs and benefits of management should be evaluated taking into account the failure to maintain optimum yield and discards; and

C) The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration approach to management needs to be revised, considering and taking into account the advice from the fishing industry while maintaining the conservation of stocks; and

Whereas, under the leadership of our New England coastal congressional members, these recommendations are being advocated for; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Massachusetts General Court respectfully urges the members of the Massachusetts congressional delegation and

the leaders of the Congress of the United States to advocate for the recommendations set forth regarding the regulations of the fishing industry; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be forwarded by the clerk of the House of Representatives to the Majority Leader of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives and the members of the Massachusetts congressional delegation.

POM–452. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the State of Pennsylvania memorializing the Congress of the United States to oppose the New York/New Jersey/Pennsylvania metropolitan airspace redesign proposals; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 673

Whereas, the basic air traffic structure of the New York/New Jersey/Philadelphia metropolitan area airspace was designed and implemented in the 1960s and was last modified in 1987 with the Expanded East Coast Plan (EECP); and

Whereas, the EECP proved inadequate in addressing the changes in volume and type of aircraft used by the National Airspace System and also caused major noise problems that resulted in a congressional mandate in the Aviation Safety and Capacity Expansion Act of 1990, requiring the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to perform an environmental impact study of the EECP and mitigate the noise; and

Whereas, in the 1995 final environmental impact study, the FAA committed to mitigate noise in a follow-up regional study; and

Whereas, in 2001, the FAA determined that aircraft noise pollution was the strongest and most widespread concern raised by the public, however, the FAA failed to include the reduction of aircraft noise as a formal goal of its regional redesign project; and

Whereas, on December 20, 2005, the FAA issued a draft environmental impact statement containing several proposals to redesign the New York/New Jersey/Philadelphia metropolitan airspace; and

Whereas, the airspace redesign involves a 31,000 square mile, five-state area with a population of 29 million residents and 21 airports, with particular focus placed on air traffic operations at five major airports, including the Philadelphia International Airport in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; and

Whereas, the FAA began implementation of the airspace redesign in December 2007; and

Whereas, the FAA did not conduct proper environmental reviews or seek proper input from the public and air traffic controllers at Philadelphia International Airport; and

Whereas, the FAA has shunned additional public hearing requests made by Federal and State legislators representing affected areas; and

Whereas, since southeastern Pennsylvania does not have a regional airport authority, it lacks the ability to coordinate airport planning and operations, ensuring underuse of regional airports and the overuse of the Philadelphia International Airport; and

Whereas, the Commonwealth should not appropriate State money for improvements to the infrastructure of the Philadelphia International Airport until such time as the FAA fully addresses the safety and environmental impact of the airspace redesign plan and offers a modified plan that incorporates the use of regional airports; and

Whereas, the New Jersey Coalition Against Aircraft Noise and the Citizens Coalition Against Noise Pollution oppose these proposals, arguing that the interests of the citizens of affected areas have not been considered and that the proposals no longer promote aircraft noise reduction; and

Whereas, it is in the best interest of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to oppose the FAA's proposal to redesign the New York/New Jersey/Philadelphia metropolitan airspace; therefore be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania call upon the Congress of the United States to immediately suspend the FAA's implementation of the New York/New Jersey/Philadelphia metropolitan airspace redesign and hold additional hearings seeking the input of elected officials and concerned citizens; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration and each member of the Pennsylvania Congressional Delegation now serving in the United States Senate and House of Representatives.

POM–453. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the State of Pennsylvania relative to the Susquehanna Flood Forecasting and Warning System; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 929

Whereas, the United States Army Corps of Engineers has fiscal year 2009–2010 operation and maintenance funding for six or seven stream gauges between the New York border and Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, that are a part of the Cooperative Streamgauging Network in the Susquehanna River Basin, necessitating stopgap measures to allow the United States Geological Survey to continue ongoing operation and maintenance of the gauges; and

Whereas, Congress has reduced the appropriation and not made available the entire $2 million necessary for the Susquehanna Flood Forecasting and Warning System, which includes the operation and maintenance of the stream gauges; and

Whereas, the real time data provided by the stream gauges is of critical importance to water managers and others for a host of water management programs such as flood forecasting and warning, drought monitoring, water quality monitoring, regulatory purposes and recreational uses; and

Whereas, the Susquehanna River Basin is one of the most flood-prone watersheds in the United States, with average annual flood damages of nearly $150 million; and

Whereas, real time data are of particular importance for timely and accurate flood forecasts and warning activities in the Susquehanna River Basin, where the Susquehanna Flood Forecasting and Warning System has helped to prevent injury and loss of life, to reduce flood damages by tens of millions of dollars and to deliver a benefit-to-cost ratio of 20:1; and

Whereas, these water resource management programs are inextricably linked to the public health, safety and welfare of the citizens of the Susquehanna River Basin; and

Whereas, given the above considerations, there is a long-term, ongoing need for the operation and maintenance of stream gauges for these various purposes and for sustainable sources of funding to allow that need to be met in the future; and

Whereas, in the interest of avoiding duplication of effort, maximizing available resources and promoting good government, the Susquehanna River Basin Commission plays an important coordinative role with Federal and State agencies through the Susquehanna Flood Forecasting and Warning System and also provides important technical assistance and public information services to the system; therefore be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania urge the Congress of the United States to restore full funding for fiscal year 2009–2010 and provide sufficient funding in the Federal fiscal year 2010–2011 budget and beyond for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to fully fund at $2 million the Susquehanna Flood Forecasting and Warning System to enable timely and accurate flood forecasts and warnings to be issued by the National Weather Service for the Susquehanna River Basin; and be it further

Resolved, That the administrator of National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration be urged to discontinue withholding funds that are used for administrative purposes, are critically needed for program implementation and are appropriated for the Susquehanna Flood Forecasting Warning System; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States; the Director of the Office of Management and Budget; to the presiding officers of each house of Congress and to each member of the Congress from Pennsylvania; the administrators of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, to the United States Geological Survey; the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works; the Commander, United States Army Corps of Engineers North Atlantic Division; the District Engineer, United States Army Corps of Engineers Baltimore District; the Secretary of Environmental Protection, the Secretary of Conservation and Natural Resources and the Secretary of Community and Economic Development of Pennsylvania; the Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency; the directors of all county emergency management agencies in the Pennsylvania portion of the Susquehanna River Basin; and the Executive Director of the Susquehanna River Basin Commission.

POM–454. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the State of Pennsylvania relative to the natural gas market and energy policy; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 375

Whereas, the Natural Gas Policy Act (NGPA) of 1978 authorizes the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to oversee the natural gas market; and

Whereas, the United States Supreme Court has ruled that state regulatory agencies, such as the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission, have no authority over interstate gas pipelines; and

Whereas, the NGPA also continues the authority of natural gas companies to acquire private and public property through eminent domain; and

Whereas, these various Federal public policy decisions and rulings have resulted in a proliferation of interstate natural gas pipelines over which state and local governments have no authority; and

Whereas, the FERC natural gas certification process does not properly protect the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's natural resources; and

Whereas, the FERC natural gas certification process also fails to properly take into account the interests and values of property owners; and

Whereas, some property owners state that they were not properly notified of a project in their neighborhood, and the Natural Gas Act of 1938 does not statutorily require that FERC hold a public hearing in the locality affected by a proposed gas pipeline; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Senate of Pennsylvania recognize fully the energy and environmental challenges facing the Commonwealth

of Pennsylvania in general and the United States in particular; and be it further

Resolved, That the Senate believe that the demand for energy continues to be a concern nationwide and that an effective national energy policy must include increased emphasis on conservation, renewable energy, demand-side management, as well as increased production, and an emphasis on siting power generation near demand; and be it further

Resolved, That the Senate recognize that an effective energy policy must be addressed nationally but should reflect traditional State and local authority over environmental and energy matters; and be it further

Resolved, That the Senate urge the members of the Pennsylvania Congressional Delegation to support legislation to amend section 7(e) of the Natural Gas Act of 1938 to require that the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission hold a public hearing in localities prior to authorization if so requested; and be it further

Resolved, That the Senate urge the members of the Pennsylvania Congressional Delegation to further amend the Natural Gas Act of 1938 so as to preserve the fundamental rights of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and its local governments and its citizens to determine the future of land-use polices; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the presiding officers of each house of Congress and to each member of Congress from Pennsylvania.

POM–455. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the State of Pennsylvania urging the Congress of the United States relative to gas and energy prices; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 546

Whereas, coal, oil and natural gas currently provide more than 85% of all the energy consumed in the United States, which accounts for nearly two-thirds of our electricity consumption and virtually all of our transportation fuels; and

Whereas, even with aggressive development and deployment of new renewable and nuclear technologies, it is likely that this nation's burgeoning and debilitating dependence on foreign oil will surely increase over at least the next two decades; and

Whereas, with continued strife in the Middle East and unrest in other oil-producing regions, the price and supply of gas and energy have grown increasingly unstable in today's complex, globalized economy; and

Whereas, the Department of Energy forecasts a sharp and definite spike in gas and energy prices over the winter months, further crippling consumers of this nation, especially those living in the northeast; and

Whereas, more than 50% of this Commonwealth's citizens and 58% of this nation's households utilize natural gas, forcing families with low income to spend 10% of their annual incomes on energy costs; and

Whereas, America's economic viability, national security and citizens' welfare depend on the continued availability of reliable and affordable fossil fuels; and

Whereas, the economic duress of this nation is further exacerbated by increasing energy prices, thus depressing consumer spending, which accounts for two-thirds of economic activity in the United States; and

Whereas, the lack of oversight and inquiry by Congress into the energy policy of this nation resulted in the five largest United States refineries earning $228 billion in profits from 2001 to 2005; and

Whereas, these unscrupulous and inordinate profits were procured on the backs of hard-working Americans who struggle just to fill their gas tanks and heat their homes; therefore be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania urge the Congress of the United States to exercise due diligence on behalf of the citizens of this Commonwealth and of this nation by implementing oversight, inquiry and investigation into gas and energy prices to ensure that these exceedingly high prices are both necessary and ethically ascertained.

POM–456. A joint resolution adopted by the Alaska State Legislature relative to revenue generated from oil and gas development on the outer continental shelf; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 17

Whereas, under the Mineral Lands Leasing Act of 1920, the federal government shares with the states 50 percent of revenue from mineral production on federal land within each state's boundaries; and

Whereas, the shared mineral production revenue is distributed to the states automatically, outside of the budget process, and is not subject to appropriation; and.

Whereas, there is not a similar authority for the federal government to share federal oil and gas revenue generated on the outer continental shelf with adjacent coastal states, despite the vital contribution made by those states to our nation's energy, economic, and national security needs in support of production from the outer continental shelf; and

Whereas, the states that sustain this critical energy production and development deserve a share of the revenue generated because they provide infrastructure to support offshore operations and because of the environmental effects and other risks associated with oil and gas development on the outer continental shelf; and

Whereas, under the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006, the federal government recognized the contributions made by Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas to national security and agreed to give them 37.5 percent of revenue from oil and gas development in newly leased federal waters in the Gulf of Mexico; and

Whereas, other coastal states, including Alaska and California, also support and should receive, on a regular and ongoing basis, a fair share of revenue generated through development on the outer continental shelf as compensation and reward for their contributions to the nation's energy supply, security, and economy; and

Whereas, there are presently 263 active oil and gas leases off Alaska's coast, covering more than 550,000 hectares; and

Whereas, since statehood, oil and gas production from the outer continental shelf off Alaska's coast has generated millions of dollars in revenue for the federal government; and

Whereas, the February 2008 lease sale in the Chukchi Sea generated an additional $2,600,000,000 in revenue for the federal government;

Be it *Resolved*, that the Alaska State Legislature urges the United States Congress to provide a means for consistently sharing, on an ongoing basis, revenue generated from oil and gas development on the outer continental shelf with all coastal energy-producing states to ensure that those states develop, support, and maintain necessary infrastructure and preserve environmental integrity.

Copies of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable George W. Bush, President of the United States; the Honorable Richard B. Cheney, Vice-President of the United States and President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Dirk Kempthorne, United States Secretary of the Interior; the Honorable Harry Reid, Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Mitch McConnell, Minority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable John Boehner, Minority Leader of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable Jeff Bingaman, Chair of the U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources; the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Lisa Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress; and all other members of the 110th United States Congress.

POM–457. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the State of Pennsylvania endorsing the request for Federal funding to address vitally important water resource needs; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 719

Whereas, the water resources of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania are vitally important for domestic purposes, production of food and fiber, power generation, industrial and commercial purposes and recreational uses; and

Whereas, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania is a member of several interstate river basin commissions, including the Susquehanna River Basin Commission, the Delaware River Basin Commission and the Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin, hereinafter referred to as the ''Mid-Atlantic Commissions''; and

Whereas, the jurisdiction of the Mid-Atlantic Commissions encompasses approximately two-thirds of the land area of this Commonwealth and approximately two-thirds of the stream miles in the State; and

Whereas, the Mid-Atlantic Commissions provide invaluable water resource functions, including planning and management activities to avoid conflicts between states sharing the same watersheds and among water users; and

Whereas, the Mid-Atlantic Commissions were established by legislation enacted by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the other member jurisdictions to each of the compacts, including the Federal Government; and

Whereas, the interstate compacts that were created as a result of this legislation require their member jurisdictions, including the Federal Government, to provide equitable shares of funding in support of the Mid-Atlantic Commissions' annual expense budgets; and

Whereas, the Federal Government has provided no direct funding to the Mid-Atlantic Commissions for the past decade in fulfillment of its interstate compact obligations, resulting in the burden of financial responsibility being shifted to the member states of the Mid-Atlantic Commissions, including the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; and

Whereas, the President of the United States did not request funding in his budget request for fiscal year 2009 to fulfill the Federal Government's equitable share of funding in support of the Mid-Atlantic Commissions' annual expense budgets for fiscal year 2009; and

Whereas, the 110th Congress of the United States, in its first session, enacted the Water Resources Development Act of 2007; and

Whereas, section 5019(b) of the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 requires the Secretary of the Army to allocate funds to the Mid-Atlantic Commissions to fulfill the equitable funding requirements of the respective interstate compacts; and

Whereas, the Mid-Atlantic Commissions have officially requested that funding be included in the fiscal year 2009 Energy and

Water Development Appropriations Bill in the amount of $1 million for the Susquehanna River Basin Commission, $715,000 for the Delaware River Basin Commission and $650,000 for the Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin; and

Whereas, Federal funding is needed for the Mid-Atlantic Commissions to address vitally important water resource needs, among them the establishment of flow targets to guide the Susquehanna River Basin Commission's management of major withdrawals in the Susquehanna River Basin, the initiation of flood mitigation activities in the Delaware River Basin and the coordination with community leaders on drinking water source water protection activities; therefore be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania wholeheartedly endorse the request of the Mid-Atlantic Commissions for funding from the Federal Government in fiscal year 2009; and be it further

Resolved, That all members of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Congressional Delegation are strongly encouraged to actively support the funding request of the Mid-Atlantic Commissions; and be it further

Resolved, That the United States Senate and the United States House of Representatives Appropriations Subcommittees on Energy and Water Development be urged to place a high priority on the request of the Mid-Atlantic Commissions and to include said request in the fiscal year 2009 Energy and Water Development Appropriations Bill; and be it further

Resolved, That pursuant to the requirements of section 5019(b) of the Water Resources Development Act of 2007, the Secretary of the Army be urged to recommend funds for the Mid-Atlantic Commissions in the fiscal year 2010 budget it submits to the Office of Management and Budget; and be it further

Resolved, That pursuant to the requirements of the interstate compacts of the Mid-Atlantic Commissions, the President of the United States be urged to include funds for the Federal Government's equitable share of funding in support of the Mid-Atlantic Commissions' 2010 budget in the President's 2010 budget request; and be it further

Resolved, That the Senate of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the governors and general assemblies of the other member states of the Mid-Atlantic Commissions be urged to consider the adoption of similar resolutions; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States, the chairmen and ranking members of the United States Senate and United States House of Representatives Appropriations Subcommittees for Energy and Water Development, the Secretary of the Army, the director of the Office of Management and Budget, each member of Congress from Pennsylvania and the governors and general assemblies of New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, New York, Virginia and West Virginia.

POM–458. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the State of Pennsylvania directing the Joint State Government Commission to conduct an in-depth study of the subject of developments of regional significance and impact; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 845

Whereas, on September 19, 2006, a massive landslide occurred in Kilbuck Township, Allegheny County; and

Whereas, on October 24, 2006, the House of Representatives adopted House Resolution 897, which directed the Joint State Government Commission to conduct an in-depth investigation into the September 19, 2006, landslide and compile a report on its findings and recommendations; and

Whereas, House Resolution 897 authorized the appointment of a four-member legislative task force and an advisory committee to assist the task force in this undertaking; and

Whereas, the advisory committee established under House Resolution 897 represented a broad range of expertise and interests and included attorneys, geologists, engineers, land use planners, representatives of local and county governments, representatives of community development organizations, environmental advocates, representatives of Communities First!, the executive director of the Joint Legislative Air and Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee, a representative from the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, a representative from the Department of Environmental Protection and a representative from the Department of Transportation; and

Whereas, the task force and advisory committee noted that possible issues contributing to the Kilbuck landslide included geologically hazardous conditions at the site, inadequate coordination among regulatory decisionmakers and lack of capacity by some municipalities, particularly with respect to approvals of large, complex developments; and

Whereas, the task force and advisory committee agreed to address the following seven subject areas that could help prevent the occurrence of such landslides:

(1) revisions to the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code;
(2) regional planning and review;
(3) resources to local governments;
(4) the permitting and inspection process;
(5) coordination of agencies' actions;
(6) standing and jurisdiction; and
(7) disclosure of geologic concerns; and

Whereas, the task force and advisory committee reached consensus on findings and recommendations as contemplated by House Resolution 897; and

Whereas, on June 9, 2008, the task force authorized the release of the report of the task force and advisory committee and the introduction of the legislation contained in the report; and

Whereas, as part of the findings and recommendations contained in the report, the task force and advisory committee acknowledged that further consideration, discussion and analysis should be given to the subject of developments of regional significance and impact, which was addressed only briefly in the report; and

Whereas, the members of the task force and advisory committee desired to continue their work regarding the subject of development of regional significance and impact; and

Whereas, the task force recommended that further consideration, discussion and analysis regarding the subject of developments of regional significance and impact should be authorized by a new resolution; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Joint State Government Commission be authorized to reconstitute the task force and advisory committee established under House Resolution 897 to conduct an in-depth study of the subject of developments of regional significance and impact; and be it further

Resolved, That the composition of the reconstituted advisory committee be modified as necessary and that additional persons may be appointed as members of the advisory committee; and be it further

Resolved, That the Joint State Government Commission compile a report based on the findings and recommendations of the reconstituted task force and advisory committee and submit the report to the House of Representatives as soon as possible but no later than two years following the adoption of this resolution.

POM–459. A joint resolution adopted by the Alaska State Legislature opposing the enactment of the Protect America's Wildlife Act of 2007 that intends to prohibit aerial hunting of wildlife; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

CSHJR 31(RES)

Whereas the Alaska Department of Fish and Game has experienced and knowledgeable biologists familiar with Alaska wildlife; and

Whereas the Alaska Board of Game openly discusses game management at board meetings and makes decisions based on scientific data; and

Whereas Alaska is a sovereign government within the United States with its own Board of Game responsible for managing the wildlife asset to be utilized, developed, and maintained on the sustained yield principle, subject to preferences among beneficial uses, under art. VIII, sec. 4, Constitution of the State of Alaska; and

Whereas many areas in Alaska are accessible only by boat or aircraft; and

Whereas Alaska presents unique living and wildlife situations of which many people outside the state might not be aware; and

Whereas there is no shortage of predators in Alaska; and

Whereas predator imbalance will destroy other species that are important to the ecosystem of Alaska; and

Whereas there is legislation before the United States Congress to prevent aerial predator control; and

Whereas the use of aircraft is a necessary tool for managing the asset of game animals to provide for abundance for personal use in Alaska; and

Whereas much of Alaska's wildlife represents a natural food source for many Alaskans; therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature urges all members of the United States Congress to oppose H.R. 3663, the Protect America's Wildlife Act of 2007; and be it further

Resolved, That management of fish and game in Alaska should be left to the experts in state. Copies of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable George W. Bush, President of the United States; the Honorable Richard B. Cheney, Vice President of the United States; and President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Lisa Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress; and all other members of the 110th United States Congress.

POM–460. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the State of Michigan memorializing the United States Congress to enact legislation to help revitalize the economy in states with exceptionally high rates of unemployment by the creation of a Recovery State Renaissance Zone Act; to the Committee on Finance.

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 222

Whereas, our nation, the state of Michigan in particular, is being buffeted by the tumultuous seas of economic change. Global manufacturing shifts have had a disproportionate impact on the Great Lake State's manufacturing sector. Indeed, despite years of diversifying our economy and streamlining our state's governmental operations, Michigan continues to be one of those states trapped in this economic maelstrom; and

Whereas, according to the latest U.S. Department of Labor employment statistics, Michigan continues to lead the nation in the

rate of unemployment. Our average unemployment rate has exceeded the national average by more than 50 percent in each of the past two calendar years, and the state is on track to break this mark again in 2008. This disparity clearly points to the fact that Michigan cannot wait for its long-term economic development initiatives to see fruition. The need for federal assistance in our efforts is immediate and pressing; and

Whereas, Congress must enact a federal law that mirrors Michigan's Renaissance Zone statute to create federal Renaissance Zones. States with average unemployment rates of 50 percent above the national average for at least the past two years must be designated as renaissance states. As renaissance states, they would qualify for two recovery benefits: (1) a statewide 100 percent increase in the federal investment tax credit; and (2) the ability to designate certain areas of the state as exempt from federal corporate taxes with a cap of $1 billion per year; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate, That we hereby memorialize the Congress of the United States to enact legislation to help revitalize the economy in states with exceptionally high rates of unemployment by the creation of a Recovery State Renaissance Zone Act; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and the members of the Michigan congressional delegation.

POM–461. A joint resolution adopted by the California Legislature encouraging the President and the Congress of the United States to provide a long-term extension of the investment and production tax credits for all renewable energy technologies; to the Committee on Finance.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 27

Whereas, a diverse energy portfolio will result in a reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, create jobs, stimulate economic growth and investment, and encourage a secure energy future; and

Whereas, a diverse energy portfolio will better position the nation's energy system to respond to new local, regional, and environmental challenges and population growth, and will take advantage of the development of new technologies that will lower the cost of renewable energy; and

Whereas, Congress has shown a multiyear commitment to supporting the development of a diverse energy portfolio by implementing and repeatedly extending federal tax credits for renewable energy; and

Whereas, extending the federal investment and production tax credits will ensure continued robust growth of the renewable energy industry, which will help protect the American economy from energy shortages and price spikes that are harmful to business and consumers and are disruptive to investment; and

Whereas, in 2008, there were over 42,000 megawatts of renewable energy power generation projects under development in 45 states; and

Whereas, the federal investment and production tax credits will provide the market stability and investor confidence that is necessary in the wind, solar, geothermal, small irrigation power, municipal solid waste, noncom ethanol-based closed-loop and open-loop biomass, and small hydropower sectors to encourage increased investment and growth in these technologies; and,

Whereas, extending the federal investment and production tax credits for renewable energy sources will create more than 100,000 jobs, will attract tens of billions of dollars in investment within the next year, and will continue to create thousands of jobs at high, medium, and entry levels; and

Whereas, extending the federal investment and production tax credits for renewable energy sources will foster new business opportunities within California and generate revenue for local economies; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and the Assembly of the State of California, jointly, That the Legislature of the State of California encourages the President and the Congress of the United States to provide a long-term extension of the investment and production tax credits for all renewable energy technologies; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to the Majority Leader of the Senate, and to each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States.

POM–462. A joint resolution adopted by the Alaska State Legislature opposing the imposition of the milk tax on Alaskans; to the Committee on Finance.

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 16

Whereas Alaska residents consume more milk, cheese, butter, yogurt, and other dairy products than Alaska dairy farmers are able to produce, making Alaska a ''milk-deficit'' state; and

Whereas, because of their milk-deficit status, the United States Congress wisely excluded Alaska, Hawaii, and Puerto Rico from the mandatory dairy promotion assessment or ''milk tax'' of the Dairy Production Stabilization Act of 1983; and

Whereas this exemption was maintained in the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002; and

Whereas the National Milk Producers Federation and other dairy interests in the lower 48 states want to extend the milk tax to Alaska dairy farmers; and

Whereas the milk tax would require Alaska dairy farmers to pay into the national dairy promotion program that presently benefits only the lower 48 states and does nothing to help Alaska dairy farmers or consumers; and

Whereas Alaska dairy farmers and consumers cannot benefit from the various dairy promotion, advertising, and research programs funded by the milk tax imposed on milk marketed by dairy farmers in the lower 48 states; and

Whereas the mandatory dairy promotion assessment would constitute an onerous, costly, and unacceptable new milk tax on all Alaskans, including dairy farmers, consumers, school children, day care centers, residents of rural Alaska, Alaska Natives, small businesses, and others who would be forced to pay more for milk and dairy products that already are among the most expensive in the nation: be it

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature strongly condemns and resolutely opposes imposition of the milk tax on Alaskans.

POM–463. A joint resolution adopted by the Alaska State Legislature urging the United States Congress to enact H.R. 2419, sec. 12801; to the Committee on Finance.

CSHJR NO. 14

Whereas it is well documented that the Exxon Valdez oil spill has adversely affected the coastal region of the state and affected the economic status of communities in this region for many years; and

Whereas the state's commercial fishermen, who make up 80 percent of the plaintiffs seeking to recover damages from the Exxon Valdez oil spill, suffered economically as a result of the oil spill and, as a result, lost the opportunity to establish retirement plans or were limited in their ability to save for retirement; and

Whereas these Alaskans would benefit from the contributions to retirement accounts they could make by using money received from the award of damages; and

Whereas H.R. 2419, sec. 12801, would benefit these commercial fishermen by authorizing increases in the deductions and income caps applicable to traditional individual retirement accounts, Roth IRAs, and other qualified retirement plans to the extent of the amount of the damage award; and

Whereas the bill would authorize individual plaintiffs to average income from the award for tax purposes over the period January 1, 1994, through the end of the year in which the award is made: Therefore be it

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature urges the United States Congress to enact H.R. 2419, sec. 12801, to provide relief to those individuals who suffered economic damages as a result of the Exxon Valdez oil spill.

POM–464. A joint resolution adopted by the Alaska State Legislature urging the United States Congress to repeal sec. 511 of P.L. 109–222 (Tax Increase Prevention and Reconciliation Act of 2005); to the Committee on Finance.

CSHJR NO. 41

Whereas sec. 511 of P.L. 109–222 (Tax Increase Prevention and Reconciliation Act of 2005) will require states, cities, counties, and boroughs that spend more than $100,000,000 each year on goods and services after December 31, 2010, to withhold three percent of their payments to nearly all vendors and contractors for federal income purposes and to report nonwage payments; and

Whereas sec. 511 of P.L. 109–222 (Tax Increase Prevention and Reconciliation Act of 2005) was added by a congressional conference committee without benefit of any public hearings in either the United States House of Representatives or the United States Senate; and

Whereas, although sec. 511 of P.L. 109–222 (Tax Increase Prevention and Reconciliation Act of 2005) was inserted into the legislation to save approximately $7,000,000,000 in federal taxes between 2011 and 2015, the effect of the provision is to increase the burden and costs to state and local governments by making these governments uncompensated and involuntary federal tax collectors because no federal funding is provided to cover the costs of implementing sec. 511 of P.L. 109–222 (Tax Increase Prevention and Reconciliation Act of 2005); and

Whereas sec. 511 of P.L. 109–222 (Tax Increase Prevention and Reconciliation Act of 2005) creates another unfunded federal mandate that will add a cost to state and local governments that exceeds the threshold of P.L. 104–04 (Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995), and sec. 511 of P.L. 109–222 (Tax Increase Prevention and Reconciliation Act of 2005) will therefore short-circuit the public process required by P.L. 104–04 (Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995) and thus violate that Act; and

Whereas the Department of Administration, the University of Alaska, the Municipality of Anchorage, the Fairbanks North Star Borough, and the Anchorage School District, all governmental entities in Alaska that are affected by sec. 511 of P.L. 109–222 (Tax Increase Prevention and Reconciliation Act of 2005), have expressed serious concerns about it and have urged its repeal; and

Whereas local governmental officials have stated that sec. 511 of PL. 109–222 (Tax Increase Prevention and Reconciliation Act of

2005) will be extremely difficult and expensive to implement, requiring major programming changes to financial and accounting systems and the hiring of additional staff; and

Whereas, because of the three percent withholding requirement, local businesses will be discouraged from bidding on state and local governmental contracts for products and services, thereby dampening competitive bidding and driving up the prices to offset the three percent withholding, and this, in turn, is likely to increase the cost of procurement by state and local governments; and

Whereas sec. 511 of P.L. 109–222 (Tax Increase Prevention and Reconciliation Act of 2005) will pose significant difficulties for the State of Alaska in its efforts to procure goods and services for the state, because

(1) the state accounting system is 23 years old and cannot accommodate mandatory backup withholding;

(2) it would take about a year to make the necessary systemic changes and require substantial additional record keeping to reconcile the amounts paid to vendors and those amounts reported and remitted to the Internal Revenue Service;

(3) obtaining exemptions to sec. 511 of P.L. 109–222 (Tax Increase Prevention and Reconciliation Act of 2005) would be difficult and costly; and

(4) vendors might inflate their bids to compensate for the tax withheld, resulting in higher prices to the state; and

Whereas the state government accounting system does not currently have the capability to withhold vendor payments, and the state need only report payments for services over $600 a year to each unincorporated vendor; sec. 511 of P.L. 109–222 (Tax Increase Prevention and Reconciliation Act of 2005) will increase the accounting burden on the state by

(1) requiring most but not all payments, no matter how small, to be reported, an extremely expensive and burdensome mandate;

(2) requiring payments to all corporations to be reported, significantly increasing the number of vendors for which information reports would have to be submitted to the Internal Revenue Service;

(3) requiring withholding on credit card purchases, a process unknown complexity; and

(4) exempting certain types of payments that will likely require manual intervention, which would drive up the cost of compliance with sec. 511 of P.L. 109–222 (Tax Increase Prevention and Reconciliation Act of 2005) even further; and

Whereas government agencies will have to obtain employee identification numbers or social security numbers for numerous individual vendors to allow reporting to the Internal Revenue Service, thereby invading those citizens' rights of privacy and exposing them to the dangers of identity theft; and

Whereas complying with sec. 511 of P.L. 109–222 (Tax Increase Prevention and Reconciliation Act of 2005) will have serious adverse effects on the procurement practices of larger local governments in Alaska; for example, the Municipality of Anchorage, the state's largest city, with a population of about 261,446, which is 42 percent of the State's total population, will incur costs of approximately $250,000 a year to reprogram municipal computers and financial systems, plus an estimated $100,000 to $200,000 a year of additional costs for ongoing operating expenses; the Municipality of Anchorage's financial computer system is not set up for this procedure and will require extensive modifications at a significant cost, including the hiring of at least one full-time municipal employee; the use of procurement cards by the Municipality of Anchorage may have to be discontinued, and the use of checks, which are slower and more costly, may be reinstituted; the Municipality of Anchorage's online purchasing system will have to be modified and likely will no longer be cost-effective; and

Whereas the additional costs of complying with sec. 511 of P.L. 109–222 (Tax Increase Prevention and Reconciliation Act of 2005) will place the State of Alaska and Alaska local governments at a competitive disadvantage in the procurement of goods and services; and

Whereas, as a result of these burdens and difficulties, the state and affected local governments believe that sec. 511 of P.L. 109–222 (Tax Increase Prevention and Reconciliation Act of 2005) will not accomplish its stated goal of closing the budget gap; and

Whereas these concerns were previously expressed by the state to the United States Congress through the National Association of State Auditors, Comptrollers and Treasurers; and

Whereas S. 777 and H.R. 1023 have been introduced in the 110th United States Congress to repeal sec. 511 of P.L. 109–222 (Tax Increase Prevention and Reconciliation Act of 2005): Therefore be it

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature urges the United States Congress to repeal sec. 511 of P.L. 109–222 (Tax Increase Prevention and Reconciliation Act of 2005).

POM–465. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the State of Pennsylvania relative to hydrocephalus; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 406

Whereas, hydrocephalus is a serious neurological condition, characterized by the abnormal buildup of cerebrospinal fluids in the ventricles of the brain; and

Whereas, there is no known cure for hydrocephalus, which affects an estimated one million Americans; and

Whereas, out of every 1,000 babies, one to two are born with hydrocephalus; and

Whereas, more than 375,000 older Americans have hydrocephalus, which often goes undetected or misdiagnosed as dementia, Alzheimer's disease or Parkinson's disease; and

Whereas, with appropriate diagnosis and treatment, people with hydrocephalus are able to live full and productive lives; and

Whereas, the standard treatment for hydrocephalus was developed in 1952 and carries multiple risks, including shunt failure, infection and over drainage; and

Whereas, there are fewer than ten centers in the United States specializing in the treatment of adults with normal pressure hydrocephalus; and

Whereas, each year, the people of the United States spend in excess of $1 billion to treat hydrocephalus; and

Whereas, a September 2005 conference sponsored by seven institutes of the National Institutes of Health, and entitled, ''Hydrocephalus: Myths, New Facts, Clear Directions,'' resulted in efforts to initiate new, collaborative research and treatment efforts; and

Whereas, the Hydrocephalus Association is one of the nation's oldest and largest patient and research advocacy and support networks for individuals suffering from hydrocephalus; and

Whereas, further research into the epidemiology, pathophysiology, disease burden and improved treatment of hydrocephalus should be conducted or supported; and

Whereas, public awareness and professional education regarding hydrocephalus should increase through partnerships between the Federal Government and patient advocacy organizations, such as the Hydrocephalus Association; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Senate urge the Federal Government to collect comprehensive statistical and data regarding the seriousness of hydrocephalus and its impact on American families; and be it further

Resolved, That the Senate designate the month of November 2008 as ''Hydrocephalus Awareness Month'' in Pennsylvania so that Pennsylvanians can become more familiar with hydrocephalus and the individuals dedicated to finding its cure.

POM–466. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the State of Pennsylvania expressing support for National Food Safety Education Month; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 896

Whereas, in 1994, the National Restaurant Association Educational Foundation's (NRAEF) International Food Safety Council created ''National Food Safety Education Month'' as an annual campaign; and

Whereas, the purpose of ''National Food Safety Education Month'' is to strengthen food safety education and training among persons in the restaurant and food service business and to educate the public on the safe handling and preparation of food; and

Whereas, there are more than 200 known foodborne diseases caused by viruses, toxins and metals and usually stemming from the improper handling, preparation or storage of food; and

Whereas, bacteria are the common cause of the foodborne illness; and

Whereas, foodborne illness costs the United States economy billions of dollars each year in lost productivity, hospitalization, long-term disability and even death; and

Whereas, the United States Department of Agriculture estimated that in 2000, medical costs and losses in productivity resulting from five bacterial foodborne pathogens was $6.9 billion; and

Whereas, it is estimated that in 2001 the annual cost of salmonellosis caused by the Salmonella bacteria was $2.14 billion, including medical costs, the cost of time lost from work and the cost or value of premature death; and

Whereas, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that in the United States, there are 76 million illnesses, 325,000 hospitalizations and 5,000 deaths per year due to consumption of food contaminated with pathogenic microorganisms; and

Whereas, numerous cases have occurred in the United States and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania: 2007—Salmonella from peanut butter in 44 states, 425 cases; 2006—E. coli in eight states from fresh spinach, 205 cases, including 3 deaths; and 2003—hepatitis A from Chi-Chi's sourced green onions in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; and

Whereas, up to 2,000 cases of salmonellosis occur each year in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; and

Whereas, following four simple steps, consumers can keep food safe from bacteria: clean—wash hands and surfaces often; separate—do not cross-contaminate; cook—cook to proper temperature; and chill—refrigerate promptly; therefore be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania express full and enthusiastic support for ''National Food Safety Education Month'' in September 2008; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the presiding officers of each house of Congress and to each member of Congress from Pennsylvania.

POM–467. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the State of Michigan memorializing the Congress and the President of the United States to enact the Breast Cancer Patient Protection Act; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 296

Whereas, in spite of progress that has been made in its diagnosis and treatment, breast cancer remains one of the most serious threats to the health of women. Its devastating impact is felt across our country. According to the American Cancer Society, excluding cancers of the skin, breast cancer is the most common cancer among women and accounts for one of every 4 cancers diagnosed. It is estimated that 178,000 new cases of invasive breast cancer were identified in 2007 and that an estimated 40,000 women died; and

Whereas, although the frightening realities of breast cancer can strike any woman, success in combating the disease is, unfortunately, less universal. A patient's chances of survival are increased with early identification of the disease, access to good care at all stages of treatment, and comprehensive monitoring afterwards; and

Whereas, congress is considering legislation that would take a strong step in the effort to combat breast cancer in our country. The Breast Cancer Patient Protection Act, S. 459 and H.R. 758, would require health plans to provide coverage for minimum hospital stays for mastectomies, lumpectomies, and lymph node dissection for the treatment of breast cancer, as well as secondary consultations. Among the legislation's specific provisions is a requirement that a patient undergoing a mastectomy or lumpectomy to treat breast cancer be permitted a hospital stay of no less than 48 hours; and

Whereas, the Breast Cancer Patient Protection Act would increase access to a level of care that can save lives and mitigate suffering; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, By the House of Representatives, that we memorialize the Congress and the President of the United States to enact the Breast Cancer Patient Protection Act; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Office of the President of the United States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and the members of the Michigan congressional delegation.

POM–468. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the State of Michigan relative to Agent Orange and Parkinson's disease; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 273

Whereas, Agent Orange was an herbicide used in Vietnam to kill unwanted plants and to remove leaves from trees which otherwise provided cover for the enemy. After its use, it was realized that Agent Orange contained dioxin, which is related to a number of diseases, cancers, and other disorders. Many U.S. veterans are known to have been exposed to significant amounts of Agent Orange while fulfilling their military obligations; and

Whereas, as required by law, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) recognizes many diseases as being associated with Agent Orange, including chloracne, acute peripheral neuropathy, and numerous cancers such as Hodgkin's disease, multiple myleoma, and prostate cancer. Veterans who served in Vietnam between January 9, 1962, and May 7, 1975, and who acquire one of the recognized diseases are entitled to VA-furnished hospital care, medical services, and possibly nursing home care; and

Whereas, several studies performed at internationally recognized research institutions, including St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, have linked Parkinson's disease to Agent Orange and other pesticides. Research work at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital linked genetic alterations associated with an increased risk of Parkinson's disease to pesticide exposures; and

Whereas, Parkinson's disease should be added to the VA list of recognized diseases associated with Agent Orange. The Department of Veterans Affairs Regional Office in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, has determined in two cases that the Parkinson's disease of veterans could have been caused by their contact with Agent Orange while on active military duty; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives, That we memorialize the United States Congress to acknowledge that the neurological disorder known as Parkinson's disease can be caused by exposure to Agent Orange and to require that the United States Department of Veterans Affairs offer assistance to U.S. Military members who, while serving their country, have acquired Parkinson's disease through their exposure to Agent Orange; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the members of the Michigan congressional delegation, and the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

POM–469. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the State of Michigan urging the Congress of the United States and the United States Department of Agriculture to continue to promote and prioritize the establishment of local farm-to-school initiatives; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 413

Whereas, local farm-to-school initiatives improve child nutrition and promote local farming communities. These programs emphasize the purchase and availability of fresher and more nutritious local foods for consumption in schools. In addition, they provide an opportunity for students to gain a greater appreciation of where their food comes from and enhance markets for local farmers. Strong local markets reduce food costs and fuel use associated with transporting foods long distances and increase food security; and

Whereas, the federal government plays a critical role in the success of local farm-to-school initiatives. Federal support can make the difference between a successful farm-to-school program and a failed one. In particular, placing a priority on farm-to-school programs and giving schools flexibility in the use of federal funding received for school meal programs would make a huge difference; and

Whereas, the 2008 federal farm bill (P.L. 110–246) made major strides to remove roadblocks and encourage the establishment of farm-to-school initiatives. Under the enacted bill, schools will now be able to show a preference for locally grown and raised foods without risking the loss of critical funds. In addition, the bill authorizes funding for grants that may be used to make fresh fruits and vegetables available in elementary schools and develop hands-on school vegetable gardening and nutrition education programs at high-poverty schools; and

Whereas, the promise of the 2008 federal farm bill will only be met if Congress and the U.S. Department of Agriculture follow through and continue to expand on the commitments made. Full funding, regulatory flexibility, and a cooperative and collaborative relationship with the states and local schools are needed to maintain the momentum; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives, That we urge the Congress of the United States and the U.S. Department of Agriculture to continue to promote and prioritize the establishment of local farm-to-school initiatives; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the members of the Michigan congressional delegation, and the Secretary of Agriculture.

POM–470. A joint resolution adopted by the California Legislature relative to fibromyalgia; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 25

Whereas, fibromyalgia is defined by the American College of Rheumatology as a disabling pain condition. Fibromyalgia symptoms include chronic pain throughout the body, extreme fatigue, sleep disorders, stiffness, weakness, migraine headaches, and impairment of memory and concentration; and

Whereas, fibromyalgia is a common condition with no known cure that affects women, men, and children of all ethnicities; and

Whereas, an estimated 10 million people in the United States and millions of people worldwide have been diagnosed with fibromyalgia; and

Whereas, there is no test for fibromyalgia, so it often takes an average of five years to receive a diagnosis. Furthermore, medical professionals are frequently inadequately educated on diagnosis and treatment of fibromyalgia; and

Whereas, many fibromyalgia patients find themselves underinsured or uninsured because they are too sick to work or have been denied health care coverage and access to treatments because they have fibromyalgia; and

Whereas, fibromyalgia costs the United States health care system $20 billion annually and strongly impacts families who experience lost wages and extensive out-of-pocket medical costs; and

Whereas, the California Legislative Women's Caucus recognizes that 80 percent of fibromyalgia patients are women, that hundreds of thousands of those affected by fibromyalgia live in California, and that there is an urgent need to respond to the vast needs of this patient population; and

Whereas, the California Legislative Women's Caucus has taken the National Fibromyalgia Association's Pledge to Care by advocating for improved treatments, expanded research, comprehensive health insurance coverage, and increased awareness of fibromyalgia; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and the Assembly of the State of California, jointly, That the Legislature respectfully urges the Congress of the United States to accelerate the federal investment in fibromyalgia research at the National Institutes of Health, to ensure adequate Medicare and Medicaid reimbursement and coverage of fibromyalgia therapies, and to launch a multifaceted public awareness campaign on fibromyalgia; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to the Majority Leader of the Senate, and to each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States.

POM–471. A joint resolution adopted by the Alaska State Legislature relative to the funding for special education in public schools; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 29

Whereas the Constitution of the State of Alaska and other laws and policies of the state require educational opportunities for all children, including children with disabilities; and

Whereas enactment of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act by the United States Congress transferred from the states to the federal government decisions pertaining to the provision of education and related services to students with disabilities; and

Whereas the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act requires the provision of a ''free appropriate public education'' for students with disabilities; and

Whereas the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act authorized the federal appropriation of a sum equal to 40 percent of the average per-pupil expenditure for general education students under 34 C.F.R. 300.701(a)(1); and

Whereas the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 (P.L. 104–4, March 22, 1995) provides that ''the federal government should not shift certain costs to the States, and States should end the practice of shifting costs to local governments''; and

Whereas, according to recent estimates, Alaska received approximately 16 percent of the total cost of providing a free appropriate public education for students with disabilities from the Congress for Part B services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act; and

Whereas the lack of adequate federal funding for students with disabilities has forced states and local school districts to make up the difference through payments made for other critical education programs; and

Whereas the lack of adequate federal funding for federally mandated services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act places a tremendous strain on all Alaska public school districts and on the ability of the districts to provide quality education for all students; and

Whereas Alaska shares with every other state a chronic shortage of qualified special education teachers; and

Whereas teacher preparation programs would benefit from full federal funding of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act by attracting prospective applicants interested in a career of teaching special education; and

Whereas the underfunding of special education programs affects the depth of services provided to students with disabilities; and

Whereas, despite significant strides made in increasing and enhancing public education for students with disabilities, many of those students still do not receive the services and assistance they need to succeed in public schools; and

Whereas the federal No Child Left Behind Act requires that 100 percent of students with disabilities attain proficiency in meeting state education standards by the end of the 2013–2014 school year; and

Whereas improvement in the rate of proficiency of students in meeting state education standards is a primary indicator of school success under the No Child Left Behind Act, creating the need for public school districts to provide greater access to and progress in the general curriculum for students with disabilities; and

Whereas the task of meeting the rising costs associated with attaining proficiency in the general curriculum for students with disabilities requires a strong partnership between local, state, and federal government agencies; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature strongly urges the President of the United States and the United States Congress to fulfill their obligation to provide adequate funding of educational services for students with disabilities by providing 40 percent of the average per-pupil expenditure for general education students in Alaska as authorized in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

POM–472. A joint resolution adopted by the Alaska State Legislature urging the United States Congress to reauthorize the Debbie Smith DNA backlog grant program; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 34

Whereas DNA technology is increasingly vital to ensuring accuracy and fairness in the criminal justice system, but is not yet considered a routine tool for criminal identification by law enforcement; and

Whereas over 50,000 law enforcement investigations have already been aided nationwide because of DNA matches made through the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Combined DNA Index System, bringing justice to victims and removing criminals from the streets; and

Whereas the Innocence Project has used DNA in over 200 cases to exonerate persons who were wrongfully convicted of crimes; and

Whereas Alaska and other states throughout the nation have significantly expanded their DNA programs to include a growing number of convicted and arrested felons to match against unsolved crimes; and

Whereas the demand for DNA testing in both violent and nonviolent crimes has continued to increase as the reliability of this evidence is proven; and

Whereas many laboratories still maintain DNA backlogs of six months or longer and are unable to meet the growing demand for DNA testing, despite funding commitments from state and local governments; and

Whereas the Debbie Smith DNA backlog grant program has permitted state and local governments an opportunity to begin to maximize the full potential of forensic DNA through backlog reduction, but much work remains to be done: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature strongly urges the United States Congress to reauthorize the Debbie Smith DNA backlog grant program at current or increased levels.

POM–473. A joint resolution adopted by the Alaska State Legislature encouraging the repeal of the Real ID Act of 2005; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

RESOLUTION NO. 68

Whereas the federal government has failed to show any measurable evidence that the implementation of the Real ID Act of 2005 will make our borders more secure and better protect our citizens from terrorism; and

Whereas the state, under the Tenth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, has always exercised its exclusive power to establish standards and regulations for the issuance of Alaska state driver's licenses and Alaska state identification cards; and

Whereas the federal government imposes a huge fiscal burden on the division of motor vehicles to implement the Real ID Act of 2005; and

Whereas noncompliance with the Real ID Act of 2005 will result in the federal government punishing individual Alaskans for the actions of the state by placing limitations on Alaska residents' freedom of travel and access to federal facilities: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved That the Alaska State Legislature does not believe government should wage the war on terrorism at the expense of states' rights and liberties of citizens protected by the United States Constitution and the Bill of Rights; and be it further

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature does not believe the Real ID Act of 2005 will make the United States measurably safer and encourages the United States Congress to repeal the Real ID Act of 2005.

POM–474. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the State of Pennsylvania memorializing Congress to enact H. Res. 111, which establishes a Select Committee on Prisoners of War (POW) and Missing in Action (MIA) Affairs; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 715

Whereas, it is essential to fully investigate unresolved cases involving military personnel who served in the Vietnam Conflict, Korean Conflict, World War II, Cold War and Gulf War and who are missing in action (MIA), otherwise unaccounted for or known to have been prisoners of war (POWs); and

Whereas, H. Res. 111, currently under consideration in Congress, would establish a select committee to be known as the Select Committee on POW and MIA Affairs; and

Whereas, the select committee will conduct a full investigation of all unresolved matters relating to any United States personnel unaccounted for from the Vietnam Conflict, Korean Conflict, World War II, Cold War and Gulf War; and

Whereas, it is appropriate that the select committee be established to conduct this investigation; and

Whereas, many of these POWs and MIAs are citizens of this Commonwealth; therefore be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives memorialize Congress to enact H. Res. 111 and establish a Select Committee on POW and MIA Affairs; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to each member of Congress from Pennsylvania.

POM–475. A joint resolution adopted by the Alaska State Legislature supporting federal funding for veterans' health care and urging the United States Congress to ensure adequate funding for veterans' health care; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 11

Whereas the United States Department of Veterans Affairs provides medical care for veterans who have risked their lives to protect the security of the nation; and

Whereas the United States Department of Veterans Affairs has the largest integrated health care system in the United States; and

Whereas the missions of the United States Department of Veterans Affairs include providing health care to veterans, educating and training health care personnel, conducting medical research, serving as backup to the United States Department of Defense, and supporting communities in times of crisis; and

Whereas the United States Department of Veterans Affairs provides a wide range of specialized services to meet the unique needs of veterans, including treatment and care for spinal cord injury, blindness, traumatic brain injury, post traumatic stress disorder, amputation injuries, mental health and substance abuse, and conditions requiring long-term care; and

Whereas federal discretionary funding for veterans' health care is controlled by the executive branch and Congress through the budget and appropriation process; and

Whereas the United States Government Accountability Office report in 2005 highlighted the lack of resources and staffing available to the United States Department of Veterans Affairs for processing an increasing backlog of veterans' claims; and

Whereas discretionary funding for the United States Department of Veterans Affairs lags behind both medical inflation and the increased demands for services; for example, the enrollment for veterans' health care increased 134 percent between fiscal years 1996 and 2004, but funding only increased 34 percent during the same period when adjusted to 1996 dollars; and

Whereas former United States Secretary of Veterans Affairs Anthony Principi has publicly stated that the United States Department of Veterans Affairs has been struggling to provide health care to the rapidly rising number of veterans who require health care; be it

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature expresses its profound gratitude for the sacrifices made by veterans who suffer from medical or mental problems resulting from injuries that occurred while serving in the United States Armed Forces; and be it further

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature urges the United States Congress to ensure adequate funding for veterans' health care.

POM–476. A resolution adopted by the California State Lands Commission supporting the Ocean Conservation, Education, and National Strategy for the 21st Century Act (H.R. 21) and the National Oceans Protection Act of 2008 (S. 3314); to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

POM–477. A resolution adopted by the California State Lands Commission requesting that Congress continue to enact, and the President reinstitute, the moratorium on oil and gas leasing within protected offshore areas; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

POM–478. A resolution adopted by the legislature of the Republic of the Philippines thanking the U.S. Senate for the passage of S. 1315 known as the Veterans' Benefits Enhancement Act of 2007; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. LEAHY, from the Committee on the Judiciary, without amendment with a preamble:

S. Res. 707. An original resolution authorizing the President of the Senate to certify the facts of the failure of Joshua Bolten, as the Custodian of Records at the White House, to appear before the Committee on the Judiciary and produce documents as required by Committee subpoena (Rept. No. 110–522).

S. Res. 708. An original resolution authorizing the President of the Senate to certify the facts of the failure of Karl Rove to appear and testify before the Committee on the Judiciary and to produce documents as required by Committee subpoena (Rept. No. 110–522).

By Mr. LIEBERMAN, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs:

Report to accompany S. 967, a bill to amend chapter 41 of title 5, United States Code, to provide for the establishment and authorization of funding for certain training programs for supervisors of Federal employees (Rept. No. 110–523).

By Mr. LIEBERMAN, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs:

Special Report entitled ''Activities of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs'' (Rept. No. 110–524).

By Mr. LIEBERMAN, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs:

Report to accompany S. 3477, a bill to amend title 44, United States Code, to authorize grants for Presidential Centers of Historical Excellence (Rept. No. 110–525).

Report to accompany S. 1000, a bill to enhance the Federal Telework Program (Rept. No. 110–526).

By Mr. KENNEDY, from the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 1695. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to establish a pathway for the licensure of biosimilar biological products, to promote innovation in the life sciences, and for other purposes.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Ms. COLLINS:

S. 3691. A bill to amend the Commodity Exchange Act to require reporting and recordkeeping for positions involving credit-default swaps, to grant the Federal Reserve Board authority over investment-bank holding companies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. SANDERS:

S. 3692. A bill to rescind Treasury Notice 2008-83; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. SANDERS (for himself, Mrs. LINCOLN, and Mrs. BOXER):

S. 3693. A bill to limit the amount of compensation for employees and executives of financial institutions assisted under the Troubled Asset Relief Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. SANDERS (for himself, Mr. INHOFE, and Mrs. LINCOLN):

S. 3694. A bill to amend the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act to limit obligations to $350,000,000,000, absent majority approval by the Congress; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. ENSIGN:

S. 3695. A bill to require a 50-hour workweek for Federal prison inmates, to reform inmate work programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. STEVENS (for himself and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. 3696. A bill to establish a grant program to encourage retooling of entities in the timber industry in Alaska, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. INHOFE:

S. 3697. A bill to amend the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act to require approval by the Congress for certain expenditures for the Troubled Asset Relief Program; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself and Ms. SNOWE):

S. 3698. A bill to prohibit any recipient of emergency Federal economic assistance from using such funds for lobbying expenditures or political contributions, to improve transparency, enhance accountability, encourage responsible corporate governance, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Ms. SNOWE:

S. 3699. A bill to direct the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to reform and improve the HUBZone program for small business concerns, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Mr. KERRY (for himself, Mr. SPECTER, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. INOUYE, Mr. BROWN, Ms. STABENOW, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. DODD, Mr. CASEY, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. SCHUMER, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. MENENDEZ, and Mr. CARPER):

S. 3700. A bill to encourage and support the development of high-speed passenger rail transportation in the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. DODD (for himself and Mr. HATCH):

S. 3701. A bill to provide assistance to Best Buddies to support the expansion and development of mentoring programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. VITTER:

S. 3702. A bill to provide for full and open competition for Federal contracts related to natural disaster reconstruction efforts; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. VITTER:

S. 3703. A bill to ensure efficiency and fairness in the awarding of Federal contracts in connection with natural disaster reconstruction efforts; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Ms. SNOWE (for herself and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. 3704. A bill to authorize additional Federal Bureau of Investigation field agents to investigate financial crimes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. SNOWE:

S. 3705. A bill to amend the Small Business Act and the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 to stop the small business credit crunch, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. CLINTON:

S. 3706. A bill to amend part D of title IV of the Social Security Act to prohibit States from charging child support recipients for the collection of child support; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. CLINTON:

S. 3707. A bill to recruit, train, and support principals for high-need schools who are effective in improving student academic achievement; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mrs. CLINTON:

S. 3708. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act with respect to health professions education, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. LEAHY:

S. Res. 707. An original resolution authorizing the President of the Senate to certify the facts of the failure of Joshua Bolten, as the Custodian of Records at the White House, to appear before the Committee on the Judiciary and produce documents as required by Committee subpoena; from the Committee on the Judiciary; placed on the calendar.

By Mr. LEAHY:

S. Res. 708. An original resolution authorizing the President of the Senate to certify

the facts of the failure of Karl Rove to appear and testify before the Committee on the Judiciary and to produce documents as required by Committee subpoena; from the Committee on the Judiciary; placed on the calendar.

By Mr. KERRY (for himself, Ms. SNOWE, Mrs. BOXER, Ms. CANTWELL, and Mr. REED):

S. Res. 709. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the United States should pursue the adoption of bluefin tuna conservation and management measures at the 16th Special Meeting of the International Commission on the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 1130

At the request of Mr. SMITH, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1130, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to restore, increase, and make permanent the exclusion from gross income for amounts received under qualified group legal services plans.

S. 1359

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1359, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to enhance public and health professional awareness and understanding of lupus and to strengthen the Nation's research efforts to identify the causes and cure of lupus.

S. 2063

At the request of Mr. CONRAD, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2063, a bill to establish a Bipartisan Task Force for Responsible Fiscal Action, to assure the economic security of the United States, and to expand future prosperity and growth for all Americans.

S. 2173

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2173, a bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to improve standards for physical education.

S. 2372

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2372, a bill to amend the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States to modify the tariffs on certain footwear.

S. 2723

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2723, a bill to expand the dental workforce and improve dental access, prevention, and data reporting, and for other purposes.

S. 3256

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3256, a bill to provide a supplemental funding source for catastrophic emergency wildland fire suppression activities on Department of the Interior and National Forest System lands, to require the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to develop a cohesive wildland fire management strategy, and for other purposes.

S. 3331

At the request of Mr. BAUCUS, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3331, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to require that the payment of the manufacturers' excise tax on recreational equipment be paid quarterly.

S. 3359

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3359, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the shipping investment withdrawal rules in section 955 and to provide an incentive to reinvest foreign shipping earnings in the United States.

S. 3364

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 3364, a bill to increase the recruitment and retention of school counselors, school social workers, and school psychologists by low-income local educational agencies.

S. 3398

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3398, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to liability under State and local requirements respecting devices.

S. 3483

At the request of Mr. ENSIGN, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mr. GREGG) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3483, a bill to improve consumer access to passenger vehicle loss data held by insurers.

S. 3487

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the names of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. REID) and the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER) were added as cosponsors of S. 3487, a bill to amend the National and Community Service Act of 1990 to expand and improve opportunities for service, and for other purposes.

S. 3539

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the names of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. CORKER) and the Senator from Maine (Ms. SNOWE) were added as cosponsors of S. 3539, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the centennial of the establishment of the Girl Scouts of the United States of America.

S. 3663

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. DORGAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3663, a bill to require the Federal Communications Commission to provide for a short-term extension of the analog television broadcasting authority so that essential public safety announcements and digital television transition information may be provided for a short time during the transition to digital television broadcasting.

S. 3683

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the names of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. DEMINT), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER) were added as cosponsors of S. 3683, a bill to amend the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act to require approval by the Congress for certain expenditures for the Troubled Asset Relief Program.

S. 3684

At the request of Ms. MIKULSKI, the names of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) were added as cosponsors of S. 3684, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow an above-the-line deduction against individual income tax for interest in indebtedness and for State sales and excise taxes with respect to the purchase of certain motor vehicles.

S. 3685

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the names of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) and the Senator from Maine (Ms. SNOWE) were added as cosponsors of S. 3685, a bill to prohibit the selling and counterfeiting of tickets for a Presidential inaugural ceremony.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself and Ms. SNOWE):

S. 3698. A bill to prohibit any recipient of emergency Federal economic assistance from using such funds for lobbying expenditures or political contributions, to improve transparency, enhance accountability, encourage responsible corporate governance, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise today on behalf of myself and Senator SNOWE to introduce legislation that will enhance transparency, strengthen oversight, and encourage responsible corporate governance for firms receiving financial lifelines from the Federal Government.

Our bill—the Accountability for Economic Rescue Assistance Act—will achieve four essential objectives.

It will prohibit firms receiving loans from the Federal Reserve or any of the $700 billion economic rescue funds from Treasury from using this money for lobbying expenditures or political contributions; require that firms receiving

government assistance provide detailed, publically available quarterly reports to Treasury outlining how taxpayer dollars have been used; establish corporate governance standards to ensure that firms receiving federal assistance do not waste money on unnecessary expenditures; and, create penalties of at least $100,000 per violation for firms that fail to meet the corporate governance standards established in the bill.

The need for such legislation has become apparent in the weeks since Congress approved the economic rescue plan.

Since then, news reports have uncovered multiple instances in which rescued firms have been caught making unnecessary and outrageous expenditures, which calls their assistance from taxpayers into question.

Last week, Treasury Secretary Paulson announced that the $700 billion approved by Congress to stabilize financial markets would not be used to purchase illiquid assets but rather to make direct capital injections into financial institutions.

Given this new mission, the need for additional transparency and disclosure is striking.

We have learned that we cannot necessarily count on these firms and their executives to act sensibly and do what is right.

The public needs to know that their tax dollars are being put to good use. A simple ''trust me'' from the bank executives is not enough.

On October 16th, the Wall Street Journal reported that American Insurance Group, AIG, which received billions of dollars in Federal rescue funds, was continuing to lobby state regulators to delay implementation of strengthened licensing standards for mortgage brokers and lenders.

AIG was lobbying against sensible standards created by the SAFE Mortgage Licensing Act of 2008. This bill, introduced by Senator MARTINEZ and myself, established basic minimum regulations for the mortgage industry to ensure consumers were adequately protected.

Before this bill, in some states virtually anyone—even those with criminal records—could go out and get a mortgage broker's license.

Left unchecked, and with no regulations to stop them, unscrupulous mortgage brokers and lenders flooded the markets with subprime loans that they knew would never be paid back, and this served as one of the catalysts for our current economic predicament.

Now AIG, having succumbed to bad investments and propped up by billions in government money, was lobbying against the strong enforcement of state laws that might have helped prevent this catastrophe in the first place.

Senator MARTINEZ and I wrote a letter to AIG and, to the company's credit, CEO Edward Liddy immediately suspended the company's lobbying operations.

I find it completely unacceptable that taxpayer dollars intended to stabilize the economy could find their way into the bank accounts of lobbying firms. The legislation which I introduce today will make sure that doesn't happen.

I do not mean to pick on AIG, but they have also been the poster child for wasteful spending by rescued firms.

In September, just days after receiving an $85 billion federal lifeline, the management of AIG treated itself to a $444,000 spa weekend at the St. Regis resort in Monarch Beach, California. This included $200,000 for rooms, $150,000 for fine dining and $23,000 in spa charges.

AIG executives spent the last two days of September on a golf outing at Mandalay Bay in Las Vegas at a cost of up to $500,000. They were planning to follow this with a few days at the Ritz Carlton in Half Moon Bay, but cancelled after it hit the news and drew fire from Congressional leaders.

As news of these wasteful expenditures was making headlines, AIG received another $37.8 billion in emergency loans from the Federal Government. Shortly thereafter, the Associated Press reported that—even as AIG was asking Congress for these loans—AIG executives were spending $86,000 on a pheasant hunting expedition in England. During the trip, they stayed at a 17th century manor.

One AIG executive named Sebastian Preil was quoted as saying that: ''The recession will go on until about 2011, but the shooting was great today and we are relaxing fine.''

Once these lapses in judgment came to light, AIG chief executive Edward Liddy informed Congress that he was putting an end to all nonessential expenditures. Yet earlier this month, an undercover news crew caught AIG executives at the Hilton Squaw Peak Resort in Phoenix, hosting a seminar for financial planners complete with cocktails and limousines.

One would think that a brush with collapse and total failure might have a sobering effect on some of these firms.

But this penchant for wasteful junkets in the face of complete failure was not unique to AIG.

The Wachovia Corporation was caught shipping its top brokers off to the Greek Isles on a cruise ship for an all-expenses paid luxury trip—even as the company awaited a buyout potentially backed by taxpayers.

Wachovia cancelled the trip due to the storm of criticism attracted by this stunning display of what the ancient Greeks called hubris.

While the economic rescue legislation passed in September includes several oversight boards and accountability provisions to ensure that public funds are effectively distributed, the bill does not include any reporting requirements for firms that receive Federal dollars.

This is a significant omission, especially given the amount of Federal money that some firms are receiving.

The Treasury Department has already approved the purchase of $160 billion of preferred stock in 30 financial institutions. We know that of these funds $125 billion was allocated to nine large national banks.

It was also reported last week that AIG will receive an additional $40 billion, meaning that at least $165 billion of the economic rescue funding will be allocated to only 10 firms.

When you add up all of the taxpayer dollars put on the line—from $30 billion provided to Bear Stearns in March, $200 billion available to Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, $150 billion to AIG, $700 billion in economic rescue funds, plus the direct lending programs at the Federal Reserve—we are talking about well over 1 trillion Federal dollars.

I certainly don't think it is unreasonable for the public to know how their money is being spent.

As the end of the year nears, we are approaching bonus time on Wall Street. Certainly Americans deserve assurances that struggling firms will not use public funds to pay higher bonuses.

The same can be said for these funds going towards dividend payments, or mergers and acquisitions.

Shining light on how firms use public dollars not only makes good sense, but it will also act as a deterrent to irresponsible behavior.

My vote on the economic stabilization bill was one of the toughest I have taken during my time in the Senate.

My office received more than 160,000 calls, letters, and e-mails from Californians concerned about this course of action.

But, I decided to support the bill to ensure that action would be quickly taken to ease the flow of credit to consumers and businesses.

Our economy continues to struggle today. The money approved by Congress must be used sensibly to ensure its maximum impact.

Americans are struggling, and the pain in my State of California, where unemployment is 7.7 percent, and foreclosure filings exceed 680,000 this year, is especially acute.

This bill puts in place commonsense solutions to fix some of the deficiencies in the economic stabilization bill.

This bill is significant and sorely needed. We must act soon to help restore confidence in this effort and shed light on how public funds are used. We promised the American people transparency and oversight, and this legislation will make good on that promise.

I hope my colleagues will join me to ensure that taxpayer dollars are spent efficiently and responsibly.

By Ms. SNOWE:

S. 3699. A bill to direct the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to reform and improve the HUBZone program for small business concerns, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, I rise today in support of the passage of the HUBZone Improvement Act of 2008. This vital legislation would address the Government Accountability Office's recent recommendations to improve the Small Business Administration's administration and oversight of the Historically Underutilized Business Zone, HUBZone, program and ensure that only eligible firms participate in this crucial program.

As former chair and now ranking member of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, I have been a longstanding champion for small business programs such as the HUBZone program. The HUBZone program provides Federal contracting assistance to small firms located in economically distressed areas, with the intent of stimulating economic development. According to the GAO, as of February 2008, 12,986 certified businesses have participated in the HUBZone program since its inception. And in fiscal year 2007, over 4,200 HUBZone firms obtained approximately $8.1 billion in Federal contracts. In these troubling economic times, the HUBZone program is something our country needs now more than ever.

The mechanisms that the SBA uses to certify and monitor HUBZone firms provide limited assurance that only eligible firms participate in the program. Unfortunately, according to a recent GAO report and analysis of 125 applications submitted in September of 2007, the SBA only requested supporting documentation, which helps to clarify the status of the business, for 36 percent of the applications and only conducted a single site visit for all 125 applicants. While the SBA's policies and procedures require program examinations, the agency only conducts them on 5 percent of certified HUBZone firms each year. This is a glaring lack of oversight that must be rectified.

The legislation I introduce today, the HUBZone Improvement Act of 2008, would take immediate steps to correct the lack of effective administrative oversight by requiring more routine and consistent supporting documentation during the program's application process. In its report, the GAO found that the SBA relies on Federal law to identify qualified HUBZone areas, but the map it uses to publicize HUBZone areas is inaccurate, and the economic characteristics of designated areas vary widely. My bill would require that the SBA take immediate steps to correct and update the map that the SBA uses to identify HUBZone areas and implement procedures to ensure that the map is updated with the most recently available data on a more frequent basis.

The GAO also found that the mechanisms that SBA uses to certify and monitor firms provide limited assurance that only eligible firms participate in the program. The GAO found that more than 4,600 firms that had been in the program for at least 3 years went unmonitored. My legislation would require the SBA to develop and implement guidance to more routinely and consistently obtain supporting documentation upon application and conduct more frequent site visits, as appropriate, to ensure that firms applying for certification are eligible. These commonsense achievable steps would help to eliminate participant fraud and misrepresentation, and ensure that firms applying for HUBZone certification are truly lawful and eligible businesses.

In its report, the GAO illustrates the SBA lack of a formal policy on how quickly it needs to make a final determination on decertifying firms that may no longer be eligible for the HUBZone program. According to the GAO, of the more than 3,600 firms proposed for decertification in fiscal years 2006 and 2007, more than 1,400 were not processed within 60 days—the SBA's targeted timeline. As a result of these weaknesses, there is an increased risk that ineligible firms have participated in the program and had opportunities to receive Federal contracts based on their HUBZone certification. My legislation would require the SBA to formalize and adhere to a specific timeframe for processing firms proposed for decertification in the future, as well as require further developed measures in assessing the effectiveness of the HUBZone program.

Moreover, the Federal Government must strive to continue to provide additional contracting opportunities to those who are legitimate HUBZone firms. I am dismayed by the innumerable ways that government agencies have time and again egregiously failed to meet most of their small business contracting goals. I am alarmed that only one Federal small business contracting program—the small disadvantage business program—has met its statutory goal, and that the three other small business goaling programs have all fallen drastically short. For example, in fiscal year 2007, the HUBZone program met only 2.2 percent of its three percent government-wide goal. The Federal Government can and must provide more to our country's hardworking small businesses.

In my home State of Maine, only 118 of 41,026 small businesses are qualified HUBZone businesses. HUBZones represent a tremendous tool for replacing lost jobs for our Nation's declining manufacturing and industrial sectors—clearly, this program should be better utilized.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 3699

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''HUBZone Improvement Act of 2008''.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act—

(1) the terms ''Administration'' and ''Administrator'' mean the Small Business Administration and the Administrator thereof, respectively;

(2) the terms ''HUBZone'' and ''HUBZone small business concern'' have the meanings given such terms in section 3 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632); and

(3) the term ''recertification'' means determining whether a business concern that was previously determined to be a qualified HUBZone small business concern is a qualified HUBZone small business concern under section 3(p)(5) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632(p)(5)).

SEC. 3. PURPOSE; FINDINGS.

(a) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this Act is to reform and improve the HUBZone program of the Administration.

(b) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) The HUBZone program was established under the HUBZone Act of 1997 (Public Law 105–135; 111 Stat. 2627) to stimulate economic development through increased employment and capital investment by providing Federal contracting preferences to small business concerns in economically distressed communities or HUBZone areas.

(2) According to the Government Accountability Office—

(A) as of February 2008, 12,986 certified firms have participated in the HUBZone program since its inception; and

(B) in fiscal year 2007, over 4,200 HUBZone small business concerns obtained approximately $8,100,000,000 in Federal contracts.

(3) The Government Accountability Office also identified numerous concerns with the HUBZone program, including that—

(A) the Administration verifies the information received by the Administration from HUBZone small business concerns in limited instances and has limited assurances that only eligible firms participated in the HUBZone program;

(B) by not obtaining documentation and conducting site visits on a more routine basis during the certification process, the Administration cannot be sure that only eligible firms are part of the HUBZone program; and

(C) although the examination process of the Administration involves a more extensive review of documentation, the examination process cannot be relied upon to ensure that only eligible firms participate in the HUBZone program because the examination process involves only 5 percent of firms in any given year.

SEC. 4. HUBZONE IMPROVEMENTS.

The Administrator shall—

(1) as soon as is practicable, correct and update the map that is used by the Administration to identify HUBZones and implement procedures to ensure that the map is updated with the most recently available data on a more frequent basis;

(2) develop and implement guidance for determining whether an applicant is a qualified HUBZone small business concern under section 3(p)(5) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632(p)(5)), including more routinely and consistently obtaining supporting documentation from an applicant and conducting more frequent site visits, as appropriate;

(3) establish a date by which the Administrator shall eliminating the backlog of applications for recertification;

(4) ensure that the Administration eliminates the backlog described in paragraph (3) by the date established under paragraph (3), using officers and employees of the Administration or by entering into a contract with a private entity;

(5) establish and implement a time period for completing a recertification; and

(6) develop measures and implement plans to assess the effectiveness of the HUBZone program that take into account—

(A) the economic characteristics of the HUBZone; and

(B) contracts being counted under multiple socioeconomic subcategories.

SEC. 5. REPORT.

Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate and the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives a report regarding the implementation of this Act.

By Mr. KERRY (for himself, Mr. SPECTER, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. INOUYE, Mr. BROWN, Ms. STABENOW, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. DODD, Mr. CASEY, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. SCHUMER, MS. SNOWE, Mr. MENENDEZ, and Mr. CARPER):

S. 3700. A bill to encourage and support the development of high-speed passenger rail transportation in the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, this has been a volatile time for our financial system and our economy. Hopefully, we will be able to agree on a short-term stimulus relief that will help families who are suffering and states meet their financial obligations.

Next, we need to create new jobs by updating our infrastructure to help respond to the current challenges to our economy. I believe a first-rate American rail system is a critical part of the efforts to create jobs and expand our economy. It will also help make our air cleaner, ease traffic congestion, save families' money and time, and lessen our dependence on foreign oil.

That is why today, Senator SPECTER and I are introducing the High-Speed Rail for America Act of 2008. Senators LAUTENBERG, INOUYE, BROWN, STABENOW, FEINSTEIN, DODD, CASEY, LIEBERMAN, WHITEHOUSE, CLINTON, SCHUMER, SNOWE, and MENENDEZ are cosponsors. This legislation provides a bold new vision of how we approach transportation policy to expand our economy and keep up with changes in our society.

The High-Speed Rail for America Act of 2008 builds upon the Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act of 2008 which reauthorizes Amtrak and authorizes $1.5 billion over a five-year period to finance the construction and equipment for 11 highspeed rail corridors. I want to thank Senator LAUTENBERG for his leadership on reauthorizing Amtrak and making investment in high-speed rail a priority.

Today, Amtrak's Acela train on the Northeast Corridor is capable of reaching 150 miles per hour. However, due to a lack of infrastructure improvements, the Acela train only travels at 150 miles per hour on an 18-mile stretch in Rhode Island and a 10–mile stretch in Massachusetts. We must make appropriate improvements to our railroad tracks and bridges to allow high speed rail to work properly.

While the U.S. is investing heavily in other forms of transportation, our investment in world class rail is dwarfed by other countries. For example, Germany's federal government gives its states $8.9 billion a year for rail projects, France spends twenty times more per capita on rail than the U.S., and the Ministry of Railways in China invested $19.6 billion in rail in the first half of 2008 alone. That is why we need to provide a constant source of funding for investment in high-speed rail. The High-Speed Rail for America Act of 2008 will take our outdated and underfunded passenger rail system and transform it into a world class system.

The High-Speed Rail for America Act of 2008 builds on the authorization of highspeed rail grants by providing billions of dollars in both tax exempt and tax credit bonds. It provides assistance for rail projects of various speeds. The bill creates the Office of High-Speed Passenger Rail to oversee the development of high-speed rail and provides a consistent source of funding. This office will ensure that we have the leadership to keep this mission on track.

High-speed rail is often the fastest and most reliable way to get from downtown to downtown between most cities 100–500 miles apart. High-speed rail can save up to an hour per trip when compared to air travel and reduces trip time by more than 50 percent compared to driving. The legislation provides $8 billion over a 6-year period for tax-exempt bonds which finance high-speed rail projects which reach a speed of at least 110 miles per hour. This speed is often most practical for corridors of less than 100 miles or for less travelled routes which cannot justify the investment into world class high-speed rail traveling at 150 miles per hour.

The High-Speed Rail for America Act of 2008 also creates a new category of tax-credit bonds: qualified rail bonds. There are two types: super high-speed intercity rail facility bond and rail infrastructure bond. Super high-speed rail intercity facility bonds will encourage the development of true high-speed rail. The legislation provides $10 billion for these bonds over a six-year period. Rail projects that reach a speed of at least 150 miles per hour will be eligible for these bonds. This would help finance projects including the proposed California corridor and make needed improvements to the Northeast corridor.

Rail infrastructure bonds will fund projects approved by the U.S. Department of Transportation and be part of a State's official rail plan. The High-Speed Rail for America Act of 2008 provides $5.4 billion over a 6-year period for this type of bond. The Federal Rail Administration has already designated ten rail corridors that these bonds could help fund, including connecting the cities of the Midwest through Chicago, connecting the cities of the Northwest, connecting the major cities within Texas and Florida, and connecting all the cities up and down the East Coast. These are projects that are ready to go, but they need a source of financing.

The need for a bold shift in the way we approach transportation is clear. Traffic congestion continues to worsen in cities across the country, creating a $78 billion drain on the U.S. economy with 4.2 billion lost man hours of work and 2.8 billion gallons of wasted fuel. Last year, domestic flight delays cost the economy $41 billion and consumed about 740 million additional gallons of jet fuel waiting on the ground. Passenger rail reduces congestion and is an effective alternative to highway and air transportation. Americans want alternatives—and we can deliver them.

We must focus on making the transportation sector part of the solution to global climate change. The transportation sector accounts for approximately one-third of U.S. CO_2 emissions—and automobiles make up 60 percent of that. Public transportation is an essential part of the solution to global warming. According to the American Public Transportation Association, public transportation reduces CO_2 emissions by 37 million metric tons annually and saves the average American household over $6,000 annually.

The demand for alternative forms of transportation is only growing. The number of people riding Amtrak surged by more than 13 percent in July 2008 from a year earlier—the most passengers carried in any month during Amtrak's 37 year history. Amtrak ridership set an all-time record for fiscal year 2008, achieving growth of 11 percent.

As we look towards economic stimulus legislation next year, we must rethink the approach we have taken towards mobility in this country. Countries around the world have realized the benefits of high-speed rail and continue to build out their systems as we fall farther and farther behind. For far too long, we have not made adequate investment in our infrastructure. We cannot let this pattern continue.

We have all heard the skeptics and cynics dismiss the idea of high-speed rail for decades, but due to high energy prices, increased passenger rail ridership, and the need to reduce greenhouse gasses, the time is ripe for a big change. Not only will this change create a modern and reliable transportation network in the Untied States, it will provide tens of thousands of good new jobs and help stimulate the sluggish economy.

I pledge to continue fighting for the development of a modern high-speed rail system connecting the major cities across America, and I ask all my colleagues to support making this vision a reality.

By Mr. DODD (for himself and Mr. HATCH):

S. 3701. A bill to provide assistance to Best Buddies to support the expansion and development of mentoring programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce with Senator ORRIN HATCH the Best Buddies Empowerment for People with Intellectual Disabilities Act of 2008. The bill we are introducing would help to integrate individuals with intellectual disabilities into their communities, improve their quality of life and promote the extraordinary gifts of these individuals.

I am proud to be introducing this bill with my good friend Senator HATCH. He has been a long time leader in this cause, and most recently worked with Senator HARKIN, Senator KENNEDY, myself and others to pass the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act of 2008. We, as a society, have an obligation to do all we can to include individuals with disabilities and help them to reach their full potentials.

Yet, as one study on teen attitudes notes: ''Legal mandates cannot, however, mandate acceptance by peers, neighbors, fellow employees, employers or any of the other groups of individuals who directly impact the lives of people with disabilities.'' People with intellectual disabilities have indeed gained many rights that have improved their lives; however, negative stereotypes abound. Social isolation, unfortunately, is the norm for people with intellectual disabilities.

Early intervention, effective education, and appropriate support go a long way to helping someone with intellectual disabilities achieve at the best of his or her abilities and lead a meaningful life in the community. I would like to tell you about the accomplishments of Best Buddies, a remarkable non-profit organization that is dedicated to helping people with intellectual disabilities develop relationships that will provide the kind of support that will help them reach their potential.

Founded in 1989, Best Buddies is the only national social and recreational program in the United States for people with intellectual disabilities. Best Buddies works to enhance the lives of people with intellectual disabilities by providing opportunities for friendship and integrated employment. Through more than 1,000 volunteer-run chapters at middle schools, high schools and colleges, students with and without intellectual disabilities are paired up in a one-to-one mentoring friendship. Best Buddies also facilitates an Internet pen pal program, an adult friendship program, and a supported employment program.

Approximately 7 million people in the United States have an intellectual disability; every one of these individuals would benefit from the kind of relationships that the Best Buddies programs help to establish. The resulting friendships are mutually beneficial, increasing the self-esteem, confidence, and abilities of people both with and without intellectual disabilities.

The legislation we are introducing today allows the Secretary of Education to award grants to promote the expansion of the Best Buddies programs and to increase participation in and public awareness about these programs. The bill authorizes $10 million for fiscal year 2009 and such sums as necessary through fiscal year 2013. If passed, this legislation would allow Best Buddies to expand their work and offer programs in every state in America, helping to create a more inclusive society with a direct and positive impact on more than 1.2 million citizens.

I thank my colleague Senator HATCH for working with me on this legislation. And I applaud Representatives HOYER and BLUNT, who have introduced a similar measure in the House. I urge my colleagues to join with me in supporting this important legislation that will make a positive—and needed—difference in the lives of individuals with intellectual disabilities and in the lives of those with whom they develop relationships.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of this bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 3701

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Best Buddies Empowerment for People with Intellectual Disabilities Act of 2008''.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) Best Buddies operates the first national social and recreational program in the United States for people with intellectual disabilities.

(2) Best Buddies is dedicated to helping people with intellectual disabilities become part of mainstream society.

(3) Best Buddies is determined to end social isolation for people with intellectual disabilities by establishing meaningful friendships between them and their non-disabled peers in order to help increase the self-esteem, confidence, and abilities of people with and without intellectual disabilities.

(4) Since 1989, Best Buddies has enhanced the lives of people with intellectual disabilities by providing opportunities for 1-to-1 friendships and integrated employment.

(5) Best Buddies is an international organization spanning 1,300 middle school, high school, and college campuses.

(6) Best Buddies implements programs that will positively impact more than 350,000 individuals in 2008 and expects to impact 500,000 people by 2010.

(7) The Best Buddies Middle Schools program matches middle school students with intellectual disabilities with other middle school students and creates 1-to-1 friendships between them.

(8) The Best Buddies High Schools program matches high school students with intellectual disabilities with other high school students and creates 1-to-1 friendships between them.

(9) The Best Buddies Colleges program matches adults with intellectual disabilities with college students and creates 1-to-1 friendships between them.

(10) The Best Buddies e-Buddies program creates e-mail friendships between people with and without intellectual disabilities.

(11) The Best Buddies Citizens program pairs adults with intellectual disabilities in 1-to-1 friendships with other individuals in the corporate and civic communities.

(12) The Best Buddies Jobs program promotes the integration of people with intellectual disabilities into the community through supported employment.

(b) PURPOSE.—The purposes of this Act are to—

(1) provide support to Best Buddies to increase participation in and public awareness about Best Buddies programs that serve people with intellectual disabilities;

(2) dispel negative stereotypes about people with intellectual disabilities; and

(3) promote the extraordinary gifts of people with intellectual disabilities.

SEC. 3. ASSISTANCE FOR BEST BUDDIES.

(a) EDUCATION ACTIVITIES.—The Secretary of Education may award grants to, or enter into contracts or cooperative agreements with, Best Buddies to carry out activities to promote the expansion of Best Buddies, including activities to increase the participation of people with intellectual disabilities in social relationships and other aspects of community life, including education and employment, within the United States.

(b) LIMITATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Amounts appropriated to carry out this Act may not be used for direct treatment of diseases, medical conditions, or mental health conditions.

(2) ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIVITIES.—Not more than 5 percent of amounts appropriated to carry out this Act for a fiscal year may be used for administrative activities.

(c) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this Act shall be construed to limit the use of non-Federal funds by Best Buddies.

SEC. 4. APPLICATION AND ANNUAL REPORT.

(a) APPLICATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—To be eligible for a grant, contract, or cooperative agreement under section 3(a), Best Buddies shall submit an application at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary of Education may require.

(2) CONTENT.—At a minimum, an application under this subsection shall contain the following:

(A) A description of activities to be carried out under the grant, contract, or cooperative agreement.

(B) Information on specific measurable goals and objectives to be achieved through activities carried out under the grant, contract, or cooperative agreement.

(b) ANNUAL REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—As a condition of receipt of any funds under section 3(a), Best Buddies shall agree to submit an annual report at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary of Education may require.

(2) CONTENT.—At a minimum, each annual report under this subsection shall describe the degree to which progress has been made toward meeting the specific measurable goals and objectives described in the applications submitted under subsection (a).

SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Education for grants, contracts, or cooperative agreements under section 3(a), $10,000,000 for fiscal year 2009, and such sums as may be necessary for each of the 4 succeeding fiscal years.

By Ms. SNOWE (for herself and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. 3704. A bill to authorize additional Federal Bureau of Investigation field agents to investigate financial crimes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, I rise to introduce legislation with Senator WHITEHOUSE to extend the reach of the Federal Bureau of Investigation into financial crimes that may have helped precipitate the economic meltdown of the past several months.

We must investigate and scrutinize this financial crisis as we would a terrorist attack in order to determine its causes and how to preempt another economic collapse in the United States.

Following the September 11th attacks, the FBI re-directed approximately 1,000 agents to counterterrorism and counterintelligence activities. Without a doubt, there is no argument that our country has benefitted from the dedicated efforts of the men and women of the FBI who are performing this valuable work.

Over a 10-year period, from fiscal year 1999 to fiscal year 2008, Congress has increased direct appropriations for the FBI from $2.993 billion and 26,693 positions to $6.658 billion, 122 percent increase, and 30,211 positions, 13 percent increase. Most of these new resources were provided in the wake of the September 11th terrorist attacks, as the FBI redirected its resources toward combating domestic and international terrorism by improving its intelligence gathering and processing capabilities. As a consequence, for fiscal year 2008, about 60 percent of FBI funding and staffing is allocated to national security programs, including counterterrorism and counterintelligence.

In view of the breadth and severity of the economic crisis brought on by events in U.S. financial markets, however, I am very concerned that criminal wrongdoing may have played a significant role in crippling some of America's largest companies. Criminal activity, such as fraud, misrepresentation, self-dealing, and insider trading may have instigated or exacerbated the financial industry upheaval of 2008.

In order to augment FBI investigations of financial crimes, the FBI Priorities Act of 2008 authorizes $150 million for each of the fiscal years 2009 through 2013 to fund approximately 1,000 Federal Bureau of Investigation field agents in addition to the number of field agents serving on the date of enactment. It is my hope that this extra manpower will enable the FBI to develop leads on unlawful actions, dig deeply into those leads, and bring responsible parties to justice. The American public deserves no less.

By Ms. SNOWE:

S. 3705. A bill to amend the Small Business Act and the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 to stop the small business credit crunch, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce the 10 Steps for a Main Street Economic Recovery Act of 2008, a measure that will take dramatic action to finance the growth of our Nation's small businesses, which represent 99.7 percent of all employers and create approximately 75 percent of net jobs each year. Our country faces a financial crisis of unprecedented severity that is choking off economic growth and small business survival by denying all businesses, but especially small firms, access to the capital they need.

As Ranking Member of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, it has long been my goal to expand access to capital for small businesses. One of the most valuable assets for realizing this goal are the Small Business Administration's, SBA's, core lending programs, including the 7(a) and 504 programs. Historically, when credit to small businesses has contracted, as is presently the case, banks have turned to the SBA in order to make loans to small business owners. Yet, regrettably, during these arduous economic times—we are not only seeing a significant drop in the amount of business loans made but we are also seeing credit lines completely shut down and commercial loans canceled.

Our current economic downturn is drastically more dangerous than any threat to our financial system in decades. Banks are tightening their lending standards without a similar increase in the volume of SBA guaranteed loans to small businesses, creating a domino effect on small businesses' job creation ability. The Federal Reserve's November 2008 Quarterly Loan Officer Survey finds that, in the last quarter, 75 percent of banks state that they have tightened their lending standards for small firms. Not surprisingly, lending in the SBA's 7(a) and 504 programs have declined dramatically. Over the past year, lending in the 7(a) program has decreased by 55 percent while loan volume in the 504 program is down 36 percent. Since the U.S. financial market turmoil began in September, overall SBA lending is down by 50 percent from the previous year.

This is why I am introducing the 10 Steps for a Main Street Economic Recovery Act, which, as its title indicates, contains a series of 10 achievable, commonsense steps that could be implemented immediately to help thaw out frozen credit markets so that small businesses—both in Maine and across the country—can continue to be the driving force of our Nation's economy. All of the provisions included in my legislation would directly address the credit crunch small firms are facing and help them get the capital necessary to finance business growth.

First, my bill would improve the Small Business Administration's flagship lending program, the 7(a) program, by increasing the amount of financing, from $2 million to $3 million, that small firms can secure; allowing small firms to refinance their 7(a) loans if they can get better terms with another lender; and simplifying procedures for the loan poolers who bundle SBA loans in a secondary market that will generate additional liquidity for small firms and banks.

As a second step, my bill would directly expand small firms' access to credit by making the SBA's Community Express lending program permanent. This year, as credit has contracted, demand for the SBA's Community Express program has increased dramatically. But, because this is a pilot program, its ability to meet this loan demand has been severely restricted, forcing lenders to turn borrowers away who qualify for Community Express loans.

My legislation also seeks to bring in new and rural lenders, and teach them how to make SBA loans, by establishing an online loan underwriting guide to walk lenders through the process. This would increase the number of banks making SBA loans, from rural Maine to small towns in California, and ultimately promote small business owners' overall access to capital.

As a third step, my bill would improve the SBA's 504 loan program by raising the loan limit from $2 million to $3 million. It would also permit borrowers to refinance some existing debts into a 504 loan, and expands the 504 program's ability to finance projects in low-income communities.

Fourth, the 10 Steps for a Main Street Economic Recovery Act would rectify the current lack of liquidity in the 504 program by providing a new short-term guarantee on the first loans in the 504 loan package in order to encourage investors to buy these securities. Currently, without such a guarantee, investors are not purchasing the first loans in the 504 loan package. This is preventing Community Development Companies, CDCs, from making new 504 loans to small firms. The cost of this guarantee will be fully covered by participating 504 lenders. Once enacted into law, this temporary guarantee, which would expire at the end of fiscal year 2010, would increase investor confidence, encourage them to buy 504 investments and resurrect demand for 504 loans.

Fifth, my legislation contains large, temporary fee reductions to defray the cost of borrowing for small business owners and SBA lenders. My proposal would reduce overall fees for 7(a) and 504 lenders and borrowers by $510 million dollars, a hefty sum considering that the SBA's fiscal year 2008 budget was only $663 million. When small firms lack access to capital, they are unable to buy new inventory, finance new expansions, or often even cover their payrolls. During these troubled times, the SBA should do everything within its power, including lowering lending fees, to help ensure that small

firms have access to the credit they require.

Sixth, as small firms are being turned away from banks and are seeking credit through micro-lending organizations, my legislation recognizes that the credit crunch has increased the demand for SBA microloans. It dedicates $25 million so that SBA microloan providers can make additional loans and cover the costs of technical assistance associated with these microloans.

As a seventh step, my bill would raise the maximum amount of government guaranteed capital a Small Business Investment Company, SBIC, can control, from $130.6 million to $150 million for a single SBIC and $225 million for a group of SBICs. This will enable SBICs to have additional funds to invest in start-up small businesses, which will be critical in driving economic recovery.

Eighth, this legislation would direct the SBA to develop a nationwide advertising strategy to direct small firms to SBA lenders, and dedicates $5 million to pay for this strategy. Today, many local and community banks have credit they can extend to small firms. Unfortunately, many small businesses hear that there is a credit crunch and erroneously believe that no other lenders have financing options available. This vital advertising will guide small firms to find the available resources they need through SBA lenders.

As a ninth step, my legislation recognizes that taxes disproportionately impact small firms' bottom lines. It would provide tax breaks that will spur small business growth by extending the increased $250,000 small business expensing limit through 2009. This will provide small businesses with incentives to invest in plants and equipment by reducing their cost of capital. Additionally, the bill would provide small firms with an immediate capital injection by allowing them to carryback their 2008 or 2009 net operating losses for 5 years and provide business owners with a longer period over which to offset current losses. These measures will help small companies sustain operations and continue to employ workers.

Finally, this legislation would clarify that 7(a) and 504 loans are eligible for the Treasury Department's Troubled Asset Relief Program, TARP. I have sent a letter, with Senator KERRY, directing the U.S. Treasury Department to immediately purchase illiquid 7(a) and 504 securities from the secondary market in order to free these markets up and once again create liquidity for small businesses. Though the Treasury already has this authority under the TARP, this provision would clarify that authority so the Treasury can act promptly and decisively to address the credit crunch's impact on small firms.

In developing this bill, my office reached out to a host of small businesses and lenders, and consulted with the National Association of Development Companies and National Association of Guaranteed Government Lenders.

Given the dimensions of what is occurring in our economy, the SBA and the Administration must do everything possible to help credit worthy small businesses secure the loans they need to innovate, access new markets, hire new employees, and grow. Today, as banks are raising their credit requirements in order to avoid risk, it is becoming more and more difficult for small businesses to qualify for loans. The SBA's lending programs are critical to small businesses in this endeavor.

By implementing the vital provisions contained in the 10 Steps for a Main Street Economic Recovery Act, we can increase the opportunities for our Nation's small businesses to not only survive during this downturn, but to be a catalyst for turning around and reinvigorating our economy. I encourage my colleagues to join me in supporting the 10 Steps for a Main Street Recovery Act.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 3705

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; DEFINITIONS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the ''10 Steps for a Main Street Economic Recovery Act of 2008''.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this Act—

(1) the term ''Administration'' means the Small Business Administration;

(2) the term ''Administrator'' means the Administrator of the Small Business Administration; and

(3) the term ''small business concern'' has the same meaning as in section 3 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632).

SEC. 2. 7(a) LOANS.

(a) MAXIMUM LOAN AMOUNT.—Section 7(a)(3)(A) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(a)(3)(A)) is amended by striking ''$1,500,000 (or if the gross loan amount would exceed $2,000,000'' and inserting ''$2,500,000 (or if the gross loan amount would exceed $3,000,000''.

(b) REFINANCING EXISTING LOANS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 7(a) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(34) REFINANCING EXISTING LOANS.—A borrower that has received a loan under this subsection may refinance the balance of the loan by applying for a loan from the lender that made the original loan or with another lender.''.

(2) TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.—Section 7(a) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(a)) is amended by striking ''(32) INCREASED'' and inserting ''(33) INCREASED''.

(c) ALTERNATIVE SIZE STANDARD.—Section 3(a) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(5) OPTIONAL SIZE STANDARD.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall establish an optional size standard for business loan applicants under section 7(a) and development company loan applicants under title V of the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 (15 U.S.C. 695 et seq.) that uses maximum tangible net worth and average net income as an alternative to the industry size standard.

''(B) INTERIM RULE.—Until the date on which the optional size standards established under subparagraph (A) are in effect, the alternative size standard in section 121.301(b) of title 13, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor thereto, may be used by business loan applicants under section 7(a).''.

(d) FLEXIBILITY FOR POOLING OF LARGE LOANS.—Section 5(g)(1) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 634(g)(1)) is amended by—

(1) inserting ''(A)'' after ''(1)'';

(2) striking the colon and inserting a period;

(3) striking ''*Provided*'' and all that follows through ''certificates'' and inserting the following:

''(B) A trust certificate issued under this paragraph''; and

(4) adding at the end the following:

''(C) For a loan of more than $500,000 that has been guaranteed by the Administrator under this Act, the Administrator shall, on the request of a loan pool assembler, divide the amount of such loan into individual guarantees, no 1 of which may exceed $500,000. Not more than 1 portion of a loan that has been divided under this subparagraph shall be included in the same pool. Portions of more than 1 loan divided under this subparagraph may be included in the same pool.

''(D) A lender that makes or services a loan guaranteed under section 7(a) may purchase or hold all or any part of a loan pool that includes a loan made or serviced by the lender.

''(E) A purchase or holding by a lender described in subparagraph (D) shall not affect the guarantee under section 7(a) of a loan in a pool.''.

SEC. 3. COMMUNITY EXPRESS AND RURAL LENDING.

(a) COMMUNITY EXPRESS PROGRAM ESTABLISHED.—Section 7(a) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(a)), as amended by this Act, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(35) COMMUNITY EXPRESS PROGRAM.—

''(A) DEFINITIONS.—In this paragraph—

''(i) the term 'community express program' means the loan program under this paragraph;

''(ii) the term 'eligible small business concern' means—

''(I) a small business concern owned and controlled by women, as defined in section 29(a)(3);

''(II) a small business concern owned by a qualified Indian tribe;

''(III) a small business concern owned and controlled by a socially or economically disadvantaged individual, as determined by the Administrator;

''(IV) a small business concern owned and controlled by veterans;

''(V) a small business concern owned and controlled by a member of a reserve component of the Armed Forces, as defined in section 101 of title 10, United States Code;

''(VI) a small business concern located in an area that the Administrator determines to be a low-income or moderate-income area;

''(VII) a HUBZone small business concern; and

''(VIII) a small business concern located in a special market initiative;

''(iii) the term 'qualified private lender' means a private lender that meets such requirements as the Administrator shall establish; and

''(iv) the term 'special market initiative' means a community, market, or industry designated by the Director of a district office of the Administration for economic development purposes.

''(B) LOANS OF $150,000 OR LESS.—

''(i) AUTHORIZATION.—The Administrator may guarantee timely payment of principal and interest, as scheduled, on a loan of not more than $150,000 issued by a qualified private lender to a small business concern.

''(ii) GUARANTEE PERCENTAGE.—The Administrator may guarantee not more than 85 percent of the amount of a loan under this subparagraph.

''(C) LOANS OF MORE THAN $150,000.—

''(i) AUTHORIZATION.—The Administrator may guarantee timely payment of principal and interest, as scheduled, on a loan of more than $150,000 and not more than $300,000 issued by a qualified private lender to an eligible small business concern under this subparagraph.

''(ii) GUARANTEE PERCENTAGE.—The Administrator may guarantee not more than 75 percent of a loan the amount of a loan under this subparagraph.

''(D) QUALIFIED PRIVATE LENDER REQUIREMENTS.—

''(i) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—A qualified private lender shall—

''(I) ensure that appropriate technical assistance is provided to each borrower that receives a loan under the community express program from the qualified private lender;

''(II) encourage a borrower that receives a loan under the community express program from the qualified private lender to use the business development programs of the Administration for technical assistance; and

''(III) to the extent practicable, use the loan process to work with a borrower that receives a loan under the community express program from the qualified private lender, in order to—

''(aa) develop a business plan, if appropriate;

''(bb) assess the strengths and weaknesses of the borrower in management and other relevant areas; and

''(cc) provide technical assistance to address any assessed weaknesses of the borrower.

''(ii) COLLATERAL POLICY.—

''(I) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall establish a policy relating to collateral for loans under the community express program, which shall permit a qualified private lender to make a loan of not more than $15,000 without collateral.

''(II) LIMITATION.—The policy established by the Administrator may not limit the ability of a qualified private lender to follow any internal procedure of the lender related to collateral.

''(iii) EQUITY OF BORROWERS.—Each qualified private lender shall verify that a borrower receiving a loan under the community express program has an equity stake of at least 10 percent in the business concern.

''(iv) FINANCIAL STATEMENTS.—Each qualified private lender shall obtain a financial statement from a borrower before making a loan under the community express program.

''(v) SALE OF LOANS.—A qualified private lender may not sell more than 80 percent of the total dollar value of the loans made by the qualified private lender under the community express program to another person or entity.

''(E) SIMPLIFICATION OF RULES.—The Administrator shall review the regulations and procedures relating to the community express program to ensure that such regulations and procedures are simple and clear and do not create barriers to participation in the program.

''(F) NOTICE AND COMMENT.—The Administrator shall establish policies relating to the community express program—

''(i) after notice and the opportunity for comment; and

''(ii) not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this paragraph.''.

(b) RURAL LENDER AND NEW LENDER OUTREACH PROGRAM.—Section 7(a) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(a)), as amended by this Act, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(36) RURAL LENDER AND NEW LENDER OUTREACH PROGRAM.—

''(A) DEFINITIONS.—In this paragraph—

''(i) the term 'new lender' means a lender that has not made more than 20 loans guaranteed by the Administrator during the 3-year period ending on the date on which the applicable loan is submitted (including a lender that has not made a loan guaranteed by the Administration);

''(ii) the term 'rural area' has the meaning given that term in subsection (m); and

''(iii) the term 'rural lender' means a lender that—

''(I) is located in a rural area; and

''(II) made not more than 20 loans guaranteed by the Administration during the 3-year period ending on the date on which the applicable loan application is submitted (including a lender that has not made a loan guaranteed by the Administration).

''(B) PROGRAM.—The Administrator shall carry out a rural lender and new lender outreach program, under which the Administrator may guarantee timely payment of principal and interest, as scheduled, on a loan to a small business concern of not more than $500,000 made by a rural lender or a new lender.

''(C) LOAN PROCESSING.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall establish, for loans guaranteed under this paragraph—

''(I) streamlined application and documentation requirements; and

''(II) minimum credit standards necessary to provide for a reasonable assurance of repayment, in accordance with paragraph (6).

''(ii) NEW LENDER TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION.—The Administrator may guarantee a loan made by a new lender under this paragraph if the Administrator—

''(I) provides the new lender with training described in subparagraph (D); and

''(II) determines that the new lender meets minimum standards for program knowledge, borrower eligibility, and underwriting standards.

''(iii) APPROVAL OR DISAPPROVAL.—For a loan guaranteed under this paragraph, the Administrator shall approve or disapprove the loan in as expedited manner as practicable.

''(D) TRAINING.—At regularly scheduled intervals and upon request by a new lender or rural lender the Administrator shall provide training for new lenders and rural lenders on the loan guarantee program under this subsection.''.

(c) ELECTRONIC ONLINE LOAN UNDERWRITING PROGRAM GUIDE.—

(1) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this subsection is to assist rural lenders and new lenders in making more loans of good underwriting quality to small business concerns.

(2) ONLINE UNDERWRITING GUIDE.—The Administrator shall establish an online underwriting program guide (in this subsection referred to as the ''guide'') to develop the lending capacity of rural lenders and new lenders (as such terms are defined in paragraph (36) of section 7(a) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(a)), as added by this Act).

(3) REQUIREMENTS.—The guide—

(A) is not intended to replace the internal credit scoring and loan approval process of a lender;

(B) shall demonstrate the steps the Administrator expects a lender to take in making a loan under a program of the Administration;

(C) shall assist a lender in using the internal credit evaluation processes of the lender to make a loan under a program of the Administration and build the capacity and ability of the lender to make such loans;

(D) shall provide simple steps to assist a lender that has not made a loan guaranteed by the Administration through the loan application process for a loan under section 7(a) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(a));

(E) shall include information, guidance, sample documentation, questions and answers, and any other information necessary to guide a lender through the process of making a loan guaranteed by the Administration in a systematic and simple fashion; and

(F) shall include information relating to—

(i) loan application and preapproval;

(ii) loan underwriting;

(iii) requirements after loan approval;

(iv) preparation for loan closing;

(v) closing the loan; and

(vi) servicing the loan.

(4) ELECTRONICALLY SUBMITTED LOANS.—The Administrator shall use the guide as a means to increase the number of applications for loan guarantees submitted electronically for approval from rural lenders and new lenders.

SEC. 4. 504 LOANS.

(a) MAXIMUM LOAN AMOUNTS UNDER 504 PROGRAM.—Section 502(2)(A) of the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 (15 U.S.C. 696(2)(A)) is amended—

(1) in clause (i), by striking ''$1,500,000'' and inserting ''$2,250,000'';

(2) in clause (ii), by striking ''$2,000,000'' and inserting ''$3,000,000''; and

(3) in clause (iii), by striking ''$4,000,000'' and inserting ''$5,500,000''.

(b) BUSINESSES IN LOW-INCOME COMMUNITIES.—

(1) GOALS.—Section 501(d)(3)(A) of the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 (15 U.S.C. 695(d)(3)(A)) is amended by inserting after ''business district revitalization,'' the following: ''or expansion of businesses in a low-income community, as defined in section 45D(e) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and implementing regulations,''.

(2) ADDITIONAL INCENTIVES.—Section 502 of the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 (15 U.S.C. 696) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(7) LOW-INCOME COMMUNITIES.—

''(A) LOAN AMOUNT.—Notwithstanding paragraph (2)(A)(ii), a loan under this section for use in a low-income community described in section 501(d)(3)(A) may not exceed $5,500,000.

''(B) SIZE STANDARDS.—For purposes of determining eligibility for a loan under this section for use in a low-income community described in section 501(d)(3)(A), the size standards established by the Administrator under section 3 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632) shall be increased by 25 percent.

''(C) PERSONAL LIQUIDITY.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—For any loan under this section for use in a low-income community described in section 501(d)(3)(A), the amount of personal resources of an owner that are excluded from the amount required to be provided to reduce the portion of the project funded by the Administration shall be not less than 25 percent more than that required for other loans under this section.

''(ii) DEFINITION.—In this subparagraph, the term 'owner' means any person that owns not less than 20 percent of the equity of the small business concern applying for the applicable loan.''.

(c) ADDITIONAL EQUITY INJECTIONS.—Section 502(3)(B)(ii) of the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 (15 U.S.C. 696(3)(B)(ii)) is amended to read as follows:

''(ii) FUNDING FROM INSTITUTIONS.—If a small business concern—

''(I) provides the minimum contribution required under subparagraph (C), not less than 50 percent of the total cost of any project financed under clause (i), (ii), or (iii) of subparagraph (C) shall come from the institutions described in subclauses (I), (II), and (III) of clause (i) of this subparagraph; and

''(II) provides more than the minimum contribution required under subparagraph (C), any excess contribution may be used to reduce the amount required from the institutions described in subclauses (I), (II), and (III) of clause (i) of this subparagraph, except that the amount from such institutions may not be reduced to an amount that is less than the amount of the loan made by the Administrator.''.

(d) REFINANCING UNDER THE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT BUSINESS LOAN PROGRAM.—Section 502 of the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 (15 U.S.C. 696), as amended by this Act, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(8) PERMISSIBLE DEBT REFINANCING.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Any financing approved under this title may include a limited amount of debt refinancing.

''(B) EXPANSIONS.—If the project involves expansion of a small business concern which has existing indebtedness collateralized by fixed assets, any amount of existing indebtedness that does not exceed ½ of the project cost of the expansion may be refinanced and added to the expansion cost, if—

''(i) the proceeds of the indebtedness were used to acquire land, including a building situated thereon, to construct a building thereon, or to purchase equipment;

''(ii) the borrower has been current on all payments due on the existing debt for not less than 1 year preceding the date of refinancing; and

''(iii) the financing under section 504 will provide better terms or rate of interest than exists on the debt at the time of refinancing.''.

(e) JOB CREATION REQUIREMENTS.—Section 501(e) of the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 (15 U.S.C. 695(e)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking ''$50,000'' and inserting ''$65,000''; and

(2) in paragraph (2), by striking ''$50,000'' and inserting ''$65,000''.

SEC. 5. GUARANTEE AND SALE OF BANK FINANCINGS WITH 504 LOAN PROGRAM.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

(1) the term ''pool assembler'' means a financial institution that—

(A) organizes and packages a loan pool by acquiring the guaranteed portion of third party financings guaranteed by the Administrator under subsection (b);

(B) resells fractional interests in the loan pool to registered holders; and

(C) directs that the fiscal and transfer agent of the Administrator to issue trust certificates; and

(2) the term ''third party financing'' means a financing described in section 502(3)(B)(ii) of the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 (15 U.S.C. 696(3)(B)(ii))—

(A) made on or before the date of enactment of this Act;

(B) that provides for the payment of interest at a fixed rate or under a variable rate index (plus a spread) based upon Prime rate, a London Interbank Offered Rate (or LIBOR), a Federal Home Loan Bank rate, a United States Treasury rate, or a generally accepted market index rate approved by the Administrator;

(C) that provides amortized payments with a maturity of not more than 25 years; and

(D) for which the borrower—

(i) is current on all payments due on the loan on the date on which the loan is guaranteed under subsection (b); and

(ii) has not been more than 29 days past due on a payment during the 12-month period ending on the date on which the loan is guaranteed under subsection (b).

(b) LOAN GUARANTEE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—To the extent amounts are provided in advance in appropriations Acts, and in accordance with this subsection, upon application of a pool assembler who has acquired a third party financing, the Administrator shall guarantee the timely repayment of principal and interest on 80 percent of the balance of the third party financing outstanding on the date of the guarantee.

(2) LENDERS.—A lender that made a third party financing guaranteed under paragraph (1)—

(A) shall—

(i) agree to hold and service the note issued as part of the third party financing;

(ii) comply with the reporting and payment remittance requirements of the Administrator; and

(iii) enter a secondary participation guaranty agreement with the Administrator and the fiscal and transfer agent of the Administrator; and

(B) may collect and retain all of any applicable prepayment penalties otherwise provided in the event the third party financing is prepaid.

(3) GUARANTEE FEE.—To cover the costs of guarantees under this subsection and the cost of issuing trust certificates under subsection (c), a lender that made a third party financing guaranteed under paragraph (1) shall pay to the Administrator—

(A) a one-time fee equal to 1 percent of the net amount of the third party financing guaranteed by the Administration, payable on the date on which the third party financing is guaranteed; and

(B) a monthly fee on the unpaid balance of the net amount of the third party financing guarantee at the rate of 25 basis points per year.

(4) MAXIMUM AMOUNT.—The Administrator may guarantee a total amount of not more than $6,000,000,000 in third party financings under this subsection.

(5) TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY.—The authority of the Administrator to guarantee a third party financing under this subsection shall terminate on September 30, 2010.

(6) APPROPRIATION.—In addition to any other amounts appropriated, there are appropriated for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2009, for the ''Business Loans Program Account'' of the Administration, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, $1 for loan subsidies and for loan modifications for guarantees authorized under this subsection, to remain available until expended.

(c) TRUST CERTIFICATES.—

(1) ISSUANCE.—The Administrator may issue a trust certificate representing ownership of all or a fractional part of the guaranteed portion of 1 or more third party financings that have been guaranteed by the Administrator under subsection (b). A trust certificate issued under this subsection shall be based on and backed by a trust or pool approved by the Administrator and composed solely of the entire guaranteed portion of third party financings guaranteed by the Administrator under subsection (b).

(2) POOLING REQUIREMENTS.—

(A) INTEREST RATE.—The interest rate on a trust certificate issued under this subsection shall be the weighted average interest rate of all third party financings in the pool. There shall be no limit on the difference between the highest and lowest note interest rates on third party financings forming the pool.

(B) MATURITY.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Each pool may include either—

(I) third party financings with remaining terms to maturity of 15 years or less; or

(II) third party financings with remaining terms to maturity of more than 15 years.

(ii) NO OTHER LIMITATIONS.—Except as provided in clause (i), the Administrator may not limit the difference between the remaining terms to maturity of the third party financings forming a pool.

(C) SIZE.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—If the amount of the guaranteed portion of any third party financing exceeds $500,000, the Administrator shall, upon request of the pool assembler, divide the amount of the third party financing into individual guarantees no 1 of which exceeds $500,000.

(ii) DIVIDED FINANCINGS.—Not more than 1 portion of a third party financing that has been divided under this subparagraph shall be included in the same pool. Portions of more than 1 third party financing divided under this subparagraph may be included in the same pool.

(3) TIMELY PAYMENT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator may, upon such terms and conditions as the Administrator determines appropriate, guarantee the timely payment of principal and interest on a trust certificate issued by the Administrator or an agent of the Administrator under this subsection. A guarantee under this paragraph shall be limited to the principal and interest on the guaranteed portions of the third party financings that comprise the trust or pool.

(B) PREPAYMENT.—If a third party financing in a trust or pool guaranteed under this paragraph is prepaid, either voluntarily or in the event of default, the guarantee of timely payment of principal and interest on the trust certificates shall be reduced in proportion to the amount of principal and interest the prepaid third party financing represents in the trust or pool. Interest on prepaid or defaulted third party financings shall accrue and be guaranteed by the Administrator only through the date of payment on the guarantee. During the term of a trust certificate issued under this subsection, the trust certificate may be called for redemption due to prepayment or default of all third party financings constituting the pool.

(4) FULL FAITH AND CREDIT.—The full faith and credit of the United States is pledged to the payment of all amounts that may be required to be paid under any guarantee of a trust certificate issued by the Administrator or an agent of the Administrator under this subsection.

(5) USE OF AGENT.—The Administrator shall negotiate an amendment to the contract in effect on the date of enactment of this Act with the agent for fee collection for trust certificates issued under section 5(g) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 634(g)) to collect the monthly fee under subsection (b)(3)(B) of this section. The agent may receive, as compensation for services, any interest earned on a fee collected under this section while in the control of the agent before the time at which the agent is contractually required to remit the fee to the Administrator.

(6) CLAIMS.—In the event the Administrator pays a claim under a guarantee issued under this subsection, it shall be subrogated fully to the rights satisfied by such payment.

(7) OWNERSHIP RIGHTS.—No State or local law, and no Federal law, shall preclude or limit the exercise by the Administrator of the ownership rights in the portions of third party financings constituting the trust or pool against which a trust certificate is issued under this subsection.

(8) CENTRAL REGISTRATION.—The Administrator—

(A) shall provide for a central registration of all trust certificates issued under this subsection;

(B) shall negotiate an amendment to the contract in effect on the date of enactment of this Act with the agent for central registration of trust certificates issued pursuant to section 5(h) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 634(h)) to carry out on behalf of the Administrator the central registration functions under this subsection and the issuance of trust certificates to facilitate pooling, under which—

(i) the agent may be compensated through any of the fees collected under this section and any interest earned on any funds collected by the agent while such funds are in the control of the agent and before the time at which the agent is contractually required to transfer such funds to the Administrator or to the holders of the trust certificates, as appropriate; and

(ii) the agent shall provide a fidelity bond or insurance in such amounts as the Administrator determines to be necessary to fully protect the interest of the Government; and

(C) may—

(i) use a book-entry or other electronic form of registration for trust certificates issued under this subsection; and

(ii) with the consent of the Secretary of the Treasury, use the book-entry system of the Federal Reserve System.

(9) SALE.—The Administrator shall, before any sale of a trust certificate issued under this subsection, require the seller to disclose to the purchaser of the trust certificate information on the terms, conditions, and yield of such instrument.

(10) BROKERS AND DEALERS.—The Administrator may issue regulations relating to the brokering of and dealing in trust certificates sold under this subsection.

(11) TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY.—The authority of the Administrator to issue trust certificates under this subsection shall terminate on September 30, 2010.

(d) IMPLEMENTATION.—Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall issue interim final regulations to carry out this section.

(e) LENDER PURCHASE ELIGIBILITY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—A lender that made or services a loan guaranteed under section 7(a) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(a)) or a third party financing guaranteed under subsection (b) of this section may purchase and hold all or any part of a loan pool which includes a loan or third party financing made or serviced by the lender.

(2) NO EFFECT ON GUARANTEE.—A purchase described in subparagraph (A) shall not affect the guarantee of a loan or third party financing in a pool.

SEC. 6. EMERGENCY SHORT TERM FEE REDUCTIONS.

(a) LENDER OVERSIGHT FEES.—

(1) TEMPORARY REDUCTION IN FEES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—To the extent amounts are provided in advance in appropriations Acts, the Administrator shall, in lieu of the fee otherwise applicable under section 5(b)(14) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 634(b)(14)), collect no fee.

(B) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated for salaries and expenses of the Administration relating to examinations, reviews, and other lender oversight activities relating to loans under section 7 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636)—

(i) $10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2009 and 2010; and

(ii) such sums as may be necessary for each fiscal year thereafter.

(2) REPORT ON MAKING FEES CONTINGENT ON PERFORMANCE.—Not later than 6 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator, in consultation with lenders that have made loans guaranteed under section 7 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636), shall submit to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate and the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives a report regarding the feasibility of assessing annual fees under section 7(a)(23)(A) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(a)(23)(A)) in an amount that is contingent on the performance of the lender, including consideration of the meeting the requirement under section 7(a)(1) of that Act (15 U.S.C. 636(a)(1)) of providing credit to applicants than cannot obtain credit elsewhere. The report under this paragraph may include proposed legislation.

(b) FEE REDUCTIONS.—

(1) NEW 7(A) LENDER DEFINED.—In this subsection the term ''new 7(a) lender'' means a lender that has not made more than 20 loans guaranteed by the Administrator under section 7(a) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(a)) during the 3-year period ending on the date on which the Administrator determines the fee under section 7(a)(23)(A) of that Act (15 U.S.C. 636(a)(23)(A)) for the lender.

(2) 7(A) LOAN FEE REDUCTIONS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—For fiscal years 2009 and 2010, and to the extent the cost of such reduction in fees is offset by appropriations, with respect to each loan guaranteed under section 7(a) of Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(a))—

(i) the Administrator shall, in lieu of the fee otherwise applicable under section 7(a)(23)(A) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(a)(23)(A)), collect an annual fee in an amount equal to—

(I) 0.25 percent of the outstanding balance of the deferred participation share of a loan made under section 7(a) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(a)) to a small business concern before the date of enactment of this Act; and

(II) .20 percent of the outstanding balance of the deferred participation share of a loan made by a new 7(a) lender to a small business concern; and

(ii) with respect to each loan guaranteed under section 7(a) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(a)), the Administrator shall, in lieu of the fee otherwise applicable under section 7(a)(18)(A) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(a)(18)(A)), (including any additional fee under clause (iv) of that section 7(a)(18)(A)) collect a guarantee fee in an amount equal to—

(I) 0.75 percent of the deferred participation share of a total loan amount that is not more than $150,000;

(II) 2 percent of the deferred participation share of a total loan amount that is more than $150,000, and not more than $700,000; and

(III) 2.5 percent of the deferred participation share of a total loan amount that is more than $700,000.

(B) IMPLEMENTATION.—In carrying out this paragraph, the Administrator shall reduce the fees for a loan guaranteed under section 7(a) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(a)) to the maximum extent possible, subject to the availability of appropriations.

(C) APPLICATION OF FEE REDUCTIONS.—If funds are made available to carry out this paragraph, the Administrator shall reduce the fees under subparagraph (A) for any loan guarantee or project subject to such subparagraph for which the application is pending approval on or after the date of enactment of this Act, until the amount provided for such purpose is expended.

(D) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Administrator for each of fiscal years 2009 and 2010—

(i) $175,000,000 to carry out subparagraph (A)(i);

(ii) $75,000,000 to carry out subparagraph (A)(ii).

(3) 504 LOAN FEE AND RATE REDUCTIONS.—

(A) FEE REDUCTIONS.—

(i) FEE REDUCTIONS.—To the extent the cost of such reduction in fees is offset by appropriations, for any loan guarantee or project for which an application is closed on or after the date of enactment of this Act—

(I) with respect to an institution described in subclause (I), (II), or (III) of section 502(3)(B)(i) of the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 (15 U.S.C. 696(3)(B)(i)), the Administrator shall, in lieu of the fees otherwise applicable under section 503(d)(2) of the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 (15 U.S.C. 697(d)(2)), collect no fee;

(II) a development company shall, in lieu of the mandatory 0.625 servicing fee under section 120.971(a)(3) of title 13, Code of Federal Regulations, (relating to fees paid by borrowers), or any successor thereto, collect no fee; and

(III) the Administrator shall, in lieu of the fee otherwise applicable under section 503(d)(3) of the Small Business Investment Act (15 U.S.C. 697(d)(3)), collect no fee.

(ii) REIMBURSEMENT FOR WAIVED FEES.—

(I) IN GENERAL.—To the extent the cost of such payments is offset by appropriations, the Administrator shall reimburse each development company that does not collect a servicing fee pursuant to clause (i)(II).

(II) AMOUNT.—The payment to a development company under subclause (I) shall be in an amount equal to 0.5 percent of the outstanding principal balance of any guaranteed debenture for which the development company does not collect a servicing fee pursuant to clause (i)(II).

(iii) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Administrator for each of fiscal years 2009 and 2010—

(I) $50,000,000 for the elimination of fees under clause (i)(I);

(II) $40,000,000 for payments under clause (ii) to offset the elimination of fees under clause (i)(II); and

(III) $10,000,000 for the elimination of fees under clause (i)(III).

(B) RATE REDUCTION.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—To the extent that the cost of making an interest rate reduction is offset by appropriations, the Administrator shall pay, on behalf of a small business borrower, an amount equal to 100 basis points of the interest rate required to be paid by the borrower on the amount of the guarantee provided under title V of the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 (15 U.S.C. 695 et seq.), if the loan is closed on or after the date of enactment of this Act.

(ii) FREQUENCY OF PAYMENT.—The Administrator shall make a payment under clause (i) on a semiannual basis.

(iii) METHOD OF PAYMENT.—The Administrator may use a central servicing agent to make a payment under clause (i).

(iv) NOTICE TO DEVELOPMENT COMPANY.—The Administrator shall notify a development company that receives a payment under clause (i) when funds are made available for the rate reduction under clause (i).

(v) IMPLEMENTATION.—A development company that receives a payment under clause (i) shall—

(I) use the payments solely for the purpose provided; and

(II) adjust the amount of the monthly payment by the borrower accordingly.

(vi) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Administrator for each of fiscal years 2009

and 2010, $150,000,000 for payments made under clause (i).

SEC. 7. MICROLENDING.

In addition to any amounts otherwise authorized to be appropriated for such purposes, there are authorized to be appropriated to the Administrator for each of fiscal years 2009 and 2010—

(1) $5,000,000 for direct loans under section 7(m) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(m)); and

(2) $20,000,000 for grants to intermediaries for marketing, management, and technical assistance under section 7(m)(4) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(m)(4)).

SEC. 8. SMALL BUSINESS INVESTMENT COMPANIES.

Section 303(b) of the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 (15 U.S.C. 683(b)) is amended—

(1) by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

''(2) MAXIMUM LEVERAGE.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The maximum amount of outstanding leverage made available to any 1 company licensed under section 301(c) may not exceed the lesser of—

''(i) 300 percent of the private capital of the company; or

''(ii) $150,000,000.

''(B) MULTIPLE LICENSES UNDER COMMON CONTROL.—The maximum amount of outstanding leverage made available to 2 or more companies licensed under section 301(c) that are commonly controlled (as determined by the Administrator) and the private capital of which the Administrator determines meets the requirements of subsection (e) may not exceed $225,000,000.''; and

(2) by striking paragraph (4).

SEC. 9. EMERGENCY SMALL BUSINESS LENDING ADVERTISING STRATEGY.

Section 4 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 633) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(i) EMERGENCY SMALL BUSINESS LENDING ADVERTISING STRATEGY.—

''(1) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this subsection is to ensure that the Administrator provides information to the owners of small business concerns regarding lenders in their areas that participate in programs of the Administration and that will allow small business concerns to access business capital during a liquidity and capital lending shortage.

''(2) LENDING ADVERTISING STRATEGY.—The Administrator shall develop an emergency small business lending advertising strategy to inform small business concerns located throughout the United States that loans under this Act are available through lenders that participate in programs of the Administration.

''(3) MEDIA.—The Administrator shall use print, radio, television, and Internet advertisement, where appropriate, to carry out this subsection.

''(4) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall implement the emergency small business lending advertising strategy.

''(5) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this subsection—

''(A) $5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2009 and 2010; and

''(B) such sums as may be necessary for each fiscal year thereafter.''.

SEC. 10. TAX PROVISIONS.

(a) EXTENSION OF TEMPORARY INCREASE IN LIMITATIONS ON EXPENSING OF CERTAIN DEPRECIABLE BUSINESS ASSETS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (7) of section 179(b) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended—

(A) by inserting ''AND 2009'' after ''2008'' in the heading, and

(B) by inserting ''or 2009'' after ''In the case of any taxable year beginning in 2008''.

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this subsection shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2008.

(b) CARRYBACK OF CERTAIN NET OPERATING LOSSES ALLOWED FOR 5 YEARS; TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OF 90 PERCENT AMT LIMIT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subparagraph (H) of section 172(b)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended to read as follows:

''(H) 5-YEAR CARRYBACK OF CERTAIN LOSSES.—

''(i) TAXABLE YEARS ENDING DURING 2001 AND 2002.—In the case of a net operating loss for any taxable year ending during 2001 or 2002, subparagraph (A)(i) shall be applied by substituting '5' for '2' and subparagraph (F) shall not apply.

''(ii) TAXABLE YEARS ENDING DURING 2008 AND 2009.—In the case of a net operating loss with respect to any eligible taxpayer for any taxable year ending during 2008 or 2009—

''(I) subparagraph (A)(i) shall be applied by substituting '5' for '2',

''(II) subparagraph (E)(ii) shall be applied by substituting '4' for '2', and

''(III) subparagraph (F) shall not apply.

''(iii) ELIGIBLE TAXPAYER.—For purposes of clause (ii), the term 'eligible taxpayer' means a corporation or partnership which meets the gross receipts test of section 448(c) (determined by substituting '$10,000,000' for '$5,000,000' and '5-taxable-year period' for '3-taxable-year period') for the taxable year in which the loss arose (or, in the case of a sole proprietorship, which would meet such test if such proprietorship were a corporation.''.

(2) TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OF 90 PERCENT LIMIT ON CERTAIN NOL CARRYBACKS AND CARRYOVERS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Section 56(d) of the of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(3) ADDITIONAL ADJUSTMENTS.—For purposes of paragraph (1)(A), in the case of an eligible taxpayer (as defined in section 172(b)(1)(H)(iii)), the amount described in clause (I) of paragraph (1)(A)(ii) shall be increased by the amount of the net operating loss deduction allowable for the taxable year under section 172 attributable to the sum of—

''(A) carrybacks of net operating losses from taxable years ending during 2008 and 2009, and

''(B) carryovers of net operating losses to taxable years ending during 2008 or 2009.''.

(B) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Subclause (I) of section 56(d)(1)(A)(i) of such Code is amended by inserting ''amount of such'' before ''deduction described in clause (ii)(I)''.

(3) ANTI-ABUSE RULES.—The Secretary of Treasury or the Secretary's designee shall prescribe such rules as are necessary to prevent the abuse of the purposes of the amendments made by this subsection, including anti-stuffing rules, anti-churning rules (including rules relating to sale-leasebacks), and rules similar to the rules under section 1091 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 relating to losses from wash sales.

(4) EFFECTIVE DATES.—

(A) SUBSECTION (a).—The amendments made by paragraph (1) shall apply to net operating losses arising in taxable years ending in 2008 or 2009.

(B) SUBSECTION (b).—The amendments made by paragraph (2) shall apply to taxable years ending after December 31, 2007.

SEC. 11. TROUBLED ASSETS.

Section 3(9) of the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 (division A of Public Law 110–343) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(2) by redesignating subparagraph (B) as subparagraph (C); and

(3) by inserting after subparagraph (A) the following:

''(B) a trust certificate issued by the Administrator of the Small Business Administration under section 5(g) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 634(g)), a loan guaranteed by the Small Business Administration under section 7(a) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(a)), and a trust certificate issued under section 505 of the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 (15 U.S.C. 697), including an underlying debenture, the purchase of which the Secretary determines promotes financial market stability; and''.

By Mrs. CLINTON:

S. 3706. A bill to amend part D of title IV of the Social Security Act to prohibit States from charging child support recipients for the collection of child support; to the Committee on Finance.

Mrs. CLINTON. Mr. President, in a time of rising prices and historic economic turmoil, single parents deserve our support more than ever. That is why I am introducing the Elimination of the Single Parent Tax Act of 2008. I am proud to join my colleague Congresswoman GILLIBRAND in introducing this important legislation to help single parents by suspending State fees to fund child support enforcement.

Many states, including New York, were forced to institute this fee after the Republican-lead Congress passed the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005, which slashed funding for child support enforcement. The fee is expected to affect 170,000 families in New York alone. These single parents need every penny of their child support income to go towards food, medicine, and other important expenses. The Elimination of the Single Parent Tax Act ensures that hard-working single parents don't face an extra tax.

In September, I joined my Senate colleagues in urging the Senate Appropriations Committee leadership to increase funding for child support enforcement to stave off these deep cuts. And today, I encourage my colleagues to join me in sponsoring this critical measure to support single parents.

For too long, single-parent households have been ignored at a time when raising children has only become more of a struggle. Yet despite these challenges, single parents heroically soldier on. This bill is only a critical first step to a more comprehensive approach to supporting single parents raising children. I look forward to continuing to fight in the Senate to stand up for our most vulnerable children and our hardest-working families.

By Mrs. CLINTON:

S. 3707. A bill to recruit, train, and support principals for high-need schools who are effective in improving student academic achievement; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mrs. CLINTON. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce legislation to address the urgent need of our underserved urban and rural school districts

by creating a corps of principals who are well-prepared, supported, and effective in improving student academic achievement in high-need schools and ensuring our schools are provided the leadership they need to prepare our children to compete in the 21st century.

The U.S. Department of Labor estimates that nearly 40 percent of the 90,000 principals in this country are nearing retirement, and over half the Nation's school districts are facing immediate administrator shortages. This problem is particularly prevalent in urban and rural districts with large concentrations of high-poverty schools, where turnover rates can reach as high as 20 percent per year, and academic achievement is persistently low.

That is why I'm introducing the National Principal Recruitment, NPR, Act, which seeks to address the impending shortage by establishing a corps of principals who are well-prepared, supported, and effective in improving student achievement in high-need schools. This corps is created through the recruitment of results-oriented candidates who possess personal leadership and management skills, knowledge of effective instruction, and commit to serve in high-need schools for over 5 years. Once selected, these candidates would undergo a year-long principal residency program, and receive support and mentoring to help them develop and maintain a data-driven, professional learning community.

This bill leverages non-Federal dollars with targeted funding to performance-based work done in partnership with school districts. It also includes an evaluation to capture knowledge and best practices and creates a prototype of a performance-based Federal education program by tying funding levels to an evaluation of student achievement results.

An effective and capable school leader can make the difference in providing the tools and instructional support needed to foster the type of school environment conducive to student academic success. The NPR Act will ensure that our neediest schools have effective leaders, who are well-equipped and supported, to close the achievement gap and prepare our students to compete in a global economy.

I am hopeful that my Senate colleagues from both sides of the aisle will join me today to move this legislation to the floor without delay.

By Mrs. CLINTON:

S. 3708. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act with respect to health professions education, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mrs. CLINTON. Mr. President, today, I am introducing the Health Professions and Primary Care Reinvestment Act in order to improve access to quality health care for all Americans. By significantly reinvesting in the training and education of our health professionals, we are reinvesting in our communities where care is most needed.

This bill reinvests in health professional training in three ways—by expanding the training our health professionals receive, by improving our efforts to recruit and retain health professionals, and by increasing incentives for health professionals who are serving in community settings, particularly in rural and urban underserved areas.

Most Americans prefer to get their health care through a personal physician operating as part of a team-based primary care practice, yet the number of health professional students entering these fields is decreasing. We need more workers in primary care at the front lines of the health care system. Primary care professionals can help to establish a ''medical home'' for patients, providing preventive care to help people stay healthy and provide coordination of care for those with multiple or chronic diseases. This bill would achieve this goal by providing incentives for training primary care professionals, by strengthening primary care departments at the school and community level, and by supporting improved infrastructure to assist those serving in primary care settings.

Minorities, disadvantaged and rural students are underrepresented in our health professional workforce. We need to increase their numbers in the medical fields, and provide incentives for them to return to underserved areas to practice. As an example of what can be done, one program targeting rural students has returned eight times the usual number of trained family physicians to rural settings. We need to train people from all backgrounds—from underrepresented minorities, from disadvantaged backgrounds, from rural and urban underserved communities. This bill helps to achieve this goal by strengthening pipeline programs, expanding loans and scholarships, and by increasing the availability of care in underserved communities.

We need health care where people live and work. Americans should be able to access care in communities that are located far from hospitals and medical centers, in the poorest neighborhoods of cities and isolated rural areas. We need to support the institutions that the most vulnerable rely on for care, like community health centers, local departments of health, and nursing homes. This bill supports new models of care for training, recruiting, supporting and retaining faculty to serve in underserved settings, and provides infrastructure support for training students in community settings outside of the hospital, where patients need care.

In addition to addressing primary care, the legislation also works to address other health fields which are often inaccessible to patients. Dental care in the United States has become a luxury that is unaffordable to many people. Dentists are often unable to sustain careers by teaching in dental schools training the next generation of professionals, or to work in communities where the need is greatest. This bill provides support for dentists to pursue academic teaching careers and to provide general care to both adults and children. It targets underrepresented minority dentists and those who will serve in communities where the need is greatest.

One impediment to good health for people with mental health problems is lack of care coordination. Too often the psychological problem goes undiagnosed or untreated, because our health care system operates in silos. Patients are often asked to go one place to meet physical health needs and another place to meet mental health needs. This bill provides support for training and care where the health professionals work together to co-manage mental health and physical health problems toward better overall health.

We, as a nation, are getting older. As we age, our health concerns change. Many seniors take multiple medications which need to be coordinated by a team of doctors, pharmacists, and other caregivers. The Health Professions and Primary Care Reinvestment Act reinvests in our geriatric training programs by expanding opportunities for doctors, pharmacists, psychologists, dentists and others to work with patients in rehabilitation centers, at home, in nursing homes or other settings where people live or work.

Our public health and preventive medicine professionals respond to crises like SARS, anthrax, and other infectious disease outbreaks. But they also work to educate the public about ways to stay healthy, and prevent chronic diseases. They contribute to the health care safety net with services like adult and childhood vaccinations. This bill helps to support these efforts by reinvestment in training for prevention. It links schools of public health with local and State departments of health in order to train professionals to work and serve in settings where they are most needed.

Finally, and very importantly, we must better understand the demands that will be made upon our health professional workforce. This bill provides authorization for the formation of a national and multiple regional health workforce analysis centers, along with an advisory committee comprised of administrative and health professional leadership. These entities will assess, review and oversee health professional workforce needs so that we can plan and prepare a new generation of health professionals in our schools and communities.

The Health Professions and Primary Care Reinvestment Act addresses the multiple challenges facing healthcare workforce development in our country.

It will invest in primary care, expand the number of health professionals truly representative of the communities they serve, and improve the availability of care in places where Americans need it most. I look forward to working with my colleagues in the Senate on the many issues of our health care workforce, and I would urge their support of this legislation.

Multiple organizations, including Advocating for Family Medicine, American Academy of Family Physicians, American Academy of Physician Assistants, American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine, American College of Preventive Medicine, American Dental Association, American Dental Education Association, American Geriatrics Association, American Osteopathic Association, American Psychological Association, Association of Departments of Family Medicine, Association of Family Medicine Residency Directors, Association of Minority Health Professions Schools, Inc., Association of Schools of Public Health, Hospital Association of New York State, National AHEC Organization, National Council for Diversity in the Health Professions, North American Primary Care Research Group, Society of General Internal Medicine, and the Society of Teachers of Family Medicine have endorsed this legislation.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that letters of support be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be placed in the RECORD, as follows:

ADVOCATING FOR FAMILY MEDICINE,
Washington, DC, November 18, 2008.

Hon. HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR CLINTON: On behalf of the undersigned organizations, we would like to thank you for introducing the Health Professions and Primary Care Reinvestment Act. Health professions programs, authorized under Title VII of the Public Health Service Act, are vital to enhancing and expanding our nation's health workforce. The Health Professions and Primary Care Reinvestment Act reauthorizes, improves, and revitalizes these programs.

Within the primary care cluster (Section 747) we are very pleased to see the following:

Continued support for programs that have proven successful—training in primary care and capacity building in primary care.

New recognition that an environmental scan of the community and region is a necessary precursor to development of creative training programs that will get primary care physician training out into the community, rather than training remain mostly within the academic health centers.

Recognition that production of primary care physicians must be increased.

Recognition that funding for these programs must increase in order to provide a well-prepared workforce for the 21st century, particularly as we move to health care reform.

In addition, within the scope of the bill as a whole, we appreciate the modification of the statute so that all of the programs authorized by the bill have similar goals and expected outcomes.

As the Senate begins its work on overall health care reform, we support your efforts to have this bill serve as one of the foundations of reform. True health reform in this country will not be possible without including programs that increase the number of well-trained health professionals. As the Massachusetts experience clearly demonstrates, increasing the number of insured individuals will not ensure increased access to care if there are not enough doctors to treat the newly insured.

As you know, Title VII Health Professions Programs, particularly those authorized under Section 747, are designed to strengthen our primary care infrastructure. Studies have shown that areas which depend more heavily on primary care within their health care system spend less on health care and have better health outcomes. For example, a study published in Health Affairs from April, 2004 found, ''States with more general practitioners use more effective care and have lower spending, while those with more specialists have higher costs and lower quality.'' (Baicker and Chandra) We know that health reform has two goals: bettering the health of our nation and keeping it as cost efficient as possible. Increasing the proportion of primary care medicine is a major step towards meeting both of these goals, and Title VII, Section 747 programs are the only federal programs that aim to increase the number of primary care physicians.

Title VII programs have also demonstrated the ability to produce physicians that serve in underserved areas. A recent article in Annals of Family Medicine (Rittenhouse, et al 2008) shows that students and residents exposed to Title VII funding are more likely to participate in the National Health Service Corps or practice in a community health center upon completing their training. Both of these programs successfully place physicians where they are most needed.

Thank you for all of your hard work on the Health Professions and Primary Care Reinvestment Act and for your continued leadership and dedication to health care throughout your career. We urge you to ensure that this important piece of legislation makes its way through the legislative process and is passed as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,

SCOTT FIELDS, MD,
President, Society of Teachers of Family Medicine.

EILSSA PALMER, MD,
President, Association of Family Medicine Residency Directors.

MICHAEL K. MAGILL, MD,
President, Association of Departments of Family Medicine.

TED EPPERLY, MD, FAAFP,
President, American Academy of Family Physicians.

ALLEN DIETRICH, MD,
President, North American Primary Care Research Group.

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS,
Alexandria, VA, November 19, 2008.

Hon. HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR CLINTON: On behalf of the nearly 75,000 clinically practicing physician assistants (PAs) in the United States represented by the American Academy of Physician Assistants (AAPA), I thank you for introducing the Health Professions and Primary Care Reinvestment Act of 2008. The reauthorization of the Public Health Service Act's Title VII Health Professions Programs is a top priority of the AAPA. Accordingly, AAPA is pleased to support this legislation, and looks forward to working with you and your colleagues in the Senate and House of Representatives to secure the strongest possible investment in and reinforcement of the nation's primary care workforce.

The Title VII safety net programs are essential to the development and training of primary health care professionals and, in turn, provide increased access to care by promoting health care delivery in medically underserved communities. Title VII funding is especially important for PA programs as it is the only federal funding available on a competitive application basis to these programs.

A review of PA graduates from 1990–2006 demonstrates that PAs who have graduated from PA educational programs supported by Title VII are 59 percent more likely to be from underrepresented minority populations and 46 percent more likely to work in a rural health clinic than graduates of programs that were not supported by Title VII.

The AAPA is very pleased to see included in this legislation several very important updates and additions to the Title VII statute related to physician assistant training. Specifically, the updated definition of PA education programs is long overdue and accurately reflects the educational preparation of PAs, as well as the definition and standards of the approximately 140 PA programs in the U.S. Additionally, we strongly support the inclusion of a set 15 percent carve-out for PA programs within the primary care medicine and dentistry cluster. Finally, we support the inclusion of PA education programs within many new or expanded programmatic sections of the bill, including geriatric training centers and continuing education programs for health professionals in underserved areas.

The AAPA applauds your efforts to support and expand America's primary care workforce through a clarified and strengthened Title VII. We are pleased to work with you and to support the Health Professions and Primary Care Reinvestment Act of 2008.

Sincerely yours,

WILLIAM F. LEINWEBER,
Executive Vice President/Chief Executive Officer.

AMERICAN COLLEGE OF PREVENTIVE MEDICINE,
November 18, 2008.

Hon. HILLARY R. CLINTON,
Russell Senate Office Building,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR CLINTON: On behalf of the American College of Preventive Medicine I write to express our sincere appreciation and thanks for your efforts to reauthorize the Title VII health professions training programs at the Health Resources and Services Administration, HRSA. As a result of your steadfast commitment to bolstering our health care safety net in underserved communities and extending the reaches of preventive medicine physicians, health care services—including important preventive services—will reach the doorsteps of countless Americans who currently lack access to a health care provider.

With your legislation the time has now come to reinvigorate and refinance the Title VII health professions training programs at the necessary levels in order to protect access to health care for vulnerable populations, improve disease prevention and health promotion efforts, and maintain our graduate medical education commitment to quality and workforce diversity.

While a limited number of preventive medicine residency training programs in New York and other states have benefited from Title VII funds, it is important that Congress act now to expand the reaches of Title VII's mission to enhance the supply, diversity, and distribution of the health care workforce in all underserved communities across the country. A key step toward addressing health system reform is ensuring availability of services across all communities.

We thank you for recognizing the importance of preventive medicine physicians in securing our health care safety net and promoting disease prevention and health promotion programs. We look forward to our continued dialogue and thank you for the opportunity to work with you and your staff to address this very important issue.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL D. PARKINSON, MD, MPH, FACPM,
President.

ADA/AMERICAN DENTAL ASSOCIATION,
Washington, DC, November 19, 2008.

Senator HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON,
Russell Office Building,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR CLINTON: The American Dental Association, ADA, which represents 156,000 dentists, congratulates you on introducing the ''Health Professions and Primary Care Reinvestment Act.'' The ADA greatly appreciates the attention that you and your staff have given to the unique needs of Title VII federal dental programs and believe that many of the changes incorporated in this bill will help greatly to advance these programs.

We are especially pleased that your bill provides general practice and pediatric dental residency programs with a funding line. This acknowledgement underscores that oral health care is as equally important as medical care and should not be a subset of medical program funding. We believe that by creating Section 748 Training in General and Pediatric Dentistry that Congress will be better able to effectively address dental education training needs.

We also appreciate the inclusion of dentists in Section 9, which focuses on geriatric training. The ADA has placed a high priority on addressing the oral health needs of ''vulnerable'' older adults—individuals over age 65 with limited mobility and/or limited resources and/or complex health status. Older adults face a variety of special oral health challenges, including root and coronal caries, periodontal disease, tooth wear, edentulousness, oral cancer, complications from taking prescription and over-the-counter medications and other medical concerns that affect oral health. We recognize that a key component in addressing these needs is to enhance the educational infrastructure and dentist education and training. We believe that your bill has opened the door to accomplish these goals.

Addressing the oral health care needs of the older generation often overlaps with providing care to children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. While the bill does not include a new section to address the training of dentists to work with these patients, we understand the time constraints your staff faced in getting this bill introduced this year. We look forward to continuing to work with you on this issue and remain hopeful that we will be able to include a provision dealing with this important issue next year.

Thank you and your staff, particularly Dr. Kathleen Klink, for working with the American Dental Association to enhance dental education programs. We believe that the ''Health Professions and Primary Care Reinvestment Act'' will contribute to the ADA's own efforts to improve dental education programs and improve the oral health care of all Americans.

Sincerely,

JOHN S. FINDLEY, D.D.S.,
President.

ADEA AND AAPD,
November 19, 2008.

Hon. Hillary Clinton,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR CLINTON: The American Dental Education Association (ADEA) and the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry (AAPD) are pleased to endorse the Health Professions Primary Care Reinvestment Act. Our organizations represent dental education and the practicing pediatric dentists.

The primary care dental provisions contained in the legislation continue and enhance the cost-effective General Dentistry and Pediatric Dentistry residency training programs. The bill also authorizes support of dental loan repayment for those who teach or conduct research in General or Pediatric Dentistry residencies, which is particularly important to maintaining a cadre of well-trained dentists to meet the oral health care needs of the nation. Most importantly, we are delighted with the language which allows dental schools to apply for grants for faculty development and academic administrative units. We applaud the decision to provide a guideline authorization of $20 million for these important programs.

Our Associations appreciate the time and effort that you and your staff made to consider our analysis of important trends and needs in dental education, and to address our concerns about the bill. The Health Professions Primary Care Reinvestment Act is a significant improvement over legislation in the last Congress in terms of provisions affecting health workforce, information, evaluation and analysis, and geriatric training. Your staff is to be commended for drafting legislation that is performance-based and ensures that important strides made to date will not be diminished.

Please contact our legislative representatives if we can be of further assistance: Myla Moss at ADEA 202–289–7201 or Scott Litch at AAPD 312–337–2169 ext. 29.

Sincerely,

BEVERLY LARGENT, D.M.D.,
AAPD President.

JOHN S. RUTKAUSKAS, D.D.S., M.B.A., CAE,
AAPD Chief Executive Officer.

CHARLES N. BERTALOMI, D.D.S., D.M.SC.,
ADEA President.

RICHARD W. VALACHOVIC, D.M.D., M.P.H,
ADEA Executive.

ASSOCIATION OF MINORITY HEALTH PROFESSIONS SCHOOLS, INC.,
WASHINGTON, DC, NOVEMBER 19, 2008.

Senator HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON,
U.S. Senate, Russell Senate Office Building,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR CLINTON: The Association of Minority Health Professions Schools (AMHPS) applauds your introducing the Health Professions and Primary Care Reinvestment Act. The Title VII Health Professions programs help strengthen and diversify our nation's primary care workforce. The Health Professions and Primary Care Reinvestment Act reauthorizes these vital programs while greatly improving them.

AMHPS is particularly interested in your efforts to continue to strengthen the diversity cluster of the Title VII programs—Centers of Excellence (COI), Health Careers Opportunities Program (HCOP), Faculty Loan Repayment, and Scholarships for Disadvantaged Students (SDS). These programs have been a tremendous federal government investment into the institutions that focus on increasing the number of health professionals and the diversity of the health professions. In the November 2008 issue of Academic Medicine, the article ''Funding the Diversity Programs of the Title VII Health Professions Training Grants: An Urgent Need,'' written by two AMHPS institution presidents—Dr. John Maupin of Morehouse School of Medicine and Dr. Wayne Riley of Meharry Medical College—confirms that your efforts making a tremendous effort towards improving the health of all Americans.

Again. thank you for introducing the Health Professions and Primary Care Reinvestment Act. Your continued leadership and dedication to health care is greatly appreciated. We urge you to do all that you can to see that building a stronger workforce of primary care professionals that is more diverse is a top priority during the current health care debate. Ensuring passage of your important bill would be a very good first step,

Sincerely,

WAYNE HARRIS, PH.D.,
Chairman, Board of Directors, Association of Minority Health Professions Schools.

ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS OF PUBLIC HEALTH,
Washington, DC, November 18, 2008.

Hon. HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON,
Russell Senate Office Building,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR CLINTON: On behalf of the Association of Schools of Public Health (ASPH), I would like to thank you for introducing the Health Professions and Primary Care Reinvestment Act. Your leadership in introducing legislation that would reauthorize Title VII of the Public Health Service Act takes a vital step in providing support to the health care delivery system, health care and public health professionals.

By 2012 over 100,000 public health workers are eligible to retire (23 percent of the workforce). More importantly, in order to have the same public health workforce to population ratio in 2020 as existed in 1980, the public health workforce would need to add an additional 250,000 workers. As Congress begins to consider legislation that would overhaul the health insurance system in this country, we hope that the Health Professions and Primary Care Reinvestment Act will be considered to ensure a well trained health care workforce will be in place to meet the increased demand for basic health care services.

We would like to thank you for the inclusion of public health in several sections of the bill including the Health Professions Training for Diversity provisions of the legislation. Expansion of the program to include training for the next generation of researchers and educators is important as public health researchers in the early stages of their careers offer novel investigator-initiated research ideas that could transform science and policy.

We applaud the establishment of the Academic Health Department (AHD) Program to establish partnerships between accredited Schools of Public Health (SPH) and state or local public health departments. This program has demonstrated success in expanding SPH/health department partnerships with the goal of developing models of collaboration in the areas of teaching and service. The

training programs offered by AHDs will provide learning opportunities for public health professionals throughout their careers. We also appreciate the continued support of the existing Public Health and Preventive Medicine Program which offers vital support to train health professionals in this important area.

Again, we would like to thank you for your leadership and we look forward to working with you as you work to advance this legislation. We are glad to see your commitment to addressing workforce shortage issues in health care and offer our support of the Health Professions and Primary Care Reinvestment Act.

Sincerely,

HARRISON C. SPENCER, MD, MPH,
President and CEO.

NATIONAL AHEC ORGANIZATION,
Oak Creek, WI.

Hon. HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON,
U.S. Senate, Russell Senate Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR CLINTON: On behalf of the National Area Health Education Center Organization (NAO), I would like to offer support for the Health Professions and Primary Care Reinvestment Act legislation that includes AHEC reauthorization.

Your ongoing support of the National AHEC Organization and the AHEC centers and programs that we represent across the country are critical to the health professions pipeline, quality education and training programs for health care professionals, allied health professional and students across the county.

The Health Professions and Primary Care Reinvestment Act will ensure the sustainability of the many critical programs offered by AHEC's throughout the nation.

Please feel free to call upon the NAO for additional support as you move forward with your efforts and be assured that our support and this letter may be used publicly to advance the Health Professions and Primary Care Reinvestment Act legislation.

Sincerely,

ROSE M. YUHOS,
NAO President.

NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR DIVERSITY IN THE HEALTH PROFESSIONS,
November 19, 2008.

Hon. HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON,
U.S. Senate, Russell Senate Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR CLINTON: The National Council on Diversity in the Health Professions (NCDHP) applauds your introducing the Health Professions and Primary Care Reinvestment Act. The Title VII Health Professions programs help strengthen and diversity our nation's primary care workforce. The Health Professions and Primary Care Reinvestment Act reauthorizes these vital programs while greatly improving them.

NCDHP is interested in your efforts to continue to strengthen the diversity cluster of the Title VII programs, particularly the reauthorization of Centers of Excellence (COE) and Health Careers Opportunities Program (HCOP). For many years, these programs have demonstrated a tremendous federal government investment into the institutions that focus on increasing the number of health professionals and the diversity of the health professions.

Again, thank you for introducing the Health Professions and Primary Care Reinvestment Act. Your continued leadership and dedication to health care is greatly appreciated. We urge you to do all that you can to see that building a stronger workforce of primary care professionals that is more diverse is a top priority during the current health care debate. Ensuring passage of your important bill would be a very good first step.

Sincerely,

WANDA D. LIPSCOMB,
Chair.

SOCIEIY OF GENERAL INTERNAL MEDICINE,
Washington, DC, November 17, 2008.

Hon. HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON,
Russell Senate Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR CLINTON: On behalf of the Society of General Internal Medicine, I want to applaud your leadership in advancing national policies that promote improved patient care for all Americans. In particular, I want to commend you on the introduction of the Health Professions and Primary Care Reinvestment Act.

By any measure, primary care, including general internal medicine, is the cornerstone of our nation's health care system. Patients with primary care physicians have better health status, longer life expectancy and lower health care costs. Moreover, for the poor, the uninsured and the elderly, primary care functions as a safety net, serving as the first and often the only contact for care and treatment.

For more than three decades, the Title VII Training in Primary Care Medicine and Dentistry (TPCMD) program, in particular, has contributed significantly to improving the quality of education and training of the nation's primary care workforce, with special emphasis on individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds and underrepresented minorities. But challenges remain. For example, forecasts are that the demand for general internists will increase by 38 percent within the next 15 years, while the number of new physicians entering the field of general internal medicine continues to decline.

By strengthening and expanding the TPCMD program, your legislation recognizes that primary care is the linchpin of our health care system and that an adequate, well-trained primary care workforce is critical to the success of any health care reform measures Congress undertakes.

In addition, your legislation calls for a more comprehensive approach to addressing the systemic needs of our health care system, including the creation of primary care training institutes that will promote all-important collaboration across all primary care disciplines, as well as partnering with community health centers in a way that will speed the translation of research into community practice. Furthermore, the work of these institutes will help contribute to better health outcomes by fostering the development of the patient-centered medical home model.

At a time when 47 million Americans lack health coverage, when increasing numbers of elderly are entering the age of highest risk of chronic disease, and when racial and ethnic disparities persist, the Health Professions and Primary Care Investment Act provides a solid framework for meeting these challenges.

Again, thank you for introducing this important legislation. As in the past, our Society stands ready to assist you in whatever way we can.

Sincerely,

LISA V. RUBENSTEIN,
President.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 707—AUTHORIZING THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE TO CERTIFY THE FACTS OF THE FAILURE OF JOSHUA BOLTEN, AS THE CUSTODIAN OF RECORDS AT THE WHITE HOUSE, TO APPEAR BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY AND PRODUCE DOCUMENTS AS REQUIRED BY COMMITTEE SUBPOENA

Mr. LEAHY submitted the following resolution; from the Committee on the Judiciary; which was placed on the calendar:

S. RES. 707

Whereas, since the beginning of this Congress, the Senate Judiciary Committee has conducted an investigation into the removal of United States Attorneys;

Whereas, the Committee's requests for information related to its investigation, including documents and testimony from the White House and White House personnel, were denied;

Whereas, the White House has not offered any accommodation or compromise to provide the information requested that is acceptable to the Committee;

Whereas, on April 12, 2007, pursuant to its authority under Rule 26 of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the Senate Committee on the Judiciary authorized issuance to the Custodian of Records at the White House, a subpoena which commands the Custodian of Records to provide the Committee with all documents in the possession, control, or custody of the White House related to the Committee's investigation;

Whereas, on June 13, 2007, the Chairman issued a subpoena pursuant to the April 12, 2007, authorization to White House Chief of Staff Joshua Bolten as the White House Custodian of Records, for documents related to the Committee's investigation, with a return date of June 28, 2007;

Whereas, on June 28, 2007, in response to subpoenas for documents issued by the Senate and House Judiciary Committees, White House Counsel Fred Fielding conveyed the President's claim of executive privilege over all information in the custody and control of the White House related to the Committee's investigation;

Whereas, based on this claim of executive privilege, Mr. Bolten refused to appear and produce documents to the Committee in compliance with the subpoena;

Whereas, on June 29, 2007, the Chairmen of the House and Senate Judiciary Committees provided the White House with an opportunity to substantiate its privilege claims by providing the Committees with the specific factual and legal bases for its privilege claims regarding each document withheld and a privilege log to demonstrate to the Committees which documents, and which parts of those documents, are covered by any privilege that is asserted to apply and why;

Whereas, the White House declined this opportunity in a July 9, 2007, letter to the Committee Chairmen from Mr. Fielding, while reiterating the privilege claim;

Whereas, on August 17, 2007, Mr. Fielding rejected the Chairman's request for a meeting with the President to work out an accommodation for the information sought by the Committee;

Whereas, on November 29, 2007, the Chairman ruled that the White House's claims of executive privilege and immunity are not legally valid to excuse current and former

White House employees from appearing, testifying and producing documents related to this investigation and directed Mr. Bolten, along with other current and former White House employees, to comply immediately with the Committee's subpoenas by producing documents and testifying;

Whereas, Mr. Bolten has not complied with the Committee's subpoenas or made any offer to cure his previous noncompliance;

Whereas, the Committee's investigation is pursuant to the constitutional legislative, oversight and investigative powers of Congress and the responsibilities of this Committee to the Senate and the American people; including the power to: (1) investigate the administration of existing laws, and obtain executive branch information in order to consider new legislation, within the Committee's jurisdiction, including legislation related to the appointment of U.S. Attorneys; (2) expose any corruption, inefficiency, and waste within the executive branch; (3) protect the Committee's role in evaluating nominations pursuant to the Senate's constitutional responsibility to provide advice and consent; and (4) examine whether inaccurate, incomplete, or misleading testimony or other information was provided to the Committee: Therefore be it

Resolved, That the President of the Senate certify the facts in connection with the failure of Joshua Bolten, as the Custodian of Records at the White House, though duly summoned, to appear and to produce documents lawfully subpoenaed to be produced before the Committee, under the seal of the United States Senate, to the United States Attorney for the District of Columbia, to the end that Joshua Bolten may be proceeded against in the manner and form provided by law.

SENATE RESOLUTION 708—AUTHORIZING THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE TO CERTIFY THE FACTS OF THE FAILURE OF KARL ROVE TO APPEAR AND TESTIFY BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY AND TO PRODUCE DOCUMENTS AS REQUIRED BY COMMITTEE SUBPOENA

Mr. LEAHY submitted the following resolution; from the Committee on the Judiciary; which was placed on the calendar:

S. RES. 708

Whereas, since the beginning of this Congress, the Senate Judiciary Committee has conducted an investigation into the removal of United States Attorneys;

Whereas, the Committee's requests for information related to its investigation, including documents and testimony from the White House and White House personnel, were denied;

Whereas, the White House has not offered any accommodation or compromise to provide the requested information that is acceptable to the Committee;

Whereas, on March 22, 2007, pursuant to its authority under Rule 26 of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the Senate Committee on the Judiciary authorized issuance to Karl Rove, Deputy Chief of Staff to the President, subpoenas in connection with the Committee's investigation;

Whereas, on June 28, 2007, in response to subpoenas for documents issued by the Senate and House Judiciary Committees, White House Counsel Fred Fielding conveyed the President's claim of executive privilege over all information in the custody and control of the White House related to the Committee's investigation;

Whereas, on June 29, 2007, the Chairmen of the House and Senate Judiciary Committees provided the White House with an opportunity to substantiate its privilege claims by providing the Committees with the specific factual and legal bases for its privilege claims regarding each document withheld and a privilege log to demonstrate to the Committees which documents, and which parts of those documents, are covered by any privilege that is asserted to apply and why;

Whereas, the White House declined this opportunity in a July 9, 2007, letter to the Committee Chairmen from Mr. Fielding, while reiterating the blanket privilege claims;

Whereas, on July 26, 2007, the Chairman issued a subpoena authorized March 22 to Mr. Rove for documents and testimony related to the Committee's investigation, with a return date of August 2;

Whereas, the Chairman noticed an August 2, 2007, Judiciary Committee hearing under its Rules at which Mr. Rove was subpoenaed to testify;

Whereas, Mr. Fielding, in an August 1, 2007 letter to the Chairman and Ranking Member, informed the Committee that the President would invoke a claim of executive privilege and a claim of immunity from congressional testimony for Mr. Rove, and directed Mr. Rove not to produce responsive documents or testify before the Committee about the firings, and that Mr. Rove would not appear in response to the Committee's subpoena;

Whereas, based on these claims of executive privilege and absolute immunity, Mr. Rove refused to appear or to produce documents or to testify at the Committee's August 2, 2007, hearing in compliance with the subpoena;

Whereas, on August 17, 2007, Mr. Fielding rejected the Chairman's request for a meeting with the President to work out an accommodation for the information sought by the Committee;

Whereas, on November 29, 2007, the Chairman ruled that the White House's claims of executive privilege and immunity are not legally valid to excuse current and former White House employees from appearing, testifying and producing documents related to this investigation and directed Mr. Rove, along with other current and former White House employees, to comply immediately with the Committee's subpoenas by producing documents and testifying;

Whereas, Mr. Rove has not complied with the Committee's subpoenas or made any offer to cure his previous noncompliance;

Whereas, the Committee's investigation is pursuant to the constitutional legislative, oversight and investigative powers of Congress and the responsibilities of this Committee to the Senate and the American people; including the power to: 1) investigate the administration of existing laws, and obtain executive branch information in order to consider new legislation, within the Committee's jurisdiction, including legislation related to the appointment of U.S. Attorneys; 2) expose any corruption, inefficiency, and waste within the executive branch; 3) protect the Committee's role in evaluating nominations pursuant to the Senate's constitutional responsibility to provide advice and consent; and 4) examine whether inaccurate, incomplete, or misleading testimony or other information was provided to the Committee: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the President of the Senate certify the facts in connection with the failure of Karl Rove, though duly summoned, to appear and testify before the Judiciary Committee and to produce documents lawfully subpoenaed to be produced before the Committee, under the seal of the United States Senate, to the United States Attorney for the District of Columbia, to the end that Karl Rove may be proceeded against in the manner and form provided by law.

SENATE RESOLUTION 709—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT THE UNITED STATES SHOULD PURSUE THE ADOPTION OF BLUEFIN TUNA CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES AT THE 16TH SPECIAL MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON THE CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNAS

Mr. KERRY (for himself, Ms. SNOWE, Mrs. BOXER, Ms. CANTWELL, and Mr. REED) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:

S. RES. 709

Whereas Atlantic bluefin tuna fishery is valuable commercially and recreationally in the United States and many other countries;

Whereas the International Convention for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas entered into force on March 21, 1969;

Whereas the Convention established the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas to coordinate international research and develop, implement, and enforce compliance of the conservation and management recommendations on the Atlantic bluefin tuna and other highly migratory species in the Atlantic Ocean and the adjacent seas, including the Mediterranean Sea;

Whereas in 1974, the Commission adopted its first conservation and management recommendation to ensure the sustainability of Atlantic bluefin tuna throughout the Atlantic Ocean and Mediterranean Sea, while allowing for the maximum sustainable catch for food and other purposes;

Whereas in 1981, for management purposes, the Commission adopted a working hypothesis of 2 Atlantic bluefin tuna stocks, with 1 occurring west of 45 degrees west longitude (hereinafter referred to as the ''western Atlantic stock'') and the other occurring east of 45 degrees west longitude (hereinafter referred to as the ''eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean stock'');

Whereas, despite scientific recommendations intended to maintain bluefin tuna populations at levels that will permit the maximum sustainable yield and ensure the future of the stocks, the total allowable catch quotas have been consistently set at levels significantly higher than the recommended levels for the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean stock;

Whereas despite the establishment by the Commission of fishing quotas based on total allowable catch levels for the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna fishery that exceed scientific recommendations, compliance with such quotas by parties to the Convention that harvest that stock has been extremely poor, most recently with harvests exceeding such total allowable catch levels by more than 50 percent for each of the last 4 years;

Whereas insufficient data reporting in combination with unreliable national catch statistics has frequently undermined efforts by the Commission to assign quota overharvests to specific countries;

Whereas the failure of many Commission members fishing east of 45 degrees west longitude to comply with other Commission recommendations to conserve and control the overfished eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna stock has been an ongoing problem;

Whereas the Commission's Standing Committee on Research and Statistics noted in its 2006 report that the fishing mortality rate for the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean stock may be more than 3 times the level that would permit the stock to stabilize at the maximum sustainable catch level, and continuing to fish at the level of recent years ''is expected to drive the spawning biomass to a very low level'' giving ''rise to a high risk of fishery and stock collapse'';

Whereas the Standing Committee's 2008 report recommended that the annual harvest levels for eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna be reduced from 32,000 metric tons to 15,000 metric tons or less to halt decline of the resource and initiate rebuilding;

Whereas the Standing Committee has stated that time and area closures could greatly facilitate the implementation and monitoring of rebuilding strategies and recommended a closure of the Mediterranean Sea in May, June, and July, as well as a minimum size limit of 25 kilograms;

Whereas in 2006, the Commission adopted the ''Recommendation by ICCAT to Establish a Multi-Annual Recovery Plan for Bluefin Tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean'' containing a wide range of management, monitoring, and control measures designed to facilitate the recovery of the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna stock;

Whereas the Recovery Plan is inadequate and allows overfishing and stock decline to continue, and initial information indicates that implementation of the plan in 2007 by many eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna harvesting countries has been poor;

Whereas since 1981, the Commission has adopted additional and more restrictive conservation and management recommendations for the western Atlantic bluefin tuna stock, and these recommendations have been implemented by Nations fishing west of 45 degrees west longitude, including the United States;

Whereas despite adopting, fully implementing, and complying with a science-based rebuilding program for the western Atlantic bluefin tuna stock by countries fishing west of 45 degrees west longitude, catches and catch rates remain very low;

Whereas many scientists believe that mixing occurs between the western Atlantic bluefin tuna stock and the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean stock, and as such, poor management and noncompliance with recommendations for one stock are likely to have an adverse effect on the other stock; and

Whereas additional research on stock mixing will improve the understanding of the relationship between eastern and western bluefin tuna stocks and other fisheries, which will assist in the conservation, recovery, and management of the species throughout its range: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that the United States delegation to the 16th Special Meeting of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas, should—

(1) pursue a meaningful assessment of Commission member compliance with the ''Recommendation by ICCAT to Establish a Multi-Annual Recovery Plan for Bluefin Tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean'' (Recommendation 06–05), including seeking detailed explanations from Commission members that have failed to effectively implement the terms of the recommendation;

(2) pursue the adoption by the Commission of measures designed to eliminate non-compliance, including, as appropriate, deducting a portion of a future quota for a party to compensate for such party exceeding its quota in prior years, and where appropriate, steps should be taken to link non-compliance with reductions in fishery or market access;

(3) seek a temporary suspension of the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna fishery, including all trade, if significant progress toward establishing science-based management measures, improving monitoring and control measures, and addressing compliance issues is not made at the Commission this year;

(4) seek to strengthen the conservation and management of the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna by making recommendations to halt the decline of the stock and begin to rebuild it, including reducing annual harvest levels so that they do not exceed recommendations of the Standing Committee and expanding the time and area closure for the Mediterranean purse seine fleet to include May, June, and July; and

(5) pursue additional research on the relationship between the western Atlantic and eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna stocks and the extent to which the populations intermingle.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on November 19, 2008 at 10 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, November 19, 2008, at 10 a.m., in room 215 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to hear testimony on ''Health Care Reform: An Economic Perspective''.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate, to conduct a hearing entitled ''Helping Families Save Their Homes: The Role of Bankruptcy Law'' on Wednesday, November 19, 2008, at 10 a.m., in room SH–216 of the Hart Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ALBUQUERQUE INDIAN SCHOOL ACT

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Chair now lay before the Senate the House message to accompany S. 1193.

There being no objection, the Presiding Officer (Mr. PRYOR) laid before the Senate the following message from the House of Representatives:

S. 1193

Resolved, That the bill from the Senate (S. 1193) entitled ''An Act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to take into trust 2 parcels of Federal land for the benefit of certain Indian Pueblos in the State of New Mexico.'', do pass with the following amendments:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

TITLE I—ALBUQUERQUE INDIAN SCHOOL ACT

SEC. 101. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the ''Albuquerque Indian School Act''.

SEC. 102. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) 19 PUEBLOS.—The term ''19 Pueblos'' means the New Mexico Indian Pueblos of—

(A) Acoma;
(B) Cochiti;
(C) Isleta;
(D) Jemez;
(E) Laguna;
(F) Nambe;
(G) Ohkay Owingeh (San Juan);
(H) Picuris;
(I) Pojoaque;
(J) San Felipe;
(K) San Ildefonso;
(L) Sandia;
(M) Santa Ana;
(N) Santa Clara;
(O) Santo Domingo;
(P) Taos;
(Q) Tesuque;
(R) Zia; and
(S) Zuni.

(2) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of the Interior (or a designee).

(3) SURVEY.—The term ''survey'' means the survey plat entitled ''Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Southern Pueblos Agency, BIA Property Survey'' (prepared by John Paisano, Jr., Registered Land Surveyor Certificate No. 5708), and dated March 7, 1977.

SEC. 103. LAND TAKEN INTO TRUST FOR BENEFIT OF 19 PUEBLOS.

(a) ACTION BY SECRETARY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall take into trust all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the land described in subsection (b) for the benefit of the 19 Pueblos immediately after the Secretary has confirmed that the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 has been complied with regarding the trust acquisition of these Federal lands.

(2) ADMINISTRATION.—The Secretary shall—

(A) take such action as the Secretary determines to be necessary to document the transfer under paragraph (1); and

(B) appropriately assign each applicable private and municipal utility and service right or agreement.

(b) DESCRIPTION OF LAND.—The land referred to in subsection (a)(1) is the 2 tracts of Federal land, the combined acreage of which is approximately 8.4759 acres, that were historically part of the Albuquerque Indian School, more particularly described as follows:

(1) EASTERN PART TRACT B.—The approximately 2.2699 acres located in sec. 7 and sec. 8 of T. 10 N., R. 3 E., of the New Mexico Principal Meridian in the city of Albuquerque, New Mexico, as identified on the survey and does not include the Western Part of Tract B containing 3.6512 acres.

(2) NORTHERN PART TRACT D.—The approximately 6.2060 acres located in sec. 7 and sec. 8

of T. 10 N., R. 3 E., of the New Mexico Principal Meridian in the city of Albuquerque, New Mexico, as identified on the survey and does not include the Southern Part of Tract D containing 6.1775 acres.

(c) SURVEY.—The Secretary shall perform a survey of the land to be transferred consistent with subsection (b), and may make minor corrections to the survey and legal description of the Federal land described in subsection (b) as the Secretary determines to be necessary to correct clerical, typographical, and surveying errors.

(d) USE OF LAND.—The land taken into trust under subsection (a) shall be used for the educational, health, cultural, business, and economic development of the 19 Pueblos.

(e) LIMITATIONS AND CONDITIONS.—The land taken into trust under subsection (a) shall remain subject to any private or municipal encumbrance, right-of-way, restriction, easement of record, or utility service agreement in effect on the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 104. EFFECT OF OTHER LAWS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as otherwise provided in this section, land taken into trust under section 103(a) shall be subject to Federal laws relating to Indian land.

(b) GAMING.—No gaming activity (within the meaning of the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (25 U.S.C. 2701 et seq.)) shall be carried out on land taken into trust under section 103(a).

TITLE II—NATIVE AMERICAN TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS

SEC. 201. COLORADO RIVER INDIAN TRIBES.

The Secretary of the Interior may make, subject to amounts provided in subsequent appropriations Acts, an annual disbursement to the Colorado River Indian Tribes. Funds disbursed under this section shall be used to fund the Office of the Colorado River Indian Tribes Reservation Energy Development and shall not be less than $200,000 and not to exceed $350,000 annually.

SEC. 202. GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY CONTRACTS.

Subsection (f) of the first section of the Act of August 9, 1955 (25 U.S.C. 415(f)), is amended by striking ''lease, affecting'' and inserting ''lease or construction contract, affecting''.

SEC. 203. LAND AND INTERESTS OF THE SAULT STE. MARIE TRIBE OF CHIPPEWA INDIANS OF MICHIGAN.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subsections (b) and (c), notwithstanding any other provision of law (including regulations), the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians of Michigan (including any agent or instrumentality of the Tribe) (referred to in this section as the ''Tribe''), may transfer, lease, encumber, or otherwise convey, without further authorization or approval, all or any part of the Tribe's interest in any real property that is not held in trust by the United States for the benefit of the Tribe.

(b) EFFECT OF SECTION.—Nothing in this section is intended to authorize the Tribe to transfer, lease, encumber, or otherwise convey, any lands, or any interest in any lands, that are held in trust by the United States for the benefit of the Tribe.

(c) LIABILITY.—The United States shall not be held liable to any party (including the Tribe or any agent or instrumentality of the Tribe) for any term of, or any loss resulting from the term of any transfer, lease, encumbrance, or conveyance of land made pursuant to this Act unless the United States or an agent or instrumentality of the United States is a party to the transaction or the United States would be liable pursuant to any other provision of law. This subsection shall not apply to land transferred or conveyed by the Tribe to the United States to be held in trust for the benefit of the Tribe.

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section shall be deemed to have taken effect on January 1, 2005.

SEC. 204. MORONGO BAND OF MISSION INDIANS LEASE EXTENSION.

Subsection (a) of the first section of the Act of August 9, 1955 (25 U.S.C. 415(a)) is amended in the second sentence by inserting ''and except leases of land held in trust for the Morongo Band of Mission Indians which may be for a term of not to exceed 50 years,'' before ''and except leases of land for grazing purposes which may be for a term of not to exceed ten years''.

SEC. 205. COW CREEK BAND OF UMPQUA TRIBE OF INDIANS LEASING AUTHORITY.

(a) AUTHORIZATION FOR 99-YEAR LEASES.—Subsection (a) of the first section of the Act of August 9, 1955 (25 U.S.C. 415(a)), is amended in the second sentence by inserting ''and lands held in trust for the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians,'' after ''lands held in trust for the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon,''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall apply to any lease entered into or renewed after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 206. NEW SETTLEMENT COMMON STOCK ISSUED TO DESCENDANTS, LEFT-OUTS, AND ELDERS.

Section 7(g)(1)(B) of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1606(g)(1)(B)) is amended by striking clause (iii) and inserting the following:

''(iii) CONDITIONS ON CERTAIN STOCK.—

''(I) IN GENERAL.—An amendment under clause (i) may provide that Settlement Common Stock issued to a Native pursuant to the amendment (or stock issued in exchange for that Settlement Common Stock pursuant to subsection (h)(3) or section 29(c)(3)(D)) shall be subject to 1 or more of the conditions described in subclause (II).

''(II) CONDITIONS.—A condition referred to in subclause (I) is a condition that—

''(aa) the stock described in that subclause shall be deemed to be canceled on the death of the Native to whom the stock is issued, and no compensation for the cancellation shall be paid to the estate of the deceased Native or any person holding the stock;

''(bb) the stock shall carry limited or no voting rights; and

''(cc) the stock shall not be transferred by gift under subsection (h)(1)(C)(iii).''.

SEC. 207. INDIAN LAND CONSOLIDATION ACT.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—Section 202 of the Indian Land Consolidation Act (25 U.S.C. 2201) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (4)—

(A) by inserting ''(i)'' after ''(4)'';

(B) by striking '' 'trust or restricted interest in land' or'' and inserting the following: ''(ii) 'trust or restricted interest in land' or''; and

(C) in clause (ii) (as designated by sub paragraph (B)), by striking ''an interest in land, title to which'' and inserting ''an interest in land, the title to which interest''; and

(2) by striking paragraph (7) and inserting the following: ''(7) the term 'land' means any real property;''.

(b) PARTITION OF HIGHLY FRACTIONATED INDIAN LANDS.—Section 205(c)(2)(D)(i) of the Indian Land Consolidation Act (25 U.S.C. 2204(c)(2)(D)(i)) is amended in the matter following subclause (III) by striking ''by Secretary'' and inserting ''by the Secretary''.

(c) DESCENT AND DISTRIBUTION.—Section 207 of the Indian Land Consolidation Act (25 U.S.C. 2206) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (2)(D)—

(i) in clause (i), by striking ''clauses (ii) through (iv)'' and inserting ''clauses (ii) through (v)'';

(ii) in clause (iv)(II), by striking ''decedent'' and inserting ''descent''; and

(iii) by striking clause (v) and inserting the following:

''(v) EFFECT OF SUBPARAGRAPH.—Nothing in this subparagraph limits the right of any person to devise any trust or restricted interest pursuant to a valid will in accordance with subsection (b).''; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

''(2) INTESTATE DESCENT OF PERMANENT IMPROVEMENTS.—

''(A) DEFINITION OF COVERED PERMANENT IMPROVEMENT.—In this paragraph, the term 'covered permanent improvement' means a permanent improvement (including an interest in such an improvement) that is—

''(i) included in the estate of a decedent; and

''(ii) attached to a parcel of trust or restricted land that is also, in whole or in part, included in the estate of that decedent.

''(B) RULE OF DESCENT.—Except as otherwise provided in a tribal probate code approved under section 206 or a consolidation agreement approved under subsection (j)(9), a covered permanent improvement in the estate of a decedent shall—

''(i) descend to each eligible heir to whom the trust or restricted interest in land in the estate descends pursuant to this subsection; or

''(ii) pass to the recipient of the trust or restricted interest in land in the estate pursuant to a renunciation under subsection (j)(8).

''(C) APPLICATION AND EFFECT.—The provisions of this paragraph apply to a covered permanent improvement—

''(i) even though that covered permanent improvement is not held in trust; and

''(ii) without altering or otherwise affecting the non-trust status of such a covered permanent improvement.'';

(2) in subsection (b)(2)(B)—

(A) by redesignating clauses (i) through (iii) as subclauses (I) through (III), respectively, and indenting the subclauses appropriately;

(B) by striking ''Any interest'' and inserting the following:

''(i) IN GENERAL.—Subject to clauses (ii) and (iii), any interest'';

(C) in subclause (III) of clause (i) (as designated by subparagraphs (A) and (B)), by striking the semicolon and inserting a period;

(D) by striking ''provided that nothing'' and inserting the following:

''(iii) EFFECT.—Except as provided in clause (ii), nothing; and''.

(E) by inserting after clause (i) (as designated by subparagraph (B)) the following:

''(ii) EXCEPTION.—

''(I) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding clause (i), in any case in which a resolution, law, or other duly adopted enactment of the Indian tribe with jurisdiction over the land of which an interest described in clause (i) is a part requests the Secretary to apply subparagraph (A)(ii) to devises of trust or restricted land under the jurisdiction of the Indian tribe, the interest may be devised in fee in accordance with subparagraph (A)(ii).

''(II) EFFECT.—Subclause (I) shall apply with respect to a devise of a trust or restricted interest in land by any decedent who dies on or after the date on which the applicable Indian tribe adopts the resolution, law, or other enactment described in subclause (I), regardless of the date on which the devise is made.

''(III) NOTICE OF REQUEST.—An Indian tribe shall provide to the Secretary a copy of any resolution, law, or other enactment of the Indian tribe that requests the Secretary to apply subparagraph (A)(ii) to devises of trust or restricted land under the jurisdiction of the Indian tribe.'';

(3) in subsection (h)(1)—

(A) by striking ''A will'' and inserting the following:

''(A) IN GENERAL.—A will''; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

''(B) PERMANENT IMPROVEMENTS.—Except as otherwise expressly provided in the will, a devise of a trust or restricted interest in a parcel of land shall be presumed to include the interest of the testator in any permanent improvements attached to the parcel of land.

''(C) APPLICATION AND EFFECT.—The provisions of this paragraph apply to a covered permanent improvement—

''(i) even though that covered permanent improvement is not held in trust; and

''(ii) without altering or otherwise affecting the non-trust status of such a covered permanent improvement.'';

(4) in subsection (i)(4)(C), by striking ''interest land'' and inserting ''interest in land'';

(5) in subsection (j)(2)(A)(ii), by striking ''interest land'' and inserting ''interest in land'';

(6) in subsection (k), in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by inserting ''a'' after ''receiving''; and

(7) in subsection (o)—

(A) in paragraph (3)—

(i) by redesignating subparagraphs (A) and (B) as clauses (i) and (ii) and indenting the clauses appropriately;

(ii) by striking ''(3)'' and all that follows through ''No sale'' and inserting the following:

''(3) REQUEST TO PURCHASE; CONSENT REQUIREMENTS; MULTIPLE REQUESTS TO PURCHASE.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—No sale'';

(iii) by striking the last sentence and inserting the following:

''(B) MULTIPLE REQUESTS TO PURCHASE.—Except for interests purchased pursuant to paragraph (5), if the Secretary receives a request with respect to an interest from more than 1 eligible purchaser under paragraph (2), the Secretary shall sell the interest to the eligible purchaser that is selected by the applicable heir, devisee, or surviving spouse.'';

(B) in paragraph (4)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by adding ''and'' at the end;

(ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking ''; and'' and inserting a period; and

(iii) by striking subparagraph (C); and

(C) in paragraph (5)—

(i) in subparagraph (A)—

(I) in the matter preceding clause (i)—

(aa) by inserting ''or surviving spouse'' after ''heir'';

(bb) by striking ''paragraph (3)(B)'' and inserting ''paragraph (3)(A)(ii)''; and

(cc) by striking ''auction and'';

(II) in clause (i), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(III) in clause (ii)—

(aa) by striking ''auction'' and inserting ''sale'';

(bb) by striking ''the interest passing to such heir represents'' and inserting '', at the time of death of the applicable decedent, the interest of the decedent in the land represented''; and

(cc) by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and'';

(IV) by adding at the end the following:

''(iii)(I) the Secretary is purchasing the interest under the program authorized under section 213(a)(1); or

''(II) after receiving a notice under paragraph (4)(B), the Indian tribe with jurisdiction over the interest is proposing to purchase the interest from an heir or surviving spouse who is not residing on the property in accordance with clause (i), and who is not a member, and is not eligible to become a member, of that Indian tribe.''; and

(ii) in subparagraph (B)—

(I) by inserting ''or surviving spouse'' after ''heir'' each place it appears; and

(II) by striking ''heir's interest'' and inserting ''interest of the heir or surviving spouse''.

(d) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 213(a)(1) of the Indian Land Consolidation Act (25 U.S.C. 2212(a)(1)) is amended by striking ''section 207(p)'' and inserting ''section 207(o)''.

(e) OWNER-MANAGED INTERESTS.—Section 221(a) of the Indian Land Consolidation Act (25 U.S.C. 2220(a)) is amended by inserting ''owner or'' before ''co-owners''.

(f) EFFECTIVE DATES.—

(1) TESTAMENTARY DISPOSITION.—The amendments made by subsection (c)(2) of this section to section 207(b) of the Indian Land Consolidation Act (25 U.S.C. 2206(b)) shall not apply to any will executed before the date that is 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act.

(2) SMALL UNDIVIDED INTERESTS IN INDIAN LANDS.—The amendments made by subsection (c)(7)(C) of this section to subsection (o)(5) of section 207 of the Indian Land Consolidation Act (25 U.S.C. 2206) shall not apply to or affect any sale of an interest under subsection (o)(5) of that section that was completed before the date of enactment of this Act.

TITLE III—REAUTHORIZATION OF MEMORIAL TO MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

SEC. 301. REAUTHORIZATION.

Section 508(b)(2) of the Omnibus Parks and Public Lands Management Act of 1996 (40 U.S.C. 8903 note; 110 Stat. 4157, 114 Stat. 26, 117 Stat. 1347, 119 Stat. 527) is amended by striking ''November 12, 2008'' and inserting ''November 12, 2009''.

Amend the title so as to read: ''An Act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to take into trust 2 parcels of Federal land for the benefit of certain Indian Pueblos in the State of New Mexico, and for other purposes.''.

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate concur in the House amendments, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CIVIL RIGHTS ACT OF 1964 COMMEMORATIVE COIN ACT

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Banking Committee be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 2040, and that the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2040) to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the semicentennial of the enactment of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and that any statements relating to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 2040) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

APPOINTMENT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the Republican leader, pursuant to provisions of Public Law 110–343, appoints the following individual as a member of the Congressional Oversight Panel: The Honorable JUDD GREGG, of New Hampshire.

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2008

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand in adjournment until 9:30 a.m. tomorrow, Thursday, November 20; that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and the Senate proceed to a period of morning business for up to 1 hour, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each; that following morning business, the Senate resume consideration of the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 1123, H.R. 6867, an act to provide for additional emergency unemployment compensation.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, earlier this evening, Senator REID filed cloture on the motion to proceed to the unemployment insurance legislation. Negotiations are ongoing to come to an agreement to have that vote tomorrow. Senators will be notified when the vote is scheduled.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:30 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. CASEY. If there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:42 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, November 20, 2008, at 9:30 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

FEDERAL HOUSING FINANCE AGENCY

STEVE A. LINICK, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE FEDERAL HOUSING FINANCE AGENCY. (NEW POSITION)

SECURITIES INVESTOR PROTECTION CORPORATION

ALESIA RANNEY-MARINELLI, OF NEW YORK, TO BE A DIRECTOR OF THE SECURITIES INVESTOR PROTECTION CORPORATION FOR A TERM EXPIRING DECEMBER 31, 2011, VICE ARMANDO J. BUCELO, JR., TERM EXPIRING.

MARK S. SHELTON, OF KANSAS, TO BE A DIRECTOR OF THE SECURITIES INVESTOR PROTECTION CORPORATION FOR A TERM EXPIRING DECEMBER 31, 2011. (REAPPOINTMENT)

INTER-AMERICAN FOUNDATION

THOMAS JOSEPH DODD, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE INTER-AMERICAN FOUNDATION FOR A TERM EXPIRING JUNE 26, 2014. (REAPPOINTMENT)

GARY C. BRYNER, OF UTAH, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE INTER-AMERICAN FOUNDATION FOR A TERM EXPIRING JUNE 26, 2014. (REAPPOINTMENT)

ROGER W. WALLACE, OF TEXAS, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE INTER-AMERICAN FOUNDATION FOR A TERM EXPIRING OCTOBER 6, 2014. (REAPPOINTMENT)

RODNEY G. BENT, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE INTER-AMERICAN FOUNDATION FOR A TERM EXPIRING SEPTEMBER 20, 2014, VICE ADOLFO A. FRANCO, TERM EXPIRED.

IN THE COAST GUARD

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT AS VICE COMMANDANT OF THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD AND TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 14, U.S.C., SECTION 47:

To be vice admiral

VICE ADM. DAVID P. PEKOSKE

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT AS THE DIRECTOR, AIR NATIONAL GUARD AND FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 601 AND 10506:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. HARRY M. WYATT III

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant colonel

RICHARD W. JOST

THE FOLLOWING NAMED INDIVIDUAL FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE REGULAR AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 531(A):

To be major

CLEVIS T. PARKER

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED INDIVIDUAL TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

LYNN F. ABRAMS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED INDIVIDUAL FOR REGULAR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY NURSE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 531 AND 3064:

To be major

CATHERINE A. OLIVER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED INDIVIDUAL FOR REGULAR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY MEDICAL SERVICE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 531 AND 3064:

To be major

TIMOTHY S. ALLISONAIPA

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major

DANIEL A. STRODE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major

JOSEPH S. SELKEN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED INDIVIDUALS FOR REGULAR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY MEDICAL SPECIALIST CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 531 AND 3064:

To be major

THOMAS A. BRYANT
KENNETH S. GILLESPIE
JAMES P. MCGINNIS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED INDIVIDUALS FOR REGULAR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADES INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY MEDICAL CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 531 AND 3064:

To be lieutenant colonel

JAMES A. GRIGGS
WILLIAM B. WILKINSON

To be major

PAUL R. HUNT

THE FOLLOWING NAMED INDIVIDUALS FOR REGULAR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADES INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY DENTAL CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 531 AND 3064:

To be lieutenant colonel

PETER H. GUEVARA

To be major

WALTER W. CASPER
WALTER W. SHRATZ

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN HONOR OF JANIS KING ARNOLD

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Janis King Arnold, and in recognition of 36 outstanding years of service in the Cleveland Metro School District. She has been instrumental in bringing innovative educational programs to the Greater Cleveland Area.

Janis Arnold has a multifaceted and rich history in public service and recently retired from a long and illustrious career in the Cleveland Metro School District. She attended public schools in the Greater Cleveland Area and went on to earn a degree in Education from Central State University. During her 36-year tenure in the Cleveland Metro School District, Mrs. Arnold served as a classroom teacher, parent engagement coordinator, administrative intern and assistant principal. She was further able to demonstrate her leadership skills when she became Principal of John Buhrer School in 1987—a position she would remain in until her retirement in August of this year. During her time at John Buhrer School, Mrs. Arnold instituted a unique dual language program at the school—the first program of its kind in the State of Ohio. The program, designed to foster cross-cultural understanding and to give students the proper tools to become bilingual is partly funded through a grant by the U.S. Department of Education. She also expanded the school's music program through a grant from VH1's Save the Music Program and through partnerships with the Cleveland Museum of Art and the Cleveland Cultural Coalition.

Mrs. Arnold has been recognized several times for leadership, innovative work and the relationships she forged between numerous churches and community agencies. Under her leadership, John Buhrer School was awarded the School of Excellence Award from Esperanza, Inc. in 2001 and the Excelling School Award in 1997. Mrs. Arnold was recognized at the 21st Annual Multicultural/Multilingual Conference for her significant contributions to multicultural education.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor of Janis King Arnold, and in recognition of her significant contributions to education in the Greater Cleveland Area. May her work on fostering cross-cultural understanding and work with community organizing serve as an example for all of us to follow.

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR GENERAL JOHN E. MURRAY

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. PASCRELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and accomplishments of veteran, civil servant, and author Major General John E. Murray (United States Army Retired).

Born in Clifton, New Jersey, November 22, 1918, General Murray was drafted into the United States Army in 1941 as a private leaving his studies at St. John's University and rose to the rank of Major General. The career that followed was to take him through three wars, ten campaigns and logistic and transportation operations throughout the world. He earned his LL.B. from New York Law School in 1949, LL.D. in 1975 and M.A. from George Washington University in 1961. He was a member of the New York and United States Supreme Court Bar as well as a member of the Korean Bar.

He fought and served bravely during the Korean War and went on to become the Director of Army Transportation in 1969 and 1970. He then served as Chief of Logistics to the Pacific Command and Chief of Logistics for the Military Assistance Command from 1972 until late 1973, under the command of Admiral John S. McCain, Sr. After the cease of hostilities in Vietnam, he remained as chief military in charge of intelligence operations and support of the Vietnamese Armed Forces.

President Reagan called General Murray back to service in 1988–1989 where he served as the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Special Operations and Low Intensity Conflict. He was inducted into the Army Transportation Corps Hall of Fame, located at Fort Eustis, Virginia in 2001.

After retiring from the military he served as Vice President of the Association of American Railroads and as special counsel to American International Underwriters. He served on the White House Agent Orange Working Group and the Defense Intelligence Task Force on POWs and MIAs. He also served with the White House Office of Science and Technology on epidemiological studies and with industry of a variety of legal and logistics matters.

General Murray lectured at Georgetown University on Crisis Management and at the National Defense University. He was a prolific author of articles involving logistics and business matters and also contributed book reviews to Time-Life books and National Defense Transportation magazine. Publications include Lawyers, Computers and Power; War Transport; Show Biz; The Myths of Business and the Business of Myths; Sweet Adversity; and The U.S. Army, how it Motivates.

Among his numerous awards were the D.S.M.; Legion of Merit; the Italian War Cross, Knight Order Crown of Italy; and decorations from the Korean and Vietnamese Governments.

Madam Speaker, I was truly saddened by the death of General Murray. I would like to extend my deepest condolences to his family. My thoughts and prayers are with his daughter Valerie, of Norfolk Virgina, his granddaughter Shana and grandson Andrew of Norfolk Virginia; his brother Danny of Arlington Virginia, and a large extended family.

HONORING REVEREND DR. J. ALFRED SMITH, SR.

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Ms. LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today with my colleague, Congressman PETE STARK, to honor the extraordinary life accomplishments of the Reverend Dr. J. Alfred Smith, Sr. He is a leader, teacher, spiritual guide, and inspiration to all who know him. Pastor Smith will be retiring this year from his position as Senior Pastor at Allen Temple Baptist Church in Oakland, California.

Pastor Smith has led this church and our community for 40 years. In that time he has positively influenced countless lives and left an indelible mark. It is without doubt that his legacy will continue to inspire people and promote the strong ideals and unwavering humanity Pastor Smith has always stood for.

Throughout his life and tenure as Senior Pastor, Dr. Smith championed the causes of the poor and the disenfranchised. Through his many publications, interviews, and sermons, Dr. Smith reminded us everyday of our human obligation and the standards of dignity, charity, and common love that we must all live by. In the Greater Bay Area, he also spearheaded groundbreaking programs to reach out to those most in need and assist them in their struggles. He is an individual who never failed to practice what he preached, and who has used his own life as an example with grace, humility, and an unsurpassable kindness and empathy for others.

The ministries and message of Dr. J. Alfred Smith, Sr. has made an impact locally, nationally, and internationally. From testifying before the United Nations in New York City in 1989 against the apartheid government in South Africa to securing affordable housing for seniors, he has dedicated his career to promoting peace and equality. His work has inspired and uplifted people from all faiths and backgrounds to dedicate their lives to this same noble pursuit.

This is Dr. Smith's true gift to us all—the gift of positive influence. He has inspired our leaders and our children to carry on the difficult fight for justice in a way that is both compassionate and relentless.

Through the many programs for youth that he has created and supported, Dr. Smith has invested himself fully in the education of the

next generations. By doing this, he has created irreplaceable opportunities which would not have existed for these children without him. By remaining personally involved in their experiences and progress, he has empowered them to believe in the importance of their own efforts and to commit themselves to carrying others up behind him, as he has done for so many years. Dr. Smith has shown our community that we can live our lives with eloquence, devotion, and with a deep respect for all of God's children.

In Pastor Smith's retirement years, it is certain that he and his brilliant and beautiful wife, the Reverend Bernestine Farley-Smith, will continue to contribute to our society immensely and spread the benefits of their many collective years of experience by serving their community, enjoying their family, and most importantly walking and talking with God.

Today, the residents of California's 9th and 13th Congressional Districts join with the members of Allen Temple Baptist Church, its community allies, fellow congregations, and Pastor Smith's loving family to celebrate his years of service and wish him a most happy and fruitful retirement. Our sincere gratitude goes out to Dr. Smith's three sons, two daughters, fourteen grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren for sharing this visionary leader and wonderful human being with us. We are all better people for having had the blessing of this man's friendship and guidance. May he and his wife rejoice and enjoy their time together for many happy years to come.

HONORING THE SERVICE AND RETIREMENT OF JIM TURNER

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service of a valued staff member—James H. Turner, Jr.—who will retire at the end of this year from the staff of the Committee on Science and Technology. As the Chief Counsel for the Full Committee, Jim's expertise in law and science policy is unmatched.

Jim first came to Capitol Hill as Legislative Counsel for Congressman Gary Myers in 1975. During his 29 years of working on the Hill, Jim has served many roles for the Committee, including Technology Team Leader and Subcommittee Staff Director. He has worked across the board on the Committee's legislative agenda, especially in the areas of technology and energy policy. In addition, Jim's dedication and hard work were crucial to the creation and passage of the Stevenson-Wydler Act and the Bayh-Dole Act which reshaped technology transfer policy. Also, Jim played a key role in the development and maintenance of the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program.

Jim holds degrees from Georgetown and Yale Universities and from Westminster College and attended the Senior Managers in Government Program at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government. Before his time on the Committee, Jim worked for Wheelabrator-Frye, Congressman Myers, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). In addition, he served on the Clinton Presidential transition team and as a social worker for the state of Connecticut.

Outside of work, Jim is involved in his church as a Chairperson for the St. Columba's Episcopal Church Outreach Steering Committee. Jim also dedicates his time to advising young people as a mentor for the Georgetown University Law School and as the Washington Coordinator for the MIT/UVA summer internship program. Over the years, Jim has been known for his efforts in helping young professionals obtain jobs and providing ongoing career advice.

Madame Speaker, Jim's dedication and work ethic have made him a valued member of the Committee staff. I know that all of the Science and Technology Committee's Members and staff wish him and his wife Betty well in their journey ahead. In closing, I just want to say thank you, Jim, for your many years of dedicated public service. You will be missed.

TRIBUTE TO JOE BOLGER

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor one of Jackson County's finest political leaders, Joe Bolger, Jr. who died on November 18, 2008. He grew up proud of his Eastern Jackson County roots. He attended the University of Missouri and graduated with a bachelor of science in 1955. By the age of 36 he was happily married to Joanne Kobe Bolger and had three children, Kathleen, Brian and Craig. By this time in his life, he had garnered the respect of his community as he served as president of the Jackson County Chamber and had been appointed to the State Water Pollution Board by Missouri Governor Warren E. Hearnes. With the support of friends and family he entered the political arena running for the Democratic nomination for Jackson County Eastern District Judge, a seat that had been held by President Harry S. Truman. He filed his papers at the Jackson County Clerk's office in the Independence Courthouse, which he insisted was the real county seat, a debate that continues today.

In 1970 Joe Bolger, Jr. was elected Eastern Judge of Jackson County, joining Presiding Judge George W. Lehr and Western Judge Harry Wiggins. All three judges were in their 30's with Joe Bolger, Jr. being the youngest of the judges. They were a dynamic combination and set Jackson County on a path of prosperity and growth. He was a strong advocate and defender for Eastern Jackson County. He believed in listening and learning from his constituents. While fighting for the rights of Eastern Jackson County, Joe Bolger, Jr. stated in The Kansas City Star article, "We would like to look upon you as our big brother. . . . not be seen as stepchildren. The eastern and western districts are two different worlds, and I'm not pleased with your attitude toward the balance of the county." He spoke of the future and warned that the population would soon shift outside Kansas City. He fought for the sports complex, infrastructure improvements, economic opportunities, and better schools.

He served for two years, 1971 and 1972. History will record that he was the last Eastern Jackson County Judge. In his last year, 1972, the Truman Sports Complex opened in Eastern Jackson County. We were the talk of the sports nation as we cut the ribbon on the top designed major league facilities.

By 1973, Jackson County had adopted a charter form of government, consisting of a County Executive and 15 legislators. Joe Bolger Jr. was voted to continue his service as a member of the original 15 legislators, representing northeast Jackson County. He was a powerful voice as he served with three Jackson County Executives. After the second County Executive, Mike White, decided not to run for another term, many asked Joe Bolger, Jr. to run but he declined. He served on the Jackson County Legislature for ten years, leaving all of Jackson County a better place to live. He brought industry and commerce to Eastern Jackson County and watched as the population grew. He was instrumental in the Little Blue Valley Sewer District and the continued development of Eastern Jackson County. He believed in a Truman style of government of plain speaking and respect for his community. He will always be remembered as highly intelligent, a caring father, and advocate for his constituency.

Madam Speaker, please join me in expressing our appreciation to the life and accomplishments of Joe Bolger, Jr. His legacy lives on in Jackson County as his work and dedication lead to the betterment of our community. I urge my colleagues of the 110th Congress to join me in remembering a great man from Eastern Jackson County.

HONORING NANCY HICKS MAYNARD

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Ms. LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life and accomplishments of one of our nation's greatest trailblazers. The renowned journalist and activist for truth in media, Nancy Hicks Maynard, passed away on September 21, 2008 at the age of 61. Her vivacious and extraordinary presence will be greatly missed, however her life's work has ensured that future generations will continue to benefit from her courageous impact indefinitely.

A news pioneer and the first African-American woman to own a major daily newspaper in America, Nancy Hicks Maynard was an inspiration to all who knew her. Her incredible journalism career began in 1966 when, outraged by inaccurate and destructive reporting on her neighborhood, Nancy broke onto the scene as a reporter for the New York Post at the age of 20.

From there she went on to work at the New York Times. At that time she was the Times' youngest staff reporter. However, that did not prevent Nancy from covering the hottest issues. From the Apollo space missions to African-American student takeovers at Columbia and Cornell universities, and the mid-sixties urban rebellions, Nancy was on the ground working nonstop to ensure that these stories were reaching the public not only through an objective lens, but from the viewpoint of a young person of color—something shamefully nonexistent in the media at that time.

In 1975 she married Robert C. Maynard, who wrote for the Washington Post and was already a news giant in his own right. At that time in our nation's history, Nancy and Robert were among the best and most accomplished of the fewer than 50 black journalists who held significant roles in the newspaper, radio and television journalism industries. However, rising up within a damaged and biased system was not enough for the Maynards. Not content with their own personal accomplishments, they both believed that their greatest civic duty was to level the playing field and bring others up behind them.

Two years later, they both resigned from their lucrative posts to pursue their shared fundamental ideals. This included, demanding a higher standard of ethics and accountability in journalism and promoting equal opportunity for people of color in the media industry. They moved to the West Coast to pursue what was right and just and to establish a non-profit dedicated to training minority reporters and pressing newsrooms to ''reflect the diversity of thought, lifestyle and heritage in our culture.''

In Berkeley, California, Nancy and Robert joined with eight other co-founders and launched the year-round Institute for Journalism Education—the first of its kind in this field.

In 1983, the couple purchased the financially struggling Oakland Tribune from the Gannett Company. For nearly a decade, the Maynards co-published the daily paper. It was at the Oakland Tribune that their vision of diversity in staffing and coverage took physical form and set an example for the conservative, overwhelmingly white newsroom managers they had been trying to reach out to for so many years. The Maynards sold the Tribune in 1992 and Robert passed away a few months afterward. During the ten years of their proprietorship, the company contributed approximately $300 million in payroll revenue alone to the city of Oakland and its residents.

Nancy was the child of an African-American jazz musician and a Caucasian mother. Through her personal and professional experiences, she understood the need for the most talented and committed minds in journalism to work together to break down racial barriers and report the truth back to the community. She carried this rich heritage and strong sense of purpose with her throughout her life. In 1998, the National Association of Black Journalists awarded her its annual Lifetime Achievement Award.

Today, California's 9th Congressional District salutes Nancy Hicks Maynard and honors her legacy. We thank her family for sharing this amazing spirit with us, especially her partner, Jay T. Harris, her mother, Eve Keller, her sister, Barbara Guest, her brother, Al Hall, her sons, David and Alex, and her daughter, Dori. May her soul rest in peace.

IN HONOR OF THE PALESTINE CHILDREN'S RELIEF FUND

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in order to recognize the achievements of The Palestine Children's Relief Fund (PCRF) on the occasion of their 2008 gala, entitled ''Healing Hands.'' For the past 17 years, PCRF has played an instrumental role in providing some of the best medical treatment for children all over the Middle East.

The Palestine Children's Relief Fund is a U.S.-based non-profit that has now become the leading organization providing free medical treatment for children in the Middle East. PCRF works closely with doctors, hospitals, and organizations throughout North America and Europe in order to facilitate specialized medical care for children who are unable to be treated locally. Children have been treated in hospitals all over the United States, including in Cleveland and other cities across Ohio. Since its founding in 1991, PCRF has treated over 800 children outside of the Middle East and continues to send doctors from the United States to train medical personnel in the region.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor of the Palestine Children's Relief Fund and in recognition of their outstanding achievements and important work in providing free medical treatment to children in need.

BRUCE ASHWILL

HON. JOHN T. DOOLITTLE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Madam Speaker, I would like to take a moment to pay tribute to Bruce Ashwill, a close friend from the Fourth Congressional District of California.

Bruce Ashwill is a legend in California real estate. As a founding partner of Ashwill Burke and the founder of Bishop Hawke and Aborn Powers, it is estimated that he has hired and trained more than 1,700 real estate professionals in his more than 38 years in the commercial real estate business. Bruce is a valued member of local chambers of commerce and many professional trade groups such as the California Association of Realtors and the Sacramento Trade Organization.

We first met in 1983 when I was running for the California State Senate, and our friendship has grown from there. I have been privileged to benefit from the wisdom and experiences Bruce has shared with me, providing great insight into business, politics and life.

Bruce graduated from University of California at Los Angeles, with a Bachelor of Science degree. He and his wife of 46 years, Barbara, live on a ranch in Shingle Springs, California. Bruce and Barbara have been blessed with three children and eight grandchildren.

I would like to wish Bruce and Barbara good luck in all their future endeavors and express to them how much they mean to Julie and me. We look forward to continuing our great friendship for many years to come.

HONORING BOB FRALEY

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today along with Congressman RADANOVICH, to congratulate Bob Fraley upon his induction into the Fresno Athletic Hall of Fame. Mr. Fraley will be honored at the 50th anniversary enshrinement dinner of the Fresno Athletic Hall of Fame on Thursday, November 6, 2008.

Bob Fraley grew up in the tiny community of Hardwick, California, and admired the man considered the best pole-vaulter ever, ''Dutch'' Warmerdam. Coach Fraley was raised just an orchard away from the Warmerdam home. Before he was done with his storied career, Coach Fraley would nurture a track-and-field powerhouse at Lemoore High School, mentor more than 40 All-Americans at California State University, Fresno, and made the ''Fraley'' name synonymous with the pole vault all over the world.

According to Coach Fraley, his most significant accomplishment in his career was saving the California State University, Fresno, men's track-and-field team in 2003 after it was cut by the school as an intercollegiate sport. He saved the program by telling the university's administration, ''take my salary; just don't take my sport.'' The school agreed and Coach Fraley coached for free and was hailed in Sports Illustrated for solving a problem instead of pointing fingers at others.

The honors are many for Coach Fraley, who was also a trailblazer for women's athletics and the implementation of Title IX. He was named 2003 USA Track and Field Nike Coach of the Year, U.S. Olympic Committee Developmental Coach of the Year in 2004, 2006 national Pole Vault Hall of Fame inductee and two-time Western Athletic Conference coach of the year. During his 28 years at California State University, Fresno, including 8 years as head coach, he developed many of the Nation's top performers; including 19 Academic All-Americans. Among his top athletes were pole-vaulter Jim Davis, who cleared 19 feet and won three NCAA titles; four-time All-American triple jumper Reggie Jackson; and Melissa (Price) Lewis, the first female inductee of the national Pole Vault Hall of Fame and the first female high school and NCAA pole vault champ.

Madam Speaker, we rise today to commend and congratulate Bob Fraley upon his achievements and induction into the Fresno Athletic Hall of Fame. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Coach Fraley congratulations on his many accomplishments.

HONORING MATER DEI KNIGHTS VOLLEYBALL TEAM

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Mater Dei Knights Volleyball Team. The Knights placed third at the IHSA State Volleyball match on Saturday November 15, 2008.

Continuing their tradition of success, this is the Knights' 12th trophy in school history. The Knights competed for their title against Chicago Payton. Winning in just two games, the Knights defeated Payton by scores of 25–17 and 25–22.

It is my pleasure to congratulate Coaches Fred Rakers and Chad Rakers along with the Knights Volleyball Team members—Cortney

Crocker, Morgan Dall, Laura Thole, Tabatha Albers, Andria Lampe, Kalye Boeckmann, Maria Gebke, Alison Mueller, Ashley Rakers, Nicole Strieker, Samantha Bedard, Kayla Eversgerd, Alyssa Hitpas, Brooke Schulte, and Abbey Winter—on their success.

I wish the Knights continued success for seasons to come!

HONORING SATOSHI HIRAYAMA

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today, along with Congressman NUNES, to congratulate Satoshi ''Fibber'' Hirayama upon the opening and dedication of the newest gymnasium in Clovis Unified School District. Mr. Hirayama will be honored at a dedication ceremony on Thursday, October 16, 2008 at Gateway High School.

Mr. Hirayama was raised in the Central San Joaquin Valley on a farm. At the age of twelve he began to play competitive sports, mostly football and baseball. These skills were developed even further when his family, along with thousands of other Japanese-Americans, was relocated to an Internment Camp in Arizona during World War II. While in the camp an organized baseball league began with 32 teams. The competitive nature of the games is where his baseball skills became refined.

When the war ended, Mr. Hirayama and his family returned to the San Joaquin Valley. He completed high school and received a scholarship to play baseball at Fresno State College. While at Fresno State he lettered in football and baseball. He lead the baseball team with seventy-six stolen bases in a season and five stolen bases in one game, this record stood for over forty years. After college he was picked up by the Stockton Ports in the Pacific Coast League, a farm team for the St. Louis Browns. Mr. Hirayama was the first Japanese-American from Fresno to play professional baseball. After one year in the league he was called to serve for the U.S. military. From 1953 to 1955, Mr. Hirayama served as a soldier at Fort Ord and continued to play baseball with fellow soldiers on base.

Upon being discharged from the military he signed with the Hiroshima Carp in the Japanese Baseball League. He and a fellow teammate, Kenshi Zenimura, were incredibly popular; over 100,000 fans showed up at the Hiroshima train station to greet the players upon their arrival to Japan. Mr. Hirayama became a two-time All Star and competed in the Japanese-Major League Baseball All Star games against legends, such as Mickey Mantel, Whitey Ford, Casey Stengel and Stan Musial.

After playing in the league for 10 years, he returned to California and in 1965 was hired as a teacher for Clovis continuation. He became vice principal at the continuation school for two periods per day and also taught 5 periods of math at Clovis High School per day. In 1970 he was promoted to principal of the continuation school and in 1972 became the first principal of the new continuation school, Gateway High. After holding that position for five years, he served as the Administrator of Personnel for Clovis Unified School District. He remained in that position for 13 years, until he retired from the district in 1990.

Today, Mr. Hirayama continues to work in the baseball world. He currently scouts for the Carps in Japan and the Dominican Republic. He is a true pioneer for the sport of baseball and an incredible example of competiveness and determination.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Satoshi ''Fibber'' Hirayama upon the dedication of the new gymnasium in his name. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Mr. Hirayama many years of continued success.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JOE MENDOZA

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I rise with a heavy heart today to honor my friend Joe Mendoza, who passed away on October 25, 2008, at the age of 90. There are so many things to be said about Joe—a rancher, a community leader, and a family man who was held in high esteem by all who knew him. I can think of no better tribute than these remarks delivered at his memorial service by his long-time friend, Joseph Schoeningh:

Point Reyes is a unique geographical area on our beautiful coastline. It was there 90 years ago this past July that Joseph H. Mendoza, a truly unique man, was born. It was also there this past Saturday that he died.

Joe Mendoza (Papa Joe to many of us) was a loving husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather and uncle. He was a caring friend and neighbor, a very successful businessman, dairyman and rancher, a true outdoorsman, avid hunter and fisherman. As a husband, he deeply loved, honored and cherished his ''Mrs. Scotty'' for 67 wonderful years. They worked as a synchronized team to build their ranching business, becoming highly successful. Recognized by his peers for his success, Joe became President of the Challenge Cream and Butter Association, served on the board of Directors of the National Milk Association, and also was one of the original board members of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area.

As a father, he was very proud of his three children. He could be a tough and stern taskmaster at times, but he always wanted them to learn and grow from his methods and example. Son Jim shared about the time when the manure system was broken and they cleaned out the pump, then Joe put his foot over the outlet and told his young son to turn on the pump. This was a ''hands on'' manure shower lesson for both men . . . bet Scotty was thrilled about their entry to ''her'' always spotless house. . . .

Son Joe remembers the time that he and fellow young men were entered as an adult ensemble into a parade, riding horses. Their Lions Club dads stuffed the kids' shirts to make them look bigger and the boys brought home a trophy. On the way home the proud fathers decided to stop at the Western in Point Reyes Station. The same proud fathers proceeded to ride those horses into the bar.

Young Joe watched as the horses and men partied in the bar and a passing driver almost got in a wreck as she drove by seeing a horse exit the bar. We wonder did this lay the groundwork for Joe Junior's future.

Joe passed on his acumen as a business and community leader to his family. Daughter Sharon put her accounting education to work taking a part-time job when she was raising her family. She did books for Joe, Scotty and the family dairy businesses. Really this was their way to connect and Sharon was able to learn from her ''hero''. Sharon and Joe enjoyed talking business, talking cows and strategizing financial and political plans.

As a grandfather, the stories are numerous and wonderful. He had a manner of connecting with young people and no matter what their age, he stayed connected. Joe combined his love of Grandchildren and other pastimes at various locations from ''the cabin'' to his Duck Hunting Club at Grizzly Island. Granddaughter Teresa recalls their tradition that went on for ages when she accompanied Joe and Scotty to the Duck Club. Before any other task, when they arrived, Joe and Teresa would get into the boat and ''cruise the Hawaiian Islands''—they were on the lookout for hula girls in that Fairfield swamp and saw many great performances as they checked on the water level and duck population. As a great grandfather of nine, he just burst with pride as he watched this latest generation sprout up and found a way to ''connect'' with each of them as well.

There was a special place in his heart for nephews Marvin and George Nunes whom he mentored in both businesses and life after the untimely death of their father in the early '50s.

As a hunter/gatherer, he was the organizer and leader of countless outings in pursuit of deer, ducks, doves and pheasant. Joe looked forward to every season with a new excitement and occupied most mornings calling up friends to set up their plans. He especially looked forward to the annual bird hunting trip to Mexico at the beginning of each year and was so fortunate to travel there only 6 months ago.

As a fisherman who knew the ocean around him, he brought home a wide array of fish, abalone, crab and oysters . . . Granddaughter Karen recalls a fateful day when their catch numbered 33 salmon and 1 halibut. Joe was in the company of Karen and her friend Kristy Skeen . . . he would describe them as ''2 Tomatas''. Of course all was good until the end of the day when the ladies retired to the kitchen of the Scotty-Joe to play cards and Joe was left on deck to clean all those fish. Of course, he graciously took on the task, never interrupting their game.

As a good friend and neighbor Joe Mendoza was a mainstay of the ''point'' ranches. Neighbors became friends and they were like their own family watching out for one another during crisis or time of need.

Joe was very proud, yet a very humble man, a man of much foresight and practicality. One good piece of advice he gave to many of us goes like this . . .

''If you do all of the talking, then they know everything you know and you don't know what they know.''

He was also very practical about avoiding the ''eye of a storm''. Once he and I, at the end of a great holiday party at the cabin, decided to take a small boat across Tomales Bay to the Marshall Tavern for a final ''nite cap''. When Mrs. Scotty discovered that we were missing and so was the boat, she correctly surmised where we were. As Joe and I were enjoying our final nite cap the bartender

hollered out, ''there is a very persistent woman on the phone who wants to talk to a JOE right now and she really means it''. Joe Mendoza calmly looked at me and said ''That call is for you!'' I took the phone and guess whose ear Mrs. Scotty burned to a crisp!

Joe and Scotty helped to organize the ''world famous'' Western Weekend in Point Reyes Station that continues to this day with a wonderful 2 block long parade that circled through town at least twice so that it would last longer than 10 minutes.

Joe had a great sense of humor and he loved a good story or a funny incident and when he really laughed he had a special little kick that just naturally happened. When you saw that extra little body language, you knew he was really enjoying himself.

Joe loved to dance and he was very good at it. So to his delight many Tomatas including daughter, granddaughters and great-granddaughters took turns sharing him with his very favorite Tomata and dance partner, his beloved ''Scotty''.

My last thoughts today are of Joe and Scotty arm in arm dancing to one of their favorite country songs, being sung by Pam Nadale, a local country artist who passed on some time ago. The song in which I have changed just one word is ''Waltz Across Texas''. It goes like this . . .

When we dance together my worlds in disguise
It's a fairyland tale that's come true
When you look at me with those stars in your eyes
I could waltz across heaven with you
Waltz across heaven with you in my arms
Waltz across heaven with you
Like a storybook ending I'm lost in your charms
and I could waltz across heaven with you
Waltz across heaven. . . .

IN HONOR OF ST. PAUL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of St. Paul United Church of Christ in Parma, Ohio on the occasion of its one hundred and fiftieth anniversary, and in recognition of its dedication to education, the community, and to God.

St. Paul United Church of Christ was founded 150 years ago and boasts a variety of programs dedicated to serving members of the congregation and the community. The Church has a number of ministries, including a scholarship program, a Hunger Task Force, and a Neighbors in Need ministry. The members of St. Paul United Church of Christ devote a significant amount of their time to community service and are an integral part of the Greater Cleveland community.

I also rise in recognition of Joseph Ripka, an internationally recognized and award-winning organist who will be performing at St. Paul United Church of Christ's anniversary celebration. Mr. Ripka is this year's winner of the Dublin International Organ Competition and was the 2006 winner of the San Marino/Elizabeth Elftman National Organ Competition.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor of St. Paul United Church of Christ in Parma, Ohio as its congregation celebrates its one hundred and fiftieth anniversary, and in recognition of the Church's significant contributions to the community.

RECOGNIZING THE UNIVERSITY TRANSPORT SYSTEM OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, DAVIS ON THE OCCASION OF CARRYING ITS 50 MILLIONTH PASSENGER

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. THOMPSON. of California. Madam Speaker, I rise day to recognize the University Transport System of the University of California, Davis or Unitrans, as it is known to its riders. For over forty years, Unitrans has served both UC Davis and the broader Davis community, and is celebrating the boarding of its 50 millionth rider this year.

Founded in 1968 to support a growing UC Davis community, Unitrans has helped the University and the City of Davis grow and flourish. Originally, Unitrans had only two vintage double-decker London buses, which have become the most recognizable symbols of their presence in the community. The system is also notable because UC Davis students are almost entirely responsible for the day to day operations of Unitrans. All Unitrans drivers are undergraduate students and they are known for their professionalism and dedication to ensuring the system runs smoothly. Today, Unitrans has 49 buses servicing 14 routes and carries three million passengers every year.

The facts about the benefits of public transportation are clear. Bus systems produce half as much carbon dioxide and substantially fewer emissions per passenger mile driven than private vehicles. By providing convenient access to public transportation, Unitrans is helping to keep our air clean and reduce traffic on our streets. Unitrans has also led the way in supporting clean energy by using compressed natural gas to fuel 90 percent of their buses. As our nation continues to work to fight global climate change, Unitrans provides an excellent example of how we can reduce our environmental impact and our carbon footprint.

Madam Speaker, it is fitting at this time that we recognize the dedication and hard work of all the drivers, staff and riders who have made Unitrans such a success. Their efforts have been vital in supporting the growth of UC Davis, and we can expect that they will continue their service to the Davis community for many years to come.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE RETIREMENT OF PAT HOLLARN, OKALOOSA COUNTY SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it is an honor for me to rise today in recognition of Pat Hollarn upon her retirement as Okaloosa County Supervisor of Elections.

For over twenty years Pat Hollarn has ensured the process of fair and balanced voting. As Supervisor of Elections for Okaloosa, County, Ms. Hollarn has distinguished herself as a champion of increasing voter turnout, voting access, and overall knowledge of the electoral process. With incredible foresight and a keen understanding of the needs of the community, Ms. Hollarn paired advanced technology with the voting booth, serving at the forefront of the Internet voting project. This project has enabled voting access to disabled voters and military personnel serving oversees. Operation Bravo, a program founded by Ms. Hollarn to alleviate the problem of servicemen and women not receiving their absentee ballots while abroad, has made it significantly easier for troops and other Americans living oversees to vote. Additionally, Ms. Hollarn stresses the importance of voter education with programs like ''Kids Voting'' and ''Kids Vote Too'' which relay the practice and privilege of voting to a younger audience.

Ms. Hollarn's dedication to the civic realm spans far beyond her current position of supervisor of elections. Ms. Hollarn's résumé is clustered with board and committee memberships as well as numerous positions in various organizations. Chambers of Commerce, The Bidgeway Center, and the North Okaloosa American Cancer Society highlight the longstanding career Ms. Hollarn has fashioned out of civic duty and community service.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am proud to honor Pat Hollarn for her enduring allegiance to the voting process and the subsequent benefits such dedication has provided for the First District of Florida.

CONGRESSIONAL RECOGNITION FOR MEMBERS OF THE ACADEMY NOMINATING COMMITTEE

HON. GABRIELLE GIFFORDS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Ms. GIFFORDS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the men and women of Arizona's 8th Congressional District who for the past two years have served as members of my Military Academy Nominating Committee.

These 23 dedicated citizens have played an invaluable role in assisting me with one of my most important duties as a member of the House of Representatives: nominating young men and women for admission into our nation's military service academies.

As a result of this committee's wise counsel and careful consideration, in my first year I nominated 24 constituents for admission to the U.S. Military, Naval, Air Force and Merchant Marine academies.

Committee members spent countless hours reviewing applications, interviewing students and drafting their recommendations for nomination to the academies. Their singular goal was to make sure that the best and brightest students received a nomination.

My Military Academy Nominating Committee members are:

Ellen Ackerman, Jim Ackerman, Steve Alexander, Terri Allaire, Adalberto Araiza, Larry Bahill, Bill Benedict, Dan Cavanagh, Ed Cerutti, Mike Crawford, Mimi Finch, Bruce Greenberg, Doug Kliman, Robert Nichols, Chris Palmenberg, Bob Parson, Larry Putman, Joe Sciabarra, Burney Starks, Bob Strain, Tim Timmins, Paul Weishaupt, and Jessica Woelbling.

I commend them for their commitment to this important nominating process and for their help in identifying the United States military leaders of the future.

HONORING THE REVEREND BONITA GRUBBS FOR HER OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, It is with great pleasure that I rise today to join family, friends, colleagues, and the New Haven community in extending recognizing my good friend, the Reverend Bonita Grubbs, as we gather to celebrate her 20th Anniversary as the Executive Director of Christian Community Action. It has been through her outstanding leadership and vision that Christian Community Action has grown into an invaluable resource for those most in need.

Christian Community Action is a non-profit ecumenical social service organization whose mission includes providing emergency food, housing, and support to New Haven's poor while encouraging them to attain self-sufficiency. Christian Community Action is also a vocal advocate for the most vulnerable of our citizens—working to change the systems that perpetuate poverty and injustice. For twenty of its thirty year history, Bonita has been at the helm of this institution where she has led the way in expanding its programs and services. She has a unique combination of compassion, generosity, and vision which has enabled her to ensure that this agency can continue to meet the changing needs of the poor.

More than just her professional contributions have made Bonita one of our most respected community leaders. She has served on the Boards of the Greater New Haven Community Loan Fund, the International Festival of Arts and currently serves on the Boards of the Hospital of Saint Raphael, Connecticut Voices for Children, the Connecticut Housing Coalition, Quinnipiac Bank and Trust, and the Connecticut Center for School Change. She has been a member of the Judicial Review Council for the State of Connecticut as well as president of the Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness. Ordained to the Christian Ministry within the American Baptist Church in November of 1987, Bonita has also served as the Interim Pastor of the Christian Baptist Church in Hamden, Connecticut. Bonita understands the importance of being involved in one's community and has made an extraordinary effort to enrich the lives of those less fortunate.

Her work with Christian Community Action as well her myriad of volunteer efforts have changed the face of the New Haven community and brought much needed attention to the needs of the poor. Bonita knows that the prosperity of a community lies in the willingness of its members to give back and she has done much to strengthen the bonds of our community.

I must also take this opportunity to extend my heartfelt thanks to Bonita for her many years of special friendship. She has been a source of inspiration to me and so many others. I am honored to take this moment to stand and recognize the Reverend Bonita Grubbs for her 20 years of dedicated service to Christian Community Action and her outstanding contributions. Every community should be so fortunate as to have such an accomplished and devoted advocate. mentor, and friend.

UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION EXTENSION ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, although am disappointed that White House opposition will prevent the House-passed $63 billion stimulus package from becoming law this year, we have at least reached bipartisan agreement on this seven week extension of unemployment benefits for our neighbors still looking for work in this struggling economy.

Today's unemployment report was not good: 159,000 jobs lost in September—the worst job loss in five years, on top of 600,000 jobs already lost in 2008. The Federal Unemployment Trust Fund currently has more than enough reserves to cover the cost of this extension, and nearly 800,000 workers will exhaust their benefits if this legislation isn't enacted into law. For their benefit, and the benefit of our economy, I urge my colleagues' support and yield back the balance of my time.

HONORING THOSE WHO FOUGHT THE ANGEL ISLAND FIRE

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the heroic firefighters who, with bravery and dedication, halted the fire that threatened to devastate Angel Island State Park, one of our Nation's unparalleled treasures, located in San Francisco Bay near Tiburon in Marin County, California.

Heroic firefighters across America brave flames and smoke to save lives and protect homes and property. Everyday these men and women risk their safety on our behalf.

On Sunday, October 12, 2008 flames threatened to swallow Angel Island, a renowned landmark that boasts a history dating back to the Civil War. In 1863, Angel Island was home to Camp Reynolds, which guarded the bay during the Civil War. The island later served as an immigration station, dubbed "The Ellis Island of the West". During the Cold War, the Nike missile site was located on Angel Island.

Many of these structures are truly windows into our past. In particular, I have worked with my colleagues and with concerned citizens such as the Angel Island Immigration Station Foundation to restore the immigration station. The stories of peoples' lives are literally written into its walls and have much to tell us about our own history and humanity.

When fire raged at Angel Island, threatening to devastate our Nation's jewel, 275 firefighters united forces to stop the fire and ultimately protect 120 historic buildings and 360 acres from destruction.

Days after the orange and red flames dissipated into a cloud of smoke, a crew of 100 dedicated firefighters remained on the island to complete their duties.

Successfully battling a major wildland fire is never the act of one person alone. Marin's fire agencies have an effective mutual aid agreement which brought skilled personnel and resources from agencies throughout the County with a shared objective—saving the Island's historical buildings and minimizing resource damage. Angel Island Park personnel were an instrumental part of the command structure and, with the help of the U.S. Coast Guard, quickly evacuated overnight campers to a safe location. As always, the air attack and support provided by crews and personnel from CAL FIRE gave firefighters the upper hand to ultimately bring the fire under control. This was an amazing example of inter-agency cooperation that was the key to a successful outcome.

Madam Speaker, I thank these leaders and their crews who saved a tremendous part of our history. They and their many colleagues across the country are truly our heroes. Thanks to their tireless and timely response to a looming threat, Angel Island, a beacon of history and environmental beauty, can continue to enrich the lives of visitors from around the world.

IN HONOR OF JOHANNA OROZCO

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Johanna Orozco. Her courage, personal strength and concern for others in the wake of unimaginable personal tragedy nearly two years ago at the young age of fifteen, has lifted her into the rare and inspiring platform as a champion of women's rights. Her activism has inspired people of all ages throughout our Greater Cleveland community, especially young women who are vulnerable to domestic violence.

Ms. Orozco did not only survive the vicious attack by her ex-boyfriend, she has reached out as an activist, speaking openly on high school and college campuses. She selflessly shares her own painful experience in order to educate and protect others from unhealthy relationships and domestic violence. Despite her near death, she battled to recover, rising a stronger and wiser individual. Through every painful phase of her rehabilitation and surgeries, Ms. Orozco reflects grace and dignity.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of Johanna Orozco, who has transformed her personal

tragedy into triumph. She has emerged with strength, determination and an optimistic view for her future. She continues to inspire those who have been privileged to meet and know her. I look forward to her future achievements. Johanna Orozco is a heroin among us, and our community will continue to support her as she recovers.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and gratitude of Johanna Orozco, whose remarkable story and activism will forever have an impact on our community. May her courage continue to serve as an inspiration for us all.

HONORING LEE ANGELICH

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today, along with Congressman COSTA, to congratulate Lee Angelich upon his induction into the Fresno Athletic Hall of Fame. Mr. Angelich will be honored at the 50th anniversary enshrinement dinner of the Fresno Athletic Hall of Fame on Thursday, November 6, 2008.

Lee Angelich, the youngest of five boys, was born to a Serbian immigrant family and starred in track and field in high school and college. Mr. Angelich qualified for the State Finals his senior year at Shasta High School. In his two years at Sacramento Junior College, he led the Panthers to league and state titles and in 1941 he led them to a national title. Mr. Angelich placed second in the 120 high hurdles and fifth in the high jump at the national meet. He then went on to the University of California, where in 1943 he won Pacific Coast Conference titles in the 120 high and the 220 low hurdles, and finished fifth and sixth respectively in the same events at the NCAA Championships. In 1943, Mr. Angelich joined the Navy and served as an officer on the U.S.S. *Rixey* in the Pacific. After the war, he enrolled at California State University Fresno and placed third in the West Coast Relays in the 120 high hurdles.

After completing his education Mr. Angelich began coaching. As a coach he stressed fundamentals, defense and teamwork. He guided boys' teams at Kerman High, Porterville High and Fresno High to eight league championships and an overall record of 255–76 from 1947 to 1963. His Kerman team won the Central Section small schools championship, and his Fresno High teams won forty-eight straight games at home, second best in section history. Under Mr. Angelich, Fresno High won four consecutive North Yosemite League titles (1957–1960). He is one of the rare coaches to win central Section titles in two different sports, as Fresno High captured the boys' track-and-field championship in 1957. He became one of the winningest high school basketball coaches in central section history. Additionally, after turning down a chance to coach Greece's national men's basketball team in 1959, he organized and coached the Libyan national team that participated in the North African Games in 1961.

Madam Speaker, we rise today to commend and congratulate Lee Angelich upon his achievements and induction into the Fresno Athletic Hall of Fame. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Mr. Angelich congratulations on his many accomplishments.

HONORING AMANDA SCOTT

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today, along with Congressman RADANOVICH, to congratulate Amanda Scott upon her induction into the Fresno Athletic Hall of Fame. Ms. Scott will be honored at the 50th anniversary enshrinement dinner at the Fresno Athletic Hall of Fame on Thursday, November 6, 2008.

Amanda Scott was born and raised in Clovis, California and graduated from Clovis High School. She went on to attend California State University, Fresno where she pitched for the Lady Bulldogs. In the championship game of the 1998 National Collegiate Athletic Association, NCAA, Softball World Series, Ms. Scott pitched a near perfect game against top-seeded Arizona in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. She led her team to a 1–0 victory over Arizona. She pitched seven innings, allowing three hits and she had six strike outs. At bat, she was three for three. The Bulldogs had captured their first NCAA Division 1 team championship in school history.

Ms. Scott's accolades do not stop there. She was the first four-time first-team All-American for CSU Fresno, she was named number two among CSU Fresno's ''Greatest Athletes of the Twentieth Century'', two-time Academic All-American, two-time Western Athletic Conference Female Athlete of the Year, member of the NCAA's twenty-fifth anniversary team, winner of an NCAA Postgraduate Scholarship and was named ''Most Valuable Player'' of the 1998 Softball World Series.

Upon graduating from CSU Fresno she was the school's career leader in strikeouts (851), saves (110), Runs Batted In (212) and pitching appearances (155). Her career win-loss record is 106–18 and her batting average was .303 with thirty-one home runs. Her records are amazing, and her career continued to grow. Amanda Scott was at her best in the clutch when she was pitted against the best the sport had to offer; her face was a picture of resolve whether pitching or batting. She was a member of the 1998 U.S. team that won the World Championship and was an alternate on the gold-medal winning 2000 U.S. Olympic team. Ms. Scott starred in the National Pro Fastpitch league, and was named the ''World Series Most Valuable Player'' for the 2004 champion, the New York Juggernaut. Today, she is an assistant softball coach at the University of Illinois-Chicago and a television sports commentator.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Amanda Scott upon her achievements. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Ms. Scott many years of continued success.

TRIBUTE TO DR. JAMES CRAWFORD

HON. CAROLYN McCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a talented pathologist, professor, and author, Dr. James Crawford. Dr. Crawford recently moved to Long Island, New York to serve as the Chair of the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine at Long Island Jewish Hospital. His commitment to advocating for quality health care and the study of pathology deserves commendation.

Dr. Crawford will be stepping down at the end of December as Chair of the College of American Pathologists' Political Action Committee. Pathologists are laboratory physicians that play a key role in health care by diagnosing and characterizing diseases through examination of biopsies or bodily fluids.

Prior to accepting his new position at Long Island Jewish Hospital, Dr. Crawford served as Chair of the Pathology Department at the University of Florida, College of Medicine. A talented pathology professor, he has served as a faculty member at Brigham and Women's Hospital, Harvard Medical School, as well as the Yale University School of Medicine.

Dr. Crawford is a world expert in hepatic pathology and pathobiology who has served as the Senior Editor of three books, as well as authored over 170 original articles and book chapters. Dr. Crawford has also been an active supporter of early cancer screening tests, especially Pap tests. Through the years, Pap examinations have proven to be the most effective screening test for early detection of cervical cancer in women.

Dr. Crawford received his medical degree and PhD from Duke University. After completing medical school, he completed his Pathology Residency and Gastrointestinal Pathology Fellowship at Brigham and Women's Hospital, as well as a Fellowship in Hepatopathology at the Royal Free Hospital in London.

Although he will be stepping down as Chair of the College of American Pathologist's Political Action Committee, Dr. Crawford will continue to be a strong voice for promoting quality health care in his new position at Long Island Jewish Hospital. I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing this outstanding physician, professor, and author for his strong commitment to pathology and patient care.

IN RECOGNITION OF MAYOR HEATHER FARGO

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Heather Fargo's twenty years of service to the people of Sacramento as mayor, council member, and community activist. On November 20th, Mayor Fargo, family and friends will gather to recognize her outstanding work, and I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring one of Sacramento's finest leaders.

Heather Fargo has always had a strong sense of public service. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Planning and Management from the University of California, Davis, and went on to complete the State and Local Government Executive Program at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. Before becoming mayor, she had a distinguished career at the California Department of Parks and Recreation.

For over twenty years, Mayor Fargo has been a strong advocate for the development of the City of Sacramento and its neighborhoods. Early in Mayor Fargo's career in public service, she served as a board member of the Environmental Council of Sacramento, and was one of the founding members of the Sacramento Tree Foundation, a non-profit organization that promotes urban forestry and shows how trees can make our communities more livable by reducing energy use, cleaning the air, and enhancing social and economic value. As mayor, she has transformed Sacramento into a ''green'' city with national recognition for being an environmentally sustainable city.

First elected to the Sacramento City Council in 1989, Mayor Fargo played an active role in developing Sacramento's Natomas area, and redeveloping our downtown into a place where people can live, work and play. Under her leadership, Sacramento has become a national model for smart growth and infill development.

After being elected as mayor in 2000, Mayor Fargo proved her dedication to Sacramento's future by creating the Sacramento Youth Commission and sponsoring youth mentoring, after school, and truancy prevention programs. She has given children the opportunity to take part in local policy development and express their views to community leaders. Mentors have been recruited to lead high school teens and help prepare them for successful lives after they graduate.

Mayor Fargo implemented several city policies and programs to bring Sacramento's neighborhoods together, and foster a greater sense of community among its residents. This included public participation on major planning projects, informational workshops on city initiatives and effective outreach on key issues including flood protection, emergency preparedness and housing crisis assistance. She also led the successful efforts to increase funding for levee improvements.

Mayor Fargo has helped unify our region through her leadership on the Sacramento Area Council of Governments. As chair of SACOG, Mayor Fargo built relationships with neighboring cities on issues of importance to our region, especially transportation and air quality issues. She also was a leader with the U.S. Conference of Mayors and currently is president of the League of California Cities.

Madam Speaker, as Mayor Heather Fargo, her family and friends gather on this occasion, I am honored to pay tribute to one of Sacramento's most distinguished citizens and community leaders. Her successes have been many, and it is an honor for me to recognize her for her more than two decades of contributions to the people of Sacramento. I ask all my colleagues to join me in wishing Mayor Heather Fargo continued success in her future.

TRIBUTE TO THE HOME HEALTH AIDES WHO SERVE IN THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the dedicated and admirable work of the home health aides who serve my state of New Jersey and to commemorate Home Health Aide Recognition Day of 2008.

Home health aides provide a variety of invaluable services, including personalized care, home support services, physical exercise programs, and transportation assistance. The home health aides provide these services in the comfort of a patient's own home, thereby preserving the dignity and independence of an individual. In addition, providing this type of specialized care allows patients to remain at home longer, which can help prevent costly hospitalizations or institutionalizations that increase the financial burden on the patients, their families, and our health care system.

Over 40,000 certified aides make home health care available to every community in New Jersey, every hour of the day, and every day of the year. I am proud to acknowledge their essential and irreplaceable role in the health care system of New Jersey.

I would also like to recognize the organizations who sponsored this day and the meaningful contributions they make to our state's health care system: the Home Care Association of New Jersey, the New Jersey Hospital Association, the New Jersey Hospice and Palliative Care Organization, the Home Care Council of New Jersey, the Health Care Association of New Jersey, and New Jersey Association for Homes and Services for the Aging.

Each day, compassionate home health aides in every region of my state deliver excellence in patient care. The services they provide enable New Jersey residents of all ages to remain in, or return to, their home and neighborhoods despite severe illness or disability. The Home Health Aid Recognition Day honors their extraordinary work, and their unique ability to enhance the quality of life for thousands of New Jerseyans.

Madam Speaker, I am honored today to recognize these wonderful health professionals and the vital role they play in our communities.

RECOGNIZING MAJOR GENERAL WALTER WOJDAKOWSKI FOR SERVICE TO OUR COUNTRY AND THE UNITED STATES ARMY

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a dear friend and one of our brave patriots. For over 30 years, Major General Walter Wojdakowski who is currently the commanding general at Fort Benning in Columbus, Georgia, has served our nation with bravery, dedication and respect. He has a lifetime of selfless service that included command, battlefield and diplomatic experience. Major General Walter Wojdakowski ends his brilliant career at Ft. Benning where he first trained as second lieutenant to become an Infantry platoon leader.

Schooled in military arts at the United States Military Academy West Point, he would travel the globe with his wife Candy and their children Steven and Ami. Major General Wojdakowski would serve in leadership and staff positions in Germany and Kuwait with distinction as well as duty stations in the United States.

His impact is measured by the knowledge lie gained through his many challenging and difficult assignments. He used his experience to train this generation of war fighters for the most complex and difficult conflict in our nation's history, the Global War on Terrorism. The men and women he leads at Ft. Benning can proudly proclaim that they have trained the best soldiers in the world.

Major General Wojdakowski has demonstrated loyalty, faith and allegiance to our nation, to our military forces and to the citizens of our great country. He understands that meeting one's duty is to fulfill your obligations and accept responsibility for one's actions and the actions of one's subordinates.

He earned respect leading by example and showing respect by faithfully upholding and practicing the Army values. Major General Wojdakowski is recognized for his integrity and strict focus on exceeding the Army's highest standards. He has always understood the more you sweat in training, the less you bleed in war.

I am pleased to honor this warrior-patriot on his retirement from the United States Army. Major General Wojdakowski exemplifies personal courage and honor. He is one of the brave few who chose a life of servitude to his nation, and because of his service our nation is safer and stronger today. I want to commend Major General Wojdakowski, his wife Candy and his entire family for his reaching this important milestone. I wish him all the best in the years ahead.

CONGRATULATING THE EVANSVILLE MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL BOYS AND GIRLS SOCCER TEAMS FOR WINNING THE 2008 INDIANA SOCCER CHAMPIONSHIPS

HON. BRAD ELLSWORTH

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. ELLSWORTH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Evansville Memorial High School boys and girls soccer teams on their recent historic achievement. On Saturday, November 1, 2008 the teams became the first to win both the boys and girls Indiana soccer championships in the same year.

With their impressive 23–0–2 record, the boys' team—led by Coach Bill Vieth, Jr.—defended their state title by defeating the Zionsville Eagles 3–2, while Angie Lensing coached the girls' team to its second state championship, defeating Fort Wayne Snider 2–0, ending their season with a 22–2 record.

The extraordinary dedication and teamwork shown by these young athletes is something they can be proud of long after they have left Memorial High School. The teams and coaching staff have demonstrated outstanding talent and an unwavering commitment to achieving their goals. They are an inspiration to me and everyone in the Evansville, Indiana community who have followed them throughout the years.

Go Tigers!

IN HONOR OF BOBBY SANABRIA

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Bobby Sanabria, distinguished percussionist, drummer, composer, recording artist and producer whose musical talents and leadership in the Hispanic community has inspired thousands of people. I also rise in honor of Baldwin-Wallace College and the Hispanic-American Student Association for hosting and sponsoring Bobby Sanabria's performance as we celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month in Cleveland.

Bobby Sanabria, of Puerto-Rican descent, was born and raised in the Bronx, New York City. He earned a Bachelor's of Music Degree from Berklee College of Music in Boston in 1979. In recognition of his immense musical talents, Bobby was awarded the prestigious Faculty Association Award from his Alma mater. He has since become an internationally recognized drummer and percussionist—performing and collaborating with countless legendary Jazz and Latin musicians such as Mario Bauzà, Tito Puente, Charles McPherson and Ray Barretto. A testament to his musical talents, Bobby has collaborated with numerous award-winning artists on countless CDs and performances, including with Mario Bauzà—who is widely considered the Father of the Afro-Cuban Jazz movement. His 1999 album, ''NYC Aché!'' was released to international acclaim and his record ''Afro-Cuban Dream . . . Live & In Clave!'' was nominated for a Grammy Award for Best Latin Jazz Album in 2001.

Bobby is the recipient of countless awards and honors and holds a number of prestigious leadership positions. In 2005, he was honored as DRUM! Magazine's Percussionist of the Year, an award voted on by the magazine's readers. Bobby was inducted into the ''Bronx Walk of Fame'' and had a street named after him in 2006. In addition to being the Chair of the former International Association of Jazz Education's Afro-Jazz Resource Team, he travels all over the United States and the world lecturing and performing. He is the Honorary Trustee of the Roberto Ocasio Foundation—a foundation dedicated to promoting programs that foster the personal and professional development of young musicians, as well as fostering cultural understanding through music. Bobby has been an Associate Professor at New School University's Jazz and Contemporary Music Program for fifteen years and has also been a professor at the Manhattan School of Music since 1999. He leads Afro-Cuban Orchestras at both institutions—the only programs of their kind in the country. Bobby also writes regularly for the New York Post and Modern Drummer, and has also been featured in the New York Times and The Jazz Times.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor of Bobby Sanabria, distinguished musician, composer, teacher and producer, and in recognition of his contributions to continuing the tradition of Afro-Cuban and Latin Jazz Music.

TRIBUTE TO JESSICA LONG

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Madam Speaker, I rise before you today to honor Jessica Long, in celebration of her continued achievements at the 2008 Paralympics in Beijing.

Jessica Long was born in Siberia and was adopted from a Russian orphanage at the age of 13 months along with her brother Joshua by Steven and Beth Long of Middle River, Maryland. Because of lower leg anomalies, her legs were amputated when she was 18 months old. She learned to walk with prostheses and has been unstoppable ever since. Long has been involved in many sports including gymnastics, cheerleading, ice skating, biking, trampoline, and, of course, she loves to swim. She began swimming in her grandparent's pool before joining her first competitive team in 2002. The next year, Jessica was selected as Maryland Swimming's 2003 Female Swimmer with a Disability of the Year. Jessica made the international swimming world take notice at the 2004 Paralympic Games, winning three gold medals. Only 12 years old at the time, Jessica was the youngest athlete on the U.S. Paralympic Team.

Jessica had a phenomenal year in 2006 with a long list of impressive accomplishments. She set five world records and earned nine gold medals at the 2006 International Paralympic Committee Swimming World Championships in Durban, South Africa in December. In addition to countless other gold medals and awards, Jessica was named U.S. Olympic Committee Paralympian of the Year. In 2007, Jessica set three world records at the GTAC Disability Open in Michigan and three world records at the Spring Can-Am Swimming Championships in Quebec. She also beat out many prominent amateur athletes for the prestigious 77th AAU James E. Sullivan Award. In 2008, Jessica set another world record at the Can-Am Championships in British Columbia and was the recipient of the Juan Antonio Samaranch IOC Disabled Athlete Award.

After all of the numerous world records Jessica has set, the awards she has received, and the medals she has won, at the age of 16 Jessica eagerly anticipated the 2008 Paralympics in Beijing. There, Jessica won four gold medals, a silver medal, and a bronze medal.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join with me today to honor Ms. Jessica Long. She is an outstanding and dedicated member of the United States Paralympic Team. In spite of her disability, she has shown a unique and committed work ethic in sports training and competition. Jessica has shown the world that no limitation can prevent an individual from achieving great success. It is with great pride that I congratulate her on bringing six medals home from the 2008 Paralympics in Beijing.

HONORING STEVEN B. COLYER

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Steven B. Colyer of Buckner, Missouri. Steven is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1381, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

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

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

EMERGENCY ECONOMIC STABILIZATION ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Madam Speaker, I am angry.

I am angry that we have been put in this position by clever financial wizards on Wall Street who operated without the necessary regulations and oversight for the past eight years.

I am angry that we are being asked to clean up a mess that could have been prevented if it weren't for corporate greed and lax government oversight.

I share the sentiments of Meyer Mishkin, who during the crash of 1929 owned a shop in New York that sold silk shirts to working men. He said then that it ''served those rich scoundrels right.''

But a year later, as the Wall Street crash spread to the rest of America, Mr. Mishkin's own store went out of business and he never held a steady job again.

Fast forward to 2008. Meyer Mishkin's grandson, an economist and former Fed Reserve Board member, tells us ''To do nothing right now is to do what was done during the Great Depression.''

Madam Speaker, this is not about Rolex watches and Wall Street. It's about watching out for workers, families, retirees and small businesses in my district who will be up against the wall by this resulting credit crisis as it spreads to Main Street.

If we don't act and the credit markets seize up, we risk a situation in which people can't get mortgages, stores are unable to finance their inventory, local governments are unable to continue to finance services, and employers are unable to make payroll and start laying off workers and dropping shifts. We are already beginning to see the effects in my district and across the country.

We could say ''let's sit back and do nothing''.

But that is taking a huge risk with my constituents' economic futures. Look at it this way: If your foolish neighbor accidentally sets his apartment on fire, you could just let it burn and say that it serves him right. But the truth is, you live in the same apartment building: unless you call the fire department and use taxpayer funds to have it put out, in a short time your apartment is going to be destroyed by that same fire.

This bill is not perfect, but improvements have been made and protections and accountability have been added to it over the past two weeks. Now CEO's will be prohibited from collecting ''golden parachute'' payments or huge bonuses based on their company's stock price if their institutions want to participate. Also, since the federal government will become the owner of many troubled mortgages, the bill directs the Treasury Department to try to help some of those homeowners stay in their homes by easing the terms of the loan in ways that might prevent foreclosure and eviction. And if this works as it should, taxpayer outlays should be recouped—and perhaps even a profit turned—as the federal government sells the mortgages back into the market over time.

Madam Speaker, I had family who lived through the Great Depression, and I know that when the wider economy tailspins into a depression, it is poor and working families who are hit the hardest. I am not willing to stand by and do nothing while this crash spreads to my constituents.

HONORING SANTA BARBARA COUNTY FIRE CHIEF JOHN SCHERREI

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mrs. CAPPS. Madam Speaker, today I rise to acknowledge Mr. John Scherrei, Fire Chief of Santa Barbara County, upon reaching his retirement after 38 years of fighting fires.

Fire Chief Scherrei was appointed as the Santa Barbara County Fire Department Chief in 1999. He previously had a 28-year career with the City of Los Angeles Fire Department where he held all ranks from firefighter to Assistant Chief and was often the highest ranking fire official on duty for the Los Angeles area.

During Fire Chief Scherrei's time with Santa Barbara County, the Fire Department has added paramedics on its engine companies; created and integrated two brush clearing crews to the department; acquired the County's first high-rise tower ladder truck to its firefighting equipment inventory and has successfully deployed two firefighting and rescue helicopters.

Fire Chief Scherrei also oversaw the merger of the Solvang and Orcutt fire departments into the County Fire Department and guided the Fire Department through both recent wild land forest fires: the 2007 Zaca Fire—at about 240,000 acres the largest fire in the County's known history—and the 9,400-acre Gap Fire that occurred earlier this year. In both major tires, no lives were lost and no homes were destroyed. Most recently, Fire Chief Scherrei helped supervise efforts related to the 2,000-acre Tea fire, which damaged or destroyed 219 residences.

Over the last decade, Fire Chief Scherrei has worked with concerned citizens to form the Firefighter Alliance, which helps the department acquire urgent, unbudgeted tools and equipment and he has helped establish a firefighter Benevolent Association which is a charity to assist the fire family with personal loss, and family tragedy situations.

Fire Chief Scherrei was also instrumental in creating the County's first memorial event at the historic Courthouse Gardens regarding the September 11th terrorist attacks and also the 75th anniversary event commemorating the founding of the County Fire Department.

He has a master's degree in public administration from Cal Lutheran University and a bachelor's degree in sociology from California State University, Northridge. Fire Chief Scherrei also proudly served in the U.S. Marine Corps and is a Vietnam Veteran.

Madam Speaker, Chief Scherrei will retire from the County of Santa Barbara on January 23, 2009. To his wife, Piper; his four children; his 11 grandchildren; and to everyone whose lives have been enriched by him, Chief Scherrei is a man of courage, vigor, and guidance.

Throughout his tenure as Fire Chief, Mr. Scherrei has advanced the state of fire and all-hazard emergency response in the County. As a result, our residents, businesses and visitors have benefited from his leadership and duty to serve. Therefore, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mr. John Scherrei for his 38 years as Fire Chief and honor his admirable service to the community and our country.

HONORING JUDGE JOEL B. ROSEN, RECIPIENT OF THE 2008 JUDGE F. GERRY AWARD

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. ANDREWS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend the Honorable Joel B. Rosen, former United States Magistrate Judge of the New Jersey District, on receiving the 2008 Judge John F. Gerry Award. I consider Joel a close friend and commend him on being honored for his commitment to his profession and his work on behalf of the community.

This prestigious award is named in honor of Judge John F. Gerry who was appointed to the United States District Court for the District of New Jersey by President Gerald Ford in 1974. Judge Gerry became the District Court's Chief Judge in 1987 and served in this position until October 1994. The Camden County Bar Foundation established the John F. Gerry Memorial Scholarship in 2002 as a tribute to the humanitarianism and integrity of this respected public servant.

Judge Rosen's auspicious career began when he served as an Assistant United States Attorney, after graduating with honors from Rutgers School of Law in Camden. As the attorney-in-charge of the United States Attorney's office in Camden, he received several commendations from the Department of Justice for prosecuting organized crime and political corruption. Judge Rosen also served as the Chief of the Special Prosecutions Section as a Deputy Attorney General in the New Jersey Division of Criminal Justice. In 1987, Judge Rosen was sworn in as a United States Magistrate Judge for the District of New Jersey where he served until 2006.

Judge Rosen has also played a noteworthy role in educating the next generation of outstanding legal minds. He has been an adjunct faculty member of Rutgers School of Law, Camden, where he has lectured on class actions and complex litigation. Judge Rosen has also taught constitutional principles at Rutgers University, Camden and has lectured at numerous continuing legal education programs. He is a member of the Disciplinary Oversight Committee and the Committee on Minority Concerns of the New Jersey Supreme Court. Judge Rosen is also a member of the Board of the Association of the Federal Bar of New Jersey.

Madam Speaker, over his distinguished career Judge Rosen has been the recipient of many distinguished service awards. In 1999, The Black Law Students Association presented the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. Champions for Social Justice and Equality Award to Judge Rosen. Then, in 2004, Judge Rosen was presented with the Honorable Joseph M. Nardi, Jr. Distinguished Service Award, conferred by Rutgers School of Law, Camden.

Madam Speaker, I have known Judge Rosen for over a decade and have been repeatedly impressed by his intelligence and compassion. He is an excellent role-model for young Americans considering a career in the legal profession. I commend Judge Rosen for his many years of service and wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors.

A TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE JACK SCOTT

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend the Honorable Jack Scott, State Senator from California's 21st District.

Jack Scott was born and raised in Sweetwater, Texas. An advocate of higher education, he received a bachelor's degree from Abilene Christian College, a master of divinity from Yale University, and a Ph.D. in American history from Claremont Graduate University.

Senator Scott began his career as a professor and administrator at Pepperdine University in 1962. He then moved on to Orange Coast College, and in 1978, he became President of Cypress College. In 1987, he took over the position as President of Pasadena City College. As President, he was responsible for the development of its library, Community Education Center, Child Development Center, physical education complex, and Sculpture Garden. Despite declines in state funding, the college had more than $6 million in reserve funds when Scott retired from the presidency in 1995.

In 1996, Jack was elected to the California State Assembly where he served until 2000, when he was elected to the State Senate. During his eight-year tenure in the State Senate, he chaired the Senate Committee on Education and the Joint Committee on the Arts. Throughout his term, he fought to increase the

amount and quality of California teachers, improve the transfer process for community college students, and develop a new funding system for California community colleges.

Senator Scott's legislative efforts have earned him recognition as Legislator of the Year from the California Federation of Teachers, Association of Independent Colleges and Universities, Association of California Community College Administrators, Association of California School Boards, California State University, and the Child Development Policy Institute. He has an honorary doctorate from Pepperdine University and has been named the Alumnus of the Year at both Claremont Graduate University and Abilene Christian University. On October 28, he received Pasadena City College Foundation's Building the Spirit of a Vibrant Community Award.

Senator Scott's extensive community involvement includes the Coalition for a Non-Violent City, Pacific Oaks College's Board of Trustees, the Board of Regents at Pepperdine University and the Association of California Community College Administrators. Jack and his wife, Lacreta, have 10 grandchildren and four surviving children, Sharon Mitchell, Shelia Head, Amy Schones, and Greg Scott; their fifth child, Adam, died in 1993.

In 2009, Senator Scott will begin his position as Chancellor of California's community colleges.

It is my great pleasure to recognize the extraordinary achievements of Senator Jack Scott and I ask all Members of Congress to join me in thanking him for his service.

HONORING RYAN PHILLIP LAWTER

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Ryan Phillip Lawter of Holt, Missouri. Ryan is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1494, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

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

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

A TRIBUTE TO MRS. MARGARET WILLIAMS

HON. WM. LACY CLAY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. CLAY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Margaret Williams, The Missouri Teacher of the Year 2008–2009 Recipient. The Missouri Teacher of the Year is a prestigious honors program that focuses public attention on excellence in teaching. Williams, a 37 year educator has earned the respect and admiration of students, parents, and colleagues alike. She inspires students of all backgrounds and abilities to learn. For the aforementioned reasons, I enthusiastically honor Mrs. Williams today before Congress.

Mrs. Williams is a graduate of Beaumont High School in St. Louis, Missouri. She was inspired by her psychology teacher Mr. Brown to pursue a career in education. Mrs. Williams went on to graduate from the University of Missouri—St. Louis.

Mrs. Williams is the social studies department chair for University City High School in University City, Missouri where she has been teaching for the last 18 years. Williams who also teaches history, government, and an African-American experience course was one of six finalists to compete in this year's competition.

The Missouri Teacher of the Year program is conducted annually by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, in conjunction with the National Teacher of the Year program. Major funding for Missouri's program is provided by The Boeing Company, St. Louis, Missouri.

Before joining University City, Williams began her illustrious career in education as principal and administrator from 1986 to 1990 at West Side Christian Academy in St. Louis. After which she taught at the Visual and Performing Arts High School and Beaumont from 1971 to 1986.

Williams is the first in the University City School District to be named Missouri Teacher of the year and was honored with a special drum line presentation, and video made by the district as part of her nomination package.

Madam Speaker, Mrs. Williams has my absolute highest recommendation to be honored today. Her contributions to education and unyielding commitment to the youth of Missouri is unmatched. As a pioneer in the University City Schools and a role model to all educators that is worthy of recognition. I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring Mrs. Margaret Williams for being a top Missouri educator and being named the Missouri Teacher of the Year 2008–2009.

THE FAIRNESS DOCTRINE IS UNFAIR

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, it seems that some in Congress are trying to call back the speech police and reinstate the Fairness Doctrine again. Although the Fairness Doctrine was abolished over 20 years ago, some of our colleagues just can't let it go.

This time they want to police and control the radio airwaves. I'm not talking about the former Soviet Union that controlled what Russians listened to on the radio, I'm talking about the American speech police.

The so-called "Broadcast Fairness Doctrine" is an attempt by the Feds to force private radio stations to be fair and balanced by forcing broadcasters to air opposing views of public importance. Sounds good, but who's going to determine what fair is, the Federal fair police?

Are we going to let a bunch of Potomac River bureaucrats determine if a radio station in Tomball, Texas is being fair when it discusses politics? Sounds like government control of speech to me.

It is actually totalitarian state control of speech. And what does "fair" mean? Fair means different things to different folks. In some places in the country like Texas, fair is where you take your chickens to. That's why the word "fair" is not in the Constitution. The Constitution protects free speech, not fair speech. It says "Congress (that's us, folks) shall make no law abridging the freedom of speech." And the Constitution applies to the thieves of free speech and the government's speech police whether they like it or not.

And that's just the way it is.

TRIBUTE TO NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. SIMPSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the important research it is doing. There are few investments the Federal government makes that regularly pay such important dividends to the American taxpayer. The National Institutes of Health, the lead government agency tasked with preventing and curing diseases and disorders, is one such investment. While NIH conducts some biomedical research at its Bethesda, Maryland campus, between 80 to 90 percent of its budget funds research that takes place at universities, research centers and hospitals throughout the United States. At a time when stimulating the economy is on everyone's mind, we should remember that the NIH dollars that flow into our communities provide direct economic benefits in the form of increased employment and growth opportunities for research institutions and local businesses at the same time that they are funding research to save lives and improve the quality of life of all Americans. One example of that is NIH-supported research to identify a gene variant involved in isolated cleft lip.

About one in every 600 babies in the United States is born with isolated cleft lip and/or palate (roof of the mouth). While there are several surgeries to correct the condition, families suffer under the emotional and economic strain, and children often require additional treatment, including complex dental care and speech therapy. Because isolated clefts occur during fetal development from disruptions in the dynamic, but still poorly understood, interplay of genes, diet, and environment, ongoing research is seeking ways to prevent or reverse the problem before a baby is born.

One course of action has been to isolate genes involved in the developmental process. Six years ago, a gene known as IRF–6 was discovered. Within the gene's structure is a sequence variant known as a single nucleotide polymorphism (SNP). Scientists recently discovered that the frequency of this SNP was significantly higher in babies born with cleft lip only.

Through this type of research, scientists can now account for about 30 percent of isolated cleft lip. Researchers supported by NIH's National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR) are working to identify the causes of cleft lip, develop better ways of treating clefts, and provide information on whether they might occur again in a family. Hopefully, better prevention strategies can also be an outcome of this work. Through continued research, American families can look forward to prevention of cleft lip and palate.

This is just one example of how the research funded with taxpayer dollars at the NIH is improving the health and well-being of all Americans.

TRIBUTE TO FRED BARON

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, today I pay tribute to the life of one of my long time friends, Fred Baron.

Widely known as one of the best trial lawyers in America, Fred Baron dedicated his life to making sure fairness was represented in the law and that the rights of the marginalized could not be trampled over. He was truly a champion of the working man, spending his whole career representing workers who had developed occupational illnesses. He was a pioneer in uncovering the harm that asbestos exposure causes.

I was most proud of Fred Baron when he advocated on behalf of several hundred children in the west Dallas section of my district who lived near a lead smelter that polluted their neighborhood. Thanks to his efforts not only were those families able to move, but the area has now been cleaned and is being made once again livable.

Fred Baron will long be known for the charitable work he and his wife were committed to. In 2002 he and his wife Lisa founded the Baron and Blue Foundation to help nonprofit organizations fight the problems of homelessness and displacement. The foundation was exceptionally helpful in helping many of the hurricane evacuees Dallas has seen in the last few years. Fred even spent many days after Hurricane Katrina consoling and counseling the victims who had made their way to Dallas, bringing them food, toiletries, and helping them out however he could.

Madam Speaker, Frederick Martin Baron is survived by his wife Lisa Blue-Baron, his son Andrew; daughter Courtney and her husband Brad Singer and their daughter Liza; daughters Alessandra, Caroline, and Nathalie; brother Robert and sister Joan; and the countless others he touched in the years he spent with us.

CONGRATULATING DR. ROHIT T. AGGARWALA AND THE CITY OF NEW YORK FOR RECEIVING THE ''FRIEND OF THE ENVIRONMENT AWARD''

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. ACKERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dr. Rohit T. Aggarwala, the Director of New York City's Office of Long-term Planning and Sustainability, within New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg's Office of Operations, for receiving the prestigious ''Friend of the Environment Award'' from the Alley Pond Environmental Center (APEC) on November 13th, 2008. APEC, located in Douglaston, Queens, is a superb educational center committed to environmental understanding and awareness. Rit, as he is known by his friends and colleagues, is at the forefront of Mayor Bloomberg's PlaNYC initiative, a sweeping sustainability plan for New York City's future.

A native of New York City, Dr. Aggarwala holds a BA, MBA, and PhD from Columbia University, as well as an MA from Queen's College in Ontario. Prior to joining the City government, Dr. Aggarwala worked at the Federal Railroad Administration, and currently chairs a subcommittee at the Transportation Research Board, which is part of the National Academy of Science. He is the author of several articles about transportation policy and about the history of New York City.

Under Rit's leadership as Director, New York City's Office of Long-term Planning and Sustainability is implementing a long-term sustainability plan to ensure New York City's continued prosperity, growth, and health. On Earth Day, 2007 the Mayor's Office of Long Term Planning and Sustainability released PlaNYC, which included 127 separate initiatives to protect New York's future, including: housing an additional 1 million New Yorkers affordably; increasing access to parks, playgrounds and open spaces; reclaiming brownfields; developing critical backup systems for the aging water network to ensure reliability; providing additional reliable power sources and upgrading existing power plants; and reducing water pollution so we can open the City's amazing waterways for recreation.

Madam Speaker, I ask all my colleagues to join me in commending Dr. Aggarwala and New York City's Office of Long-term Planning and Sustainability for all of its hard work and dedication promoting sound environmental building practices, and for helping New York City lead the world as a Green global citizen.

HONORING RYAN MICHAEL CURTIS

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Ryan Michael Curtis of Kansas City, Missouri. Ryan is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1247, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

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

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

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE RONALD G. MARMO

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. PASCRELL. Madam Speaker, I would like to call to your attention the work of a great man, Hon. Ronald G. Marmo, who will retire after more than forty-one years at the Passaic County Courthouse. He will be honored on November 17, 2008 by his friends and colleagues for his outstanding service to the community.

It is only fitting that he be honored in this, the permanent record of the greatest freely elected body on earth, for he has a long history of dedication and commitment to his community.

Judge Marmo was born in my hometown, Paterson, New Jersey, on June 8, 1942, to Tony and Rose Marmo. He grew up in the Stony Road section of Paterson, and attended St. Bonaventure Elementary School, and then went on to St. Bonaventure High School. Throughout his years at St. Bon's, he was taught by Franciscan nuns and priests, who instilled values and imparted teachings that served him well throughout his careers.

He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Rutgers University, and a Juris Doctorate degree from Seton Hall Law School. Following graduation, he served as a law clerk to the Honorable Gordon H. Brown, Judge of the Superior Court of New Jersey Criminal Division in Passaic County. Upon completion of his clerkship, he was appointed an Assistant Prosecutor in the Passaic County Prosecutor's Office. He served in that office for twenty-two years, under five different County Prosecutors. In 1970, he was designated Chief Trial Councel and in 1975 he was appointed Chief of the Trial Section, a position he held for fifteen years.

Notwithstanding his supervisory position, his primary role throughout his years with the Prosecutor's office was as a trial attorney. He served as the State's attorney in hundreds of jury trials including dozens of homicide cases. He tried two lengthy capital cases which each resulted in a jury verdict of the death penalty. He was commonly assigned the trials of the most celebrated cases. Governor Jim Florio appointed him Judge of the Superior Court of New Jersey in 1990. Judge Marmo was assigned to the Civil Division for two years, and later for two years to the Family Division. Otherwise, Judge Marmo was primarily assigned to the Criminal Division. He served for ten years as the municipal prosecutor for the Borough of North Haledon, as well as serving ten

years as the municipal prosecutor for the Borough of Ringwood, where he has resided for thirty-eight years.

Judge Marmo and his wife Pat have been blessed with two children and eight grandchildren. Their daughter, Kim Ann is married to James Martin, and they are the parents of four children, Ryan, Connor, Blake and Raegan. Their son, Michael Marmo, and his wife Christine, also have four children, Shannon, Kelly, Jennifer, and Michael.

The job of a United States Congressman involves much that is rewarding, yet nothing compares to recognizing the accomplishments of community leaders like Judge Marmo.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, Judge Marmo's family, friends, and everyone he has worked with throughout the years, and me in recognizing the outstanding and invaluable achievements of the Honorable Ronald G. Marmo.

RECOGNIZING BRIAN KELLY OF NAPA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Brian Kelly, a true pillar of the Napa Valley community. Mr. Kelly is being honored by the Napa Valley Education Foundation for his many contributions to education in our community.

Mr. Kelly is a longtime Napa resident whose life's work has been giving back to his community, especially working to advance educational opportunities for young people. He is a past treasurer and board member of the Napa Valley Education Foundation and the priority he places on education is shown on his own resume. Mr. Kelly has a BS in management from CSU Hayward, an MBA in finance from UC Berkeley, and is a graduate of the Wine Executive Program from UC Davis as well as the Advanced Management Program at the Haas School of Business.

It would be difficult to find someone more involved in his community than Brian Kelly. Whatever the community or charitable function in the Napa Valley, Mr. Kelly and his trademark bow tie are ever-present. He serves or has served on the boards of Aldea Children & Family Services, Napa County LAFCO, Napa Chamber of Commerce, Napa Valley Conference & Visitors Bureau, Napa Valley Vintners Community Health Center, Community Foundation of the Napa Valley, Hospice of Napa Valley, Napa City-County Library, Queen of the Valley Hospital, and countless others. He is also a successful businessman who is president, CEO, and founder of Charter Oak Bank in Napa.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, it is my distinct pleasure to thank Brian Kelly for his many years of service and congratulate him on this well-deserved recognition. He has been a model citizen and leader in Napa County and his presence has enriched the lives of everyone in our community. I join his wife Maggie and his daughters Kathleen, Megan and Jennifer in wishing him continued success and fulfillment.

HONORING LEE ANGELICH

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today along with Congressman RADANOVICH to congratulate Lee Angelich upon his induction into the Fresno Hall of Fame. Mr. Angelich will be honored at the 50th anniversary enshrinement dinner of the Fresno Athletic Hall of Fame on Thursday, November 6, 2008.

Lee Angelich, the youngest of five boys, was born to a Serbian immigrant family and starred in track and field in high school and college. Mr. Angelich qualified for the State Finals his senior year at Shasta High School. In his two years at Sacramento Junior College, he led the Panthers to league and state titles and in 1941 he led them to a national title. Mr. Angelich placed second in the 120 high hurdles and fifth in the high jump at the national meet. He then went on to the University of California, where in 1943 he won Pacific Coast Conference titles in the 120 high and the 220 low hurdles, and finished fifth and sixth respectively in the same events at the NCAA Championships. In 1943, Mr. Angelich joined the Navy and served as an officer on the U.S.S. *Rixey* in the Pacific. After the war, he enrolled at California State University Fresno and placed third in the West Coast Relays in the 120 high hurdles.

After completing his education Mr. Angelich began coaching. As a coach he stressed fundamentals, defense and teamwork. He guided boys' teams at Kerman High, Porterville High and Fresno High to eight league championships and an overall record of 255–76 from 1947 to 1963. His Kerman team won the Central Section small schools championship, and his Fresno High teams won forty-eight straight games at home, second best in section history. Under Mr. Angelich, Fresno High won four consecutive North Yosemite League titles (1957–1960). He is one of the rare coaches to win central Section titles in two different sports, as Fresno High captured the boys' track-and-field championship in 1957. He became one of the winningest high school basketball coaches in central section history. Additionally, after turning down a chance to coach Greece's national men's basketball team in 1959, he organized and coached the Libyan national team that participated in the North African Games in 1961.

Madam Speaker, we rise today to commend and congratulate Lee Angelich upon his achievements and induction into the Fresno Athletic Hall of Fame. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Mr. Angelich congratulations on his many accomplishments.

TRIBUTE TO WALTER J. BAMBERG

HON. TERRY EVERETT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. EVERETT. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the life and public service of long-time Montgomery, Alabama resident Mr. Walter J. Bamberg, age 78, who passed away on October 3 after a brief illness.

Walter Bamberg was an institution in central Alabama. His life epitomized public service. A U.S. Army Korean War veteran, Bamberg began his career as a Montgomery radio and television personality in the early 1950's. During his 12 years on the air, Bamberg took advantage of the space craze gripping the nation as creator and host of a popular local children's program called ''Captain Zoomar'' on WCOV–TV 20.

In 1964, Bamberg left Montgomery broadcasting to serve as Job Placement Director for the Rehabilitation Research Foundation at Draper Correctional Center in Montgomery. Five years later, he was appointed as District Director for Alabama Second District Congressman Bill Dickinson. Bamberg supervised constituent outreach duties of Congressman Dickinson's south Alabama offices for two decades. He was so effective that Dickinson tried on at least one occasion to convince Bamberg to join him in Washington, but he declined to leave Alabama and the life he enjoyed directly serving the people.

In 1989, Bamberg retired from Congressional service and was appointed by President George H. W. Bush as U.S. Marshal for the Middle Judicial District of Alabama. His responsibilities extended over 15 counties. Bamberg was also a member of the Montgomery County Republican Executive Committee.

He was active in local politics, including a run for Montgomery City Commission, and he remained engaged in community affairs after his retirement from the U.S. Marshal Service. Once cannot think of Montgomery Republican politics without thinking of him. He liked to joke that he was a Republican in Alabama when the party could hold their convention in a phone booth.

I was pleased to visit with Walter Bamberg in April while attending the funeral services for Congressman Dickinson. Barbara and I offer our condolences to his wife, Peggy, and children, David, Dale Franklin, Matt, and entire family during this time of loss. Walter Bamberg was an Alabama institution and a man of many talents. His legacy of public service lives on in the strength of the Alabama Republican party.

COMMENDING THE ROME AREA HERITAGE FOUNDATION

HON. PHIL GINGREY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. GINGREY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend the Rome Area Heritage Foundation, which in 2003 commissioned Georgia artist Suzanne Royal to paint two reproductions of a portrait of First Lady, Ellen Axson Wilson. Mrs. Wilson spent her youth in Rome, Georgia where she met, courted and later married President Woodrow Wilson. Today, she is buried in the town she always considered her home—at historic Myrtle Hill Cemetery in Rome, Georgia, in the heart of the 11th District.

The original portrait of the First Lady was a gift from Miss Martha Berry to the citizens of Rome and Floyd County to be permanently displayed in the Carnegie Library, forerunner of today's Rome Floyd County Library. One of the reproductions was donated in 2005 to the State of Georgia to hang in Georgia's Capitol.

The second reproduction was donated this week by the Rome Area Heritage Foundation to the Hargrett Rare Book and Manuscript Library at the University of Georgia, to become a centerpiece of their permanent collection. As a Georgian who holds such a prominent place in history, it is only right that Mrs. Wilson's portrait hang in the library of our state's flagship public university and I am proud of the efforts of the Rome Area Heritage Foundation to ensure this portrait is preserved and accessible to generations of Georgians to come.

This project was researched for the Foundation under the direction of Reverend Warren Jones of Rome, Georgia, and I commend the Foundation, Reverend Jones and the community of Rome for preserving the memory of one of Northwest Georgia's most distinguished citizens—and the only First Lady from Georgia's 11th District.

HONORING NICOLAS PATRICK JENKINS

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

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

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

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

HONORING STEPHEN BAKER

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today along with Congressman COSTA to congratulate Stephen Baker upon his induction into the Fresno Athletic Hall of Fame. Mr. Baker will be honored at the 50th anniversary enshrinement dinner of the Fresno Athletic Hall of Fame on Thursday, November 6, 2008.

A sportswriter once said that Stephen Baker, at 5-foot-8, 160 pounds, was built more for gymnastics than for football. But with his lightning quickness, sure hands and gritty toughness, the wide receiver earned one of the game's enduring nicknames—''the touchdown maker.'' He was given the catchy moniker at West Los Angeles College, where he scored 31 touchdowns in two seasons, before starring at California State University Fresno for two season and playing six seasons with the New York Giants (1987–1992). With the Bulldogs, he was a frequent target of NCAA record-setting quarterback Kevin Sweeney, burning opponents for sixty-two receptions, an amazing 26.3 yards per catch and sixteen touchdowns over two seasons. He closed his collegiate career by catching a thirty-six yard scoring pass that gave the West All-Stars a victory in the Japan Bowl.

Drafted in the third round by the New York Giants, Mr. Baker earned the respect of Coach Bill Parcels with his ability to elude defenders and hang onto the ball. Over the course of his NFL career, he lost just one fumble. He started fifty-three games for the Giants and finished his career with one hundred and forty-one receptions, an 18.3 yards-per-catch average and twenty-one touchdowns. His best season was 1988, when he hauled in forty passes and scored seven times. The highlight of Baker's NFL career came in Superbowl XXV, as the Giants defeated the Buffalo Bills 20–19. He caught two passes—one of them a fourteen yard touchdown pass from Jeff Hostetler with just twenty-five seconds left in the first half to cut the Giants' deficit to 12–10.

Madam Speaker, we rise today to commend and congratulate Stephen Baker upon his achievements and induction into the Fresno Athletic Hall of Fame. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Mr. Baker congratulations on his many accomplishments.

HONORING DR. PAUL FARMER FOR BEING NAMED THE 2008 GREAT BROOKSVILLIAN

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Paul Farmer, one of my most accomplished constituents and someone who was recently named the 2008 Great Brooksvillian, a yearly award presented to the most outstanding resident of Brooksville, Florida. Dr. Farmer will receive this honor during a ceremony at the Brooksville City Hall in December where area residents will gather to applaud his lifetime of service to improve health care services around the world.

Dr. Farmer is a native Brooksvillian who graduated from Hernando High School in 1978. He went on to earn his undergraduate degree from Duke University in 1982 and his M.D. and Ph.D. in 1990 from Harvard University. Today Dr. Farmer is a world renowned medical anthropologist and physician focusing on improving the health of people around the globe.

In addition to his clinical work as an attending physician in infectious diseases at the Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston, Dr. Farmer felt that it was important to make a difference in the lives of a greater segment of the world's population than just those he could see in his office. That is why he helped found an international non-profit called Partners In Health. This organization seeks to provide direct health care services and undertake medical research on behalf of those who are sick and living in poverty. Some of their notable successes have included new treatment strategies for AIDS and tuberculosis in underserved nations, saving many lives and improving the overall quality of health care delivered to millions.

Dr. Farmer has been recognized for his work by some of the most prestigious medical organizations around the world, including Duke University, the Salk Institute and the American Medical Association. An author or co-author of over 100 scholarly publications, Dr. Farmer has also been recognized with a ''genius award'' by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation for his work finding solutions to infectious disease.

Madam Speaker, men and women like Dr. Paul Farmer are the ones truly making a difference in the world with their dedication and commitment to helping others. While awards from prestigious worldwide organizations are surely nice to receive, it is truly an honor to be recognized by your hometown friends and family. I know that Dr. Farmer's story will serve as an inspiration to other Brooksvillians, and I am proud to know that one of my constituents is helping so many people live better and healthier lives.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. WOODFIN K. GROVE

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I would like to request the House's attention today to pay recognition to a special day in the life of a constituent of mine, Mr. Woodfin K. Grove.

On October 23rd, Mr. Grove will celebrate his 90th birthday. To help commemorate this special occasion, his friends and church family are surprising him with a dinner at The Bridge at First United Methodist Church in Anniston, Alabama, on October 22nd.

Woodfin K. Grove was born in Birmingham, Alabama, and was an only child. He graduated from Ensley High School and Birmingham Southern, both located in Birmingham. He received his degree in Theology from Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia. Mr. Grove married Dorothy Rowland with whom he had one daughter, Ann, and one grandson, John.

Today Mr. Grove is loved by everyone. He is known for his good advice to those around him and serves as a wise leader in his church. He and his wife, Dot, both are young at heart and have been known to ride around Anniston on his motorcycle or in his sports car. They attend First United Methodist Church in Anniston where he became Pastor Emeritus in 2001.

I would like to congratulate Mr. Grove on reaching this important milestone in his life. I wish him a happy birthday and the best in the future.

HONORING GAIL MALLARD-WARREN, M.D.

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dr. Gail Mallard-Warren upon being awarded the ''Community Health Champions Award'' at the 2008 West Fresno Health Care Coalition's 4th annual ''This is

Your Life of Service'' dinner and award ceremony. This year the ceremony will be held at the Radisson Hotel Conference Center in Fresno, California, on Friday, October 24th.

Dr. Mallard-Warren grew up in the projects of Oakland, California. Both of her parents were educators and realized the importance of their children obtaining a higher education. Her family moved to East Oakland, but she was bussed to Skyline High School; a school that provided the academic courses that she would need to get into college. Upon graduating from Skyline, Dr. Mallard-Warren attended the University of California, Riverside, where she earned her degree in biology. In 1979, she earned her medical doctorate from the School of Medicine at University of California, Davis.

After graduating from medical school, Dr. Mallard-Warren moved to Fresno, California, and received her training in obstetrics/gynecology at Valley Medical Center. In 1983 she opened her first private practice and today has multiple offices in Fresno. In addition to her private practice, she has made a habit of serving uninsured and underinsured OB/GYN patients over the span of her career. She has worked with Black Infant Health, an organization that provides health education, health promotion, social support and service coordination to pregnant and parenting African-American adult women. Through this program she has diligently worked toward lowering the instances of infant mortality in the most impoverished areas of Fresno and assisted in contributing to the well-being of this underserved community. She also participates in the Liga Doctors of Mercy, a nonprofit organization that has been providing free health care and education to the people of Sinaloa, Mexico, since 1934.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Dr. Gail Mallard-Warren upon being awarded the ''Community Health Champions Award''. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Dr. Mallard-Warren many years of continued success.

INTRODUCING THE CRITICAL ELECTION INFRASTRUCTURE ACT OF 2008

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Critical Election Infrastructure Act of 2008.

This legislation is a necessary and vital investment in the future of our democracy. This bill authorizes $1 billion over the next four years for states and local governments to upgrade existing election equipment and to purchase new polling equipment to meet the needs of our growing electorate. Funding could also be used to hire and train additional poll workers.

Madam Speaker, roughly 130 million votes were cast in this past election. This is an astounding number and emblematic of increased participation in our election system, particularly by minorities and young people. But while increased turnout is for democracy, in some parts of the country it caused undue difficulties.

For example, throughout south Florida and other parts of the country, hundreds of thousands of voters found themselves waiting in interminable lines, sometimes for over five hours. Five hours! Forced to stand in the heat and during Florida's famous afternoon thunderstorms with little food and water, voters are to be commended for their commitment to exercising their right to vote. But voting should not be this hard.

Election officials simply do not have enough equipment and trained personnel on the ground to speedily and effectively handle such large numbers of voters. Even though early voting in Florida took place over a 10-day period, these five-hour-long lines persisted throughout the state virtually every day. Clearly, what is needed is more: more polling booths, more trained workers, more equipment, even more polling locations and facilities to handle increasing numbers of voters. This bill authorizes the funding to upgrade existing technology, provide more polling booths, and hire and train more poll workers, reducing long lines and facilitating greater speed and efficiency for voters

Madam Speaker, voting should not be a right granted only to those who can stand in line the longest or can go the longest without food or a bathroom break. Voting is the sacred right of all eligible citizens. We have a solemn responsibility to ensure the greatest possible access to exercise that right. Authorizing funding for the necessary equipment and personnel is an essential first step in that process. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

IN MEMORY OF GENERAL ROBERT H. BARROW

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, it is with deep sadness that I inform the House of the death of a true gentleman, General Robert H. Barrow, United States Marine Corps, Retired—the 27th Commandant of the Marine Corps.

General Barrow was born in 1922 in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. He graduated high school in 1939 and enrolled at Louisiana State University. In March 1942, he enlisted in the Platoon Leader's Class Program. He left school in the fall of 1942 and went to boot camp in San Diego, staying on after graduation as a drill instructor. Selected for Officer Candidate School, he left San Diego for Quantico in March 1943; and in May 1943, he was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Marines.

After officer training, he was assigned to Marine Barracks, Naval Ammunition Depot, New Orleans. He was reassigned in February 1944 to the 51st Replacement Battalion in Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. During the last seven months of World War II, he led an American team serving with Chinese guerrilla forces in Japanese occupied Central China. He was awarded the Bronze Star.

After World War II, he served as Aide de Camp to the Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force, Atlantic. He completed Amphibious Warfare School, Junior Course in June 1949, and was transferred to the 2d Marine Division at Camp Lejeune. He was given command of Company A, 1st Battalion, 2d Marines.

At the beginning of the Korean War, his company was transferred to Camp Pendleton and redesignated Company A, 1st Battalion, 1st Marines, 1st Marine Division. He led Able Company ashore at Inchon in September 1950. For his leadership in the fighting on the outskirts of Seoul, he received the Silver Star. During the Chosin Reservoir Campaign, he was awarded the Navy Cross for the seizure and defense of Hill 1081 from 9–10 December 1950.

After the Korean War, he was reassigned as Officer-in-Charge, Infantry Desk, Enlisted Assignments, Headquarters Marine Corps. From there he was detailed out and sent on a classified assignment to the Far East, north of Taiwan. He returned to Headquarters Marine Corps, this time to the G–3.

In February 1956, he returned to Camp Lejeune, where he served first as operations officer and then executive officer of 2d Battalion, 6th Marines. He joined the NROTC unit at Tulane University in 1957, and served as Marine Officer Instructor for three years. Returning to Quantico, he completed a tour with the Landing Force Development Center and attended the Officer's Senior Course in 1963. He left for another tour in the Pacific, where he served as G–3, III Marine Expeditionary Force, then G–3 Plans Officer at Fleet Marine Force Pacific in Hawaii.

Attendance at the National War College followed, and upon graduation in 1968, he arrived in South Vietnam to take command of 9th Marines, 3d Marine Division. The regiment conducted a series of highly successful operations south of the western part of the Demilitarized Zone and in the Khe Sanh and Ba Long Valley areas. For his valor during Operation Dewey Canyon from 22 January to 18 March 1969, he received the Distinguished Service Cross.

He was promoted to brigadier general in August 1969 by General Leonard F. Chapman, 24th Commandant of the Marine Corps. General Barrow's first tour as a general officer was Commanding General, Marine Corps Base, Camp Butler, Okinawa, where he served for three years. He then served as Commanding General, Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, South Carolina for 32 months.

In July 1975, he was assigned as Deputy Chief of Staff for Manpower, Headquarters Marine Corps. The following year, he became Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force Atlantic, Norfolk, Virginia. He was Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps from July 1978 until a year later when he assumed the office as Commandant. Befitting his reputation and stature, when General Barrow stepped down as 27th Commandant of the Marine Corps in June 1983, President Ronald Reagan presided over the ceremony at Marine Barracks, Washington, D.C. General Barrow returned to Louisiana, where he lived in retirement.

General Barrow's medals and decorations include the Navy Cross, Defense Distinguished Service Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, Department of the Army Distinguished Service Cross, Distinguished Service Medal, Silver Star, three Legions of Merit, two Bronze Stars, and the Combat Action Ribbon.

Madam Speaker, General Barrow was an outstanding Marine and an exceptional American leader. I know the members of the House

will join me in extending heartfelt condolences to his family, his friends, and to all Marines. He will be greatly missed.

TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF PENNSYLVANIA LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR CATHERINE BAKER KNOLL

HON. JOHN P. MURTHA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. MURTHA. Madam Speaker, on November 12, 2008, Pennsylvania Lieutenant Governor Catherine Baker Knoll succumbed to a four month long battle with neuroendocrine cancer.

I've known Catherine for 30 years. She was a remarkable woman who never stopped fighting to better our Commonwealth and to improve the lives of Pennsylvanians. She was one of the most hard-working and determined individuals to ever serve in state government, and her passion and dedication to both the Democratic Party and to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania was unparalleled.

Catherine was a transformational figure—one of the first women to run for statewide office, she served as Pennsylvania State Treasurer (1989–1997) and later became the first woman to serve as Pennsylvania Lieutenant Governor (2003–2008). She never stopped fighting for what she believed in, and this determination placed her at the forefront of so many important issues.

Catherine's kindness and friendship touched the lives of many. Over the past few months, people from all across Pennsylvania asked me how she was doing, and how she was coping with the disease. I reminded them that Catherine Baker Knoll was made of ''steel'' and that she was fighting this disease with the same strength and fortitude she fought every other challenge in life.

Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the career and life of someone who devoted both to serving the interests of her fellow Pennsylvanians. I rise to thank and commend her four children, Charles, Mina, Albert, and Kim Eric, for always being by her side and giving her constant strength.

Madam Speaker, all of us will miss the friendship and great leadership of Pennsylvania Lieutenant Governor Catherine Baker Knoll.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 110TH ANNIVERSARY OF PEOPLES BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I would like to request the House's attention today to pay recognition to a special day in the life of the congregation of the Peoples Baptist Church in Montgomery, Alabama.

On November 24th, Peoples Baptist Church will celebrate its 110th anniversary. The church was first organized in 1898 under Rev. Pradd who served as the pastor until 1925. The church moved to several locations over the years including the campus of Alabama State University.

In September of 2008, the church moved to its new location on Dorchester Drive in Montgomery. The new building was built under the leadership of the church's fifth pastor, Paul L. Boswell, who served the church for 32 years. The congregation works to carry the ''torch of building up God's kingdom one brick at a time.''

Today the church celebrates their 110th Anniversary and is blessed to now be under the leadership of their new and sixth pastor, Victor Lewis, Sr.

I would like to congratulate Peoples Baptist Church on reaching this important milestone.

HONORING MATTHEW CHARLES GARCIA

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Matthew Charles Garcia of Kansas City, Missouri. Matthew is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1357, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

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

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

HONORING SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY SUPERVISOR DENNIS HANSBERGER FOR HIS DECADES OF PUBLIC SERVICE

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. LEWIS of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a good friend and longtime leader in my community, San Bernardino County Supervisor Dennis Hansberger, who is leaving office this year after more than 20 years in public service.

While he was a young businessman in 1968, Dennis Hansberger was selected as a field representative and executive assistant by then-County Supervisor Donald Beckford. When his boss decided not to run for re-election, Mr. Hansberger mounted a successful campaign and won election to the county board in 1972.

Dennis Hansberger quickly revealed his strong leadership capabilities, and was chosen as chairman of the board by his fellow supervisors in 1974—becoming the youngest chairman in the state and the youngest in San Bernardino County history. When the legislature created the South Coast Air Quality Management District, Supervisor Hansberger became a founding board member of that ground-breaking agency.

After 2 successful terms, Mr. Hansberger decided to take a hiatus from elected office and went into private business as a well-respected consultant on land management and mining issues. He remained extremely active in public service, however, serving for 3 years as Chairman on the Redlands Community Hospital's Board, as well as on the Board of Counselors of the California State University in California, the Foundation Board of the San Bernardino County Museum, the Inland Empire Council of the Boy Scouts of America, and the Capital Projects Committee of the Girl Scouts of America.

Mr. Hansberger was again elected to the Board of Supervisors in 1996, and has been at the forefront of many of the major issues faced by the county in the past 12 years. Faced with the closure of Norton Air Force Base, Supervisor Hansberger has been a leader in seeking ways to replace the 12,000 jobs lost. He served as chairman of the Inland Valley Development Authority, a joint effort of the county and cities surrounding the base. By working as a team, the communities have brought about a complete makeover of the former base into a new airport, supporting major businesses that have brought thousands of new jobs to the area.

Five years ago, San Bernardino County was confronted with an even more dire problem—millions of trees were dying around mountain communities and creating a grave fire danger for tens of thousands of residents. As the supervisor representing the area, Dennis Hansberger pushed county officials to create the Mountain Area Safety Taskforce and work with residents on an evacuation plan. The plan's effectiveness was demonstrated when nearly 50,000 residents were evacuated with no serious injury during terrible wildfires the following year. Mr. Hansberger has since led the county in cutting down more than a million trees and significantly reducing the fire danger.

Madam Speaker, as you can see, Dennis Hansberger has been a leader in improving the economy and safety for San Bernardino County residents. Please join me in thanking him for his decades of public service, and wishing the best to him and his wife Karen in all of their future endeavors.

HONORING THE HONORABLE WILLIAM R. DYSON FOR HIS OUTSTANDING PUBLIC SERVICE

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to rise today to join the New Haven Democratic Town Committee and all of those gathered this evening in paying tribute to one of New Haven's most outstanding public servants and my good friend, State Representative William R. Dyson. After 32 years of dedicated service, Bill has decided to step down as State Representative from Connecticut's 94th Assembly District. This evening, friends, family, community leaders, and colleagues extend

our deepest thanks and appreciation to Bill as he brings his career in state government to an end.

Visionary, community leader, activist, teacher, advocate, mentor, and friend are just some of the descriptions one could use for Bill Dyson. He is one of those rare individuals who has dedicated a lifetime to public service. As an educator and one of Connecticut's most respected lawmakers, Bill has been a powerful voice in the State legislature as well as in the New Haven Public School system.

In the more than 3 decades that Bill served in Connecticut's House of Representatives, Bill has served on a variety of committees and caucuses including many years as the chairman of the Appropriations Committee. He has been a champion of the arts, securing funding which has helped New Haven's rich arts community to flourish and is perhaps best known for his leadership on issues dealing with children, ex-offenders and the mentally ill as his work on their behalf has translated into meaningful public policy.

During his tenure he was often the strong voice of reason in what at times could be a chaotic session. I have no doubt that his colleagues will long remember his booming voice—commanding their attention and calling for common sense dialogue. His straight-forward, no nonsense attitude garnered him the respect of his colleagues and constituents alike. Bill is a reflection of all that we hope our political leaders will be and his presence at the Capitol will certainly be missed.

I must also take this opportunity to thank Bill for his many years of special friendship—one which harkens back to my own service in city government. Bill is an extraordinary man whose impact on our community and our public policy cannot be understated. He has left an indelible mark and a legacy—both political and personal—that is sure to inspire many generations to come.

It is for these reasons and countless more that I am honored to stand today to pay tribute to my dear friend, the Honorable William R. Dyson, as he is recognized by the New Haven community for his outstanding contributions. He is one-of-a-kind and I wish him many more years of health and happiness as he enjoys his retirement.

RECOGNIZING HOWARD JAMES STRICKLER OF LAKE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Chief Howard Strickler on the occasion of his retirement from the Kelseyville Fire Protection District of Lake County, California after 32 years of service, 28 of them as Fire Chief. Chief Strickler's leadership will be truly missed by his colleagues and the people of Lake County.

Chief Strickler is a native son, graduating from Kelseyville High School in 1967. His career in public service began in the U.S. Army, where he served from 1970–1973. After his discharge, he worked with the White House Communications Agency before coming home and joining the Fire Protection District.

Chief Strickler has lived in Kelseyville for 47 years and has done more than perhaps anyone else over that time to keep Lake County residents safe. During his tenure he was instrumental in the implementation of the county's first paramedic program as well the first countywide Hazardous Materials Response Team. He also helped develop a 911 First Responder Agreement that is now used by all fire departments, EMS and law enforcement agencies in the county.

Chief Strickler has earned the undying admiration of all who have worked for him and with him. To a person, they describe Chief Strickler as the consummate leader, someone who instills confidence in everyone around him and whose compassion and love for the community shines through. He is a family man whose quiet sense of humor and listening skills always made his employees feel comfortable and at home. He will be missed a great deal.

Madam Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to recognize Chief Howard Strickler for his many years of service to Kelseyville and all of Lake County, California, and to thank him for his many contributions on behalf of our country and his community. I join his wife, Debbie, his two children, and five grandchildren in wishing him the best as he enters this new phase of his life.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I received as part of the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act (H.R. 2638):

Requesting member: Ron Paul.

Bill number: H.R. 2638.

Account: Rdt&E Defense Health Program.

Legal name of requesting entity: Gulf Chemical and Metallurgical Corporation.

Address of requesting entity: PO Box 2290, 302 Midway Road, Freeport, TX 77542–2290.

Description of request: The project earmarks $3,000,000 for a Department of Defense lead study of vanadium to assess the health safety and risks of military and civilian workers exposed to vanadium through work in military applications.

HONORING DR. PETER G. MEHAS

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today along with Congressman RADANOVICH to congratulate Dr. Peter Mehas upon his induction into the Fresno Athletic Hall of Fame. Dr. Mehas was honored at the 50th anniversary enshrinement dinner of the Fresno Athletic Hall of Fame on Thursday, November 6, 2008.

Peter Mehas' love of sports was nurtured during his childhood, as he shagged baseballs as a bat boy for the Fresno Cardinals at Eulless Park. Although he never considered himself a great athlete, Dr. Mehas was an All-American center/linebacker at Fresno City College, and a member of the 1961 California State University, Fresno Mercy Bowl team. After graduating from California State University, Fresno, Dr. Mehas coached the football, soccer and tennis teams at Roosevelt High School. His tennis teams won five straight North Yosemite League titles.

After receiving his masters degree, and coaching football at University of California, Los Angeles, Dr. Mehas returned to Fresno where he taught and coached future Fresno Hall of Famers Charle Young and Charles Anthony, both football players at Edison High School. Dr. Mehas moved into administration for Clovis Unified School District, and assisted in the development of many programs and facilities; including Clovis High School's Lamonica Stadium and the Clovis West High School Olympic Swim Complex. He earned his doctorate in Education from the University of Southern California in 1979.

Dr. Mehas has served as the Fresno Athletic Hall of Fame president for 15 years. At the time of his induction, his professional and civic career is a notable example of applying the lessons learned in athletics to other endeavors. Under his leadership, the Hall of Fame expanded on its mission of honoring the Valley's greatest sports heroes and inspiring youngsters to follow in their footsteps. He also has been instrumental in expanding athletic opportunities for women.

Politics came next as Dr. Mehas served as Governor George Deukmejian's secretary of education and a trustee for the State Board of Education and California's Community Colleges. In 1990, he was elected to the first of four terms as the Fresno County superintendent of schools. In 2007, he was appointed to the California State University board of trustees.

Madam Speaker, we rise today to commend and congratulate Dr. Peter Mehas upon his achievements and induction into the Fresno Athletic Hall of Fame. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Dr. Mehas congratulations on his many accomplishments.

RECOGNIZING JAMES P. CHITWOOD UPON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it is an honor for me to rise today in recognition of James P. Chitwood upon his retirement as the Executive Director of the College Advancement and Foundation for Northwest Florida State College.

As executive director of the College Advancement and Foundation for Northwest Florida State College, an organization that provides educational and charitable aid to the Northwest Florida State College, Mr. Chitwood has greatly expanded the fundraising abilities of the school and has helped it obtain the sixth greatest endowment among community colleges in the United States.

Over the past 20 years, the Foundation for Northwest Florida State College, under the direction of Mr. Chitwood, has evolved into an

outstanding institution that greatly promotes education. In just 20 years, the foundation's assets grew by over $45 million and created some of the most notable foundations and buildings in the area. The expansion of the Chautauqua Center in DeFuniak Springs was one of the first projects undertaken by the organization. Its success was followed by the construction of the Robert L. F. Sikes Center in Crestview, Florida, and the South Walton Center in Santa Rosa Beach, Florida. The foundation also launched the Arts Center Endowment Campaign and, when the college's focus shifted to health programs, the foundation began the Nursing and Health Technology Campaign.

For many years to come, the Northwest Florida community will continue to benefit from the lasting impression made by Mr. Chitwood. His inspiring involvement in the community and dedication to expanding education has provided infinite opportunities to the surrounding area. Though retirement will signal the end of Mr. Chitwood's formal career with the Northwest Florida State College, it is merely the beginning of the lasting legacy that he leaves behind.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am proud to recognize James P. Chitwood upon his retirement and for his exemplary service in the First District of Florida.

HONORING MARK LEHN BALDWIN III

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

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

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

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

HONORING 1998 CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO, SOFTBALL TEAM MEMBERS

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today along with Congressman COSTA to congratulate the 1998 California State University, Fresno, Softball Team upon its induction into the Fresno Athletic Hall of Fame. The team members and coaches will be honored at the 50th anniversary enshrinement dinner of the Fresno Athletic Hall of Fame on Thursday, November 6, 2008.

On a hot day in late May 1998, second baseman Nina Lindenberg sent the first pitch in the bottom of the sixth inning over the left-field fence and the Lady Bulldogs into history. The home run off Arizona ace, Nancy Evans, was Lindenberg's 13th of the season, gave the Bulldogs a 1–0 lead in the championship game at Hall of Fame Stadium in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. The Women's College Softball World Series Most Valuable Player, Amanda Scott, then polished off a three-hit shutout, and the Wildcats, as California State University, Fresno, claimed its first NCAA Division I team championship in any sport.

The 1–0 victory capped a magical season for Head Coach Margie Wright's Bulldogs, who started the season with a 2–2 record and finished with 52 wins 11 loses. The season was highlighted by 4 wins and 1 loss in the Women's College World Series (WCWS) with victories over Nebraska, Michigan, Washington and top-ranked Arizona. The national title was a united effort as four Bulldogs made the All-Women's College World Series team: outfielder Laura Berg, first baseman Angela Cervantez, Nina Lindenberg and Amanda Scott. The Bulldogs captivated all of the San Joaquin Valley as their games were aired on local radio and ESPN. Seeded seventh in the field, they arrived in Oklahoma City determined to win the title for a school that had finished second in the WCWS four times.

The team was led throughout the year by a pitching staff that included Amanda Scott (25–4, 0.79 ERA) and Lindsay Parker (21–4, 1.54 ERA) and a balanced hitting attack keyed by Laura Berg (.458 batting average, 72 runs), Nina Lindenberg (.449, 77 RBI), outfielder Becky Witt (.392, 69 runs) and Amanda Scott (14 home runs, 72 RBI). The team included: OF Laura Berg, 1B Angela Cervantez, 2B Nina Lindenberg, Lindsay Parker, P Amanda Scott, Becky Witt, OF Candice Bowlin, OF Kara Campbell, SS Alicia Dowland, C/1B Jennifer Jokinen, 3B Jaime Maxey, P Kim Peck, C Jennifer Slaney, C Janna Todd, 1B Vanessa Valenzuela, C Amber Wall, C Carolyn Wilson, OF Daviana Wisener. The coaching staff was headed by Margie Wright, assisted by Margaret Sutter and Mary Ivy. Also involved with the team was Maribel Campos, manager, and Andrew Weeks, trainer.

Madam Speaker, we rise today to commend and congratulate 1998 California State University, Fresno, Softball Team upon its achievements and induction into the Fresno Athletic Hall of Fame. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing the 1998 Fresno State Softball Team congratulations on its many accomplishments.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. THOMAS E. PETRI

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. PETRI. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding an earmark I received as part of H.R. 2638—The Consolidated Security, Disaster Assistance, and Continuing Appropriations Act, 2009:

Requesting Member: The Honorable THOMAS E. PETRI.

Bill Number: H.R. 2638—The Consolidated Security, Disaster Assistance, and Continuing Appropriations Act, 2009.

Account: Army Operations & Maintenance, Operating Forces 115 Land Forces, Operations Support Account.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Deere & Company—World Headquarters.

Address of Requesting Entity: One John Deere Place, Moline, IL 61265.

Description of Request: Provide $3,200,000 to complete the manufacturing of approximately 215 Light-weight Tactical Utility Vehicles at John Deere Horicon Works in Horicon, Wisconsin. (Joint request with Representative MIKE MCINTYRE of North Carolina.) The Light-weight Tactical Utility Vehicle is a rugged, air droppable, highly mobile diesel-powered tactical utility vehicle to expedite casualty evacuation and resupply activities of Corps units. They have been heavily utilized during Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom. This request is consistent with the intended purpose of the Department of Defense, Army Operations and Maintenance account.

IN HONOR OF THOMAS V. FUENTES

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the accomplishments of Thomas V. Fuentes, who is retiring after 25 years of service in the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Throughout his career with the FBI he has served his country with honor and integrity.

Mr. Fuentes began his distinguished career with the Bureau in 1979 as a Special Agent in the Chicago Field Office. Serving in this office for over 10 years, Mr. Fuentes led the fight against organized crime and mob corruption. As an Organized Crime Task Force supervisor, his efforts were instrumental in bringing countless Chicago criminals to justice. I had the privilege of serving with Mr. Fuentes in the Chicago Field Office and witnessed firsthand his tremendous skill and dedication.

Mr. Fuentes was promoted to FBI Headquarters in 1990 as a supervisor in the Organized Crime Section. As a result of his continued success against organized crime targets, Mr. Fuentes was eventually appointed as the assistant special agent in charge of the San Francisco Field Office. There he established the International Cybercrime Squad and was selected to serve as an FBI tactical commander at the 1996 Summer Olympics in Atlanta, Georgia.

In August 1997, Mr. Fuentes was promoted to the Senior Executive Service as the chief of the Organized Crime Section at FBI Headquarters. Among his many ground-breaking law enforcement initiatives, Mr. Fuentes created the Organized Crime Task Force consisting of FBI Agents and Hungarian National Police Officers in Budapest, Hungary—the first such multinational organized crime task force of its kind in the FBI.

Mr. Fuentes' extraordinary career with the FBI has been marked by his transformational

work to strengthen international law enforcement cooperation. In 2004, Mr. Fuentes was called upon to lead the FBI's Office of International Operations where he was eventually promoted to Assistant Director and managed more than 75 FBI offices in U.S. Embassies and U.S. Consulates worldwide. His skilled leadership, both within the Bureau and international law enforcement agencies, resulted in election to the Executive Committee of Interpol, where he served as a delegate for the Americas in 2006. To the end of his service with the Bureau, Mr. Fuentes continued to establish innovative international working groups such as the recently established FBI/Ministry of Public Security of the Peoples Republic of China Working Group.

Mr. Fuentes' relentless hard work and dedication was recognized numerous times as evidenced by his outstanding law enforcement record and repeated promotions within the Bureau. His years of service brought fundamental change to the FBI's work on organized crime and international law enforcement cooperation. Throughout his career he has exemplified the FBI's motto of Fidelity, Bravery, and Integrity by serving and protecting the citizens of the United States of America and people across the world. I am proud to know this remarkable public servant.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Thomas V. Fuentes for his model service to United States law enforcement and his commitment to his country. He is truly deserving of our respect and admiration.

HONORING THE LIFE OF SCOTTY MENDOZA

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I rise with sadness today to honor Scotty Mendoza, who passed away on August 15, 2008, at the age of 88. Scotty was the matriarch of the ranching community around the Point Reyes Peninsula in Marin County, California, and a highly respected leader to the townsfolk. She led by passion and example, filling needs as she saw them and creating many local traditions in the process.

Born Doris Scott in Woodland, California, she used the nickname Scotty bestowed on her by one of her early teachers. She met Joe Mendoza, a student at nearby U.C. Davis, while working at the soda fountain at the Woodland Hotel. They were married in 1941, moving shortly afterward to the family ranch on the Point Reyes Peninsula which had been purchased by Joe's father in 1899. She was a partner in the ranch with Joe her whole life, from doing the accounting to cooking for the many ranch hands.

Scotty was many things—outspoken, funny, energetic, and hardworking. But mostly she will be remembered for how much she cared for people, especially children. While doting on her own family, she also championed other children and was known as Grandma Scotty to many. She was a 4–H leader for 40 years, teaching sewing to generations of girls, and founded the Inverness Garden Club Scholarship fund to raise money for local students to attend college.

In 1949, Scotty and Joe joined with other ranching families to start Western Weekend, still the major community celebration in the Point Reyes area. It highlights the work of local 4–H groups and also includes a big parade that fills the town's Main Street. The parade features the Western Weekend Queen, based on a contest Scotty started to help sell raffle tickets for the event.

It is hard to imagine how the community we see today would look without Scotty's participation in the many local organizations she was involved in: as a founder of West Marin Senior Services and the Inverness Garden Club, as a volunteer and organizer of the Jack Mason History Museum, and as a supporter in many others where her behind-the-scenes work was always appreciated.

Scotty is survived by her husband Joe, daughter and son-in-law Sharon and Steve Doughty, sons and daughters-in-law, Joey and Linda Mendoza and James and Luci Mendoza, seven grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren (whom she called ''the eight greats'').

Madam Speaker, Scotty Mendoza truly exemplifies the compassionate, can-do community spirit that becomes the fabric for our lives. It is an honor for me to have known her, her husband Joe, and many of her family. We'll miss you, Scotty.

TRIBUTE TO MAYOR JEFF MILLER

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication and contributions to the community of Corona, California are exceptional. Corona has been fortunate to have dynamic and dedicated community leaders who willingly and unselfishly give their time and talent and make their communities a better place to live and work. Jeff Miller is one of these individuals. On November 4, 2008, Jeff was elected to serve as the Assemblyman for the 71st California Assembly District and I congratulate Jeff as he moves to the next stage of public service.

Jeff Miller was elected to his first term on the Corona City Council in November of 2000 and currently serves as Mayor. He was reelected and served as Mayor in 2004. Mayor Miller is a member of the Council's Transportation & Legislative Committee and he also represents the Council on the Riverside County Transportation Commission (RCTC). He is also currently Chairman of the 91 Freeway Toll Road Advisory Committee.

Jeff Miller is an active member of the Corona community. He is Vice President of the Corona Heritage Foundation, a Governing Board member of Corona Regional Medical Center, a Board member of the Corona/Norco YMCA, founder and member of the Riverside County Young Republicans and a past member of the City's Parks and Recreation Commission. Jeff is currently Chairman of the Riverside County Republican Party.

Jeff Miller, and his wife Debora, have two children. Jeff has owned an insurance company for 22 years and has an office in Corona. He graduated from the California State University in Fullerton and holds a degree in Criminal Justice.

Jeff's tireless passion for community service has contributed immensely to the betterment of the community of Corona, California. I am proud to call Jeff a fellow community member, American and friend. I know that many community members are grateful for his service and salute him as he takes office as a California Assemblyman.

40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NORTH STAR CHAPTER OF THE SIERRA CLUB

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the North Star Chapter of the Sierra Club on 40 years of protecting and restoring Minnesota's proud natural legacy.

The Sierra Club is one of America's most influential environmental organizations, and Minnesota's North Star Chapter is among the oldest and most active in the country. I commend the North Star Chapter on its history of policy achievements and success in mobilizing our communities to action. By engaging citizens in grassroots advocacy, they have worked to deliver essential environmental victories at the state and national level.

The environmental and conservation challenges facing the planet today are great. A changing climate, rapid loss of habitat, and deepening fossil fuel dependence will require citizens to become involved in making the change we need on an unprecedented scale. During my time in Congress, members of the North Star Chapter have been valuable partners in defending against a series of assaults on federal environmental protections. Now as we look toward the start of the next Congress and the support of a new Administration, we have the opportunity to restore America's global leadership on environmental policy while advancing a ''green'' revolution here at home. I look forward to continuing our shared fight for environmental protection and restoration in the years ahead.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. TERRY EVERETT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. EVERETT. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I submit the following information regarding one earmark I received as part of H.R. 2638, the Consolidated Security, Disaster Assistance, and Continuing Appropriations Act (P.L. 110–329).

Requesting Member: Congressman TERRY EVERETT.

Bill Number: H.R. 2638, the Consolidated Security, Disaster Assistance and Continuing Appropriations Act.

Account: Research, Development, Test and Evaluation (RDTE), U.S. Army.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Lockheed Martin.

Address of Requesting Entity: Pike County, Alabama.

Description of Request: The Close Combat Missile System Modernization for Javelin earmark funding is for $3,700,000. This funding will help the Army meet its requirements in the Concept Development doctrine stating that the Javelin missile be modernized to meet modern and irregular warfare needs. The modernization addresses known obsolescence issues such as parts replacement and decreasing inventory levels.

Javelin has been in production since 1994. This modernization program will move the missile closer to its objective performance standard, while maintaining cost effective production levels and help sustain the industrial base.

The funding is to be used to evolve Javelin capabilities and address the requirements stated in the Joint Service Operational Requirement for Advanced Anti-Armor Weapons Systems-Medium.

HONORING CHRISTOPHER MICHAEL WHITED

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Christopher Michael Whited of Blue Springs, MO. Christopher is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1813, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

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

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

HONORING 1998 CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO SOFTBALL TEAM MEMBERS

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today along with Congressman RADANOVICH to congratulate the 1998 California State University, Fresno Softball Team upon it's induction into the Fresno Athletic Hall of Fame. The team members and coaches will be honored at the 50th anniversary enshrinement dinner of the Fresno Athletic Hall of Fame on Thursday, November 6, 2008.

On a hot day in late May 1998, second baseman Nina Lindenberg sent the first pitch in the bottom of the sixth inning over the left-field fence and the Lady Bulldogs into history. The home run off Arizona ace, Nancy Evans, was Lindenberg's thirteenth of the season, gave the Bulldogs a 1–0 lead in the championship game at Hall of Fame Stadium in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. The Women's College Softball World Series Most Valuable Player, Amanda Scott, then polished off a three-hit shutout, and the Wildcats, as California State University, Fresno claimed its first NCAA Division I team championship in any sport.

The 1–0 victory capped a magical season for Head Coach Margie Wright's Bulldogs, who started the season with a 2–2 record and finished with 52 wins 11 loses. The season was highlighted by 4 wins and 1 loss in the Women's College World Series, WCWS, with victories over Nebraska, Michigan, Washington and top-ranked Arizona. The national title was a united effort as four Bulldogs made the All-Women's College World Series team: outfielder Laura Berg, first baseman Angela Cervantez, Nina Lindenberg and Amanda Scott. The Bulldogs captivated all of the San Joaquin Valley as their games were aired on local radio and ESPN. Seeded seventh in the field, they arrived in Oklahoma City determined to win the title for a school that had finished second in the WCWS four times.

The team was led throughout the year by a pitching staff that included Amanda Scott (25–4, 0.79 ERA) and Lindsay Parker (21–4, 1.54 ERA) and a balanced hitting attack keyed by Laura Berg (.458 batting average, 72 runs), Nina Lindenberg (.449, 77 RBI), outfielder Becky Witt (.392, 69 runs) and Amanda Scott (14 home runs, 72 RBI). The team included; OF Laura Berg, 1B Angela Cervantez, 2B Nina Lindenberg, Lindsay Parker, P Amanda Scott, Becky Witt, OF Candice Bowlin, OF Kara Campbell, SS Alicia Dowland, C/1B Jennifer Jokinen, 3B Jaime Maxey, P Kim Peck, C Jennifer Slaney, C Janna Todd, I B Vanessa Valenzuela, C Amber Wall, C Carolyn Wilson, OF Daviana Wisener. The coaching staff was headed by Margie Wright, assisted by Margaret Sutter and Mary Ivy. Also involved with the team was Maribel Campos, manager and Andrew Weeks, trainer.

Madam Speaker, we rise today to commend and congratulate 1998 California State University, Fresno Softball Team upon its achievements and induction into the Fresno Athletic Hall of Fame. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing the 1998 Fresno State Softball Team congratulations on its many accomplishments.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. GARY G. MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmark's, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 2638, Title VIII:

Requesting Members—Congressman GARY G. MILLER.

Bill Number: H.R. 2638.

Bill Section: Title VIII, Disclosure of Earmarks and Congressionally Directed Spending Items.

Account: Other Procurement Navy PE#024428N, Aegis Support Equipment.

Amount: $4,000,000.

Description of Request: Sabtech Industries (23231 La Palma Ave, Yorba Linda, CA 92887) requested continued project funding on behalf of the United States Navy, Program Executive Office Ships. Funding will be used to modernize Commercial Off-the-Shelf (COTS) based peripheral emulators. The project is located at the Naval Surface Warfare Center, Dahlgren Virginia. The Systems Engineer for Combat Systems Simulation and Warfare Systems at Naval Surface Warfare Center, Dahlgren, VA and the United States Navy, Program Executive Office Ships at Washington Navy Yard, D.C. have endorsed this requirement of Sabtech products to provide modernization for the Aegis Weapon System and associated Land Based Test Sites.

The Aegis Land Based Test Sites (LBTS) require various high fidelity Commercial Off the-Shelf (COTS) based peripheral emulators, High Tech Data Communication switching systems, and state-of-the-art technology to collect and analyze Combat System performance data. These products are vital to the support of the development, certification, Life-Cycle Support Engineering Activity (LSEA) and training of Aegis and Ship Self Defense System (SSDS). Modernizing these emulators and switches provides superior quality computer programs for the war tighter and significant cost avoidance. Without this modernization, critical test time in the Aegis LBTSs will be lost, resulting in delaying certification and delivery of the AEGIS Baselines, AEGIS Ballistic Missile Defense, and Ship Self Dense System to the fleet.

RECOGNIZING JUDY THEIN AND TEAM DUI OF LAKE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Judy Thein and Team DUI of Lake County for their incredible service to the community. Team DUI is doing visionary work to address underage drinking through prevention.

Team DUI was born out of tragedy. After her daughter's death in a drunk driving accident, Clearlake Vice Mayor Judy Thein has turned the heartbreak of her loss into a positive effort that is already making a difference in the community. Team DUI brings together a coalition of law enforcement, county officials, social service providers and local educators to teach teens about the dangers of underage drinking and driving under the influence.

Team DUI's program is designed to help people understand the consequences of the decisions they make. They provide educational forums throughout the county, encouraging prevention through teamwork, community prevention and problem solving. By their actions, they have demonstrated their willingness to go to great lengths to spread their message.

Team DUI has received numerous well-deserved honors for their work. In 2008 alone, they have received Mothers Against Drunk Driving's Advocate Recognition award and the Best Idea of the Year Award from Stars of Lake County, among many others.

Madam Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we thank Judy Thein and everyone

at Team DUI for the remarkable work they have done for our community. This program has been remarkably successful in a short period of time, and I know that we will see much more progress in the years to come.

EARMARK DECLARATIONS

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. SIMPSON. Madam Speaker, in accordance with House earmark reforms, I would like to place in the record a listing of the congressionally-directed projects I have requested in my home state of Idaho that are contained in the report of H.R. 2638, the Consolidated Security, Disaster Assistance, and Continuing Appropriations Act, 2009 Appropriations Bill. I originally attempted to submit this statement on September 24, 2008, but it appears that it was never printed in the Congressional Record, so I would like to resubmit my original statement.

I'd like to take just a few minutes to describe why I support these projects and why they are valuable to the nation and its taxpayers.

The report contains $4,000,000 in the NPPD Infrastructure Protection and Information Security account for the Power and Cyber Systems Protection, Analysis, and Testing Program at the Idaho National Laboratory. The program would conduct vulnerability analysis, testing, and protection of power and cyber connected systems for the Department of Homeland Security, utilizing the unique resources available at the Idaho National Laboratory, such as the electric grid, SCADA and control systems, cyber and communication test beds, and the explosives test range. The proposed work entails collaboration with leading universities and other National Laboratories to leverage ongoing research at these institutions and advance the state-of-the-art in building resilience into infrastructure systems. The funding would be used to obtain full-scale systems in sectors of interest to DHS for testing of vulnerabilities, identification of protection strategies, and evaluation of resilient designs; partner with universities and National Laboratories to develop resilient control systems; and establish a program that develops new protection schemes. The INL is uniquely placed to carry out this program, which would leverage its ongoing work in this area sponsored by DoD, DHS, and Intelligence Agencies and its established relationships with industry, universities, and National Laboratories. This request is consistent with the intended purpose of this account.

The entity to receive funding for this project is the Idaho National Laboratory, located at 2525 North Freemont St., Idaho Falls, Idaho 83415.

The report contains $1,600,000 in the Defense Production Act Purchases account for the Read Out Integrated Circuit (ROIC) Manufacturing Improvement. The United States Air Force and the Missile Defense Agency have been investigating ways to improve manufacturing capabilities and improve cryogenic and radiation performance of these circuits. The thermal imagers of the future will operate in harsh environmental conditions for longer periods of time and will have increased resolution (through increased pixel count) over the detectors of today. Maintaining a domestic source of this technology as well as working to enhance the manufacturing capabilities of this critical technology arc equally as important as increasing the yield. Funds for this project will be used to establish a long-term, known US source; improve yields both by the manufacturer and by the vendors who use the contractor as a manufacturing source; decrease the cycle time required in manufacturing ROICs and a reduction of design cycle time by ROIC designers; and provide a roadmap to meet the future needs of the ROIC designers. When the program is completed, ROICs will be available with twice the number of pixels for less money than the ROIC currently costs. This request is consistent with the intended purpose of this account.

The entity to receive funding for this project is ON Semiconductor, located at 2300 Buckskin Rd. Pocatello, Idaho 83201.

The report contains $1,600,000 in the Medical Advanced Technology account for the Integrated Patient Quality Program. To directly enhance the patient-provider encounter, the Integrated Patient Quality Program will identify the degree to which physicians utilize consumer content integrated into the DoD Electronic Medical Record (AHLTA) and provide after-visit summaries to patients, and identify the impact this critical medical information has on patients' health and their ability to make informed decisions. This phase of the project will build upon the requirements' definition and technical feasibility study performed within FY08 funding that developed a functional and technical road map, and successfully tested the Integrated Patient Quality concept in a development environment. Additionally, the Integrated Patient Quality Program will explore content delivery options outside of the patient-provider face-to-face interaction to include: secure provider/patient email, online laboratory results, pre-visit/test preparation, surgical decision support, and disease management to at-risk patients. This request is consistent with the intended purpose of this account.

The entity to receive funding for this project is Healthwise, Incorporated, located at 2601 N. Bogus Basin Road Boise, Idaho 83702.

The report contains $2,000,000 in the Support Systems Development account for the Accelerator-Driven Non-Destructive Testing. The Idaho Accelerator Center (IAC) proposes to continue development of penetrating and non-destructive testing (NDT) techniques utilizing new techniques in positron annihilation spectroscopy with accelerator-based gamma-beams, and the use of monochromatic x-ray beams that are produced by colliding high-power laser beams with high-energy electron beams. Both of these core technologies have been under development at the IAC for several years and have matured to the point that serious in-field commercialization is possible. This request is consistent with the intended purpose of this account.

The entity to receive funding for this project is Idaho State University, located at 921 South 8th Avenue Pocatello, Idaho 83209.

The report contains $1,440,000 in the Electronics Technology account for the 3–D Technology for Advanced Sensor Systems Project. The military has a need for new three-dimensional (3–D) packaging of electronic systems, particularly sensor systems for portable applications. The team of Boise State University and RTI International has developed 3–D processing techniques on silicon and LTCC platforms, including technologies for die- and wafer-scale bonding and 3–D) interconnects. These funds will allow them to apply these techniques to create 3–D integration and packaging solutions applicable to a general category of high performance sensor systems. These funds will be used to support summer salaries for faculty, and provide salaries for research staff, post-doctoral associates, graduate and undergraduate students. Research supplies, capital equipment, and travel will be funded as required to support the objectives of the project. This request is consistent with the intended purpose of this account.

The entity to receive funding for this project is Boise State University, located at 1910 University Drive Boise, Idaho 83725–1135.

The report contains $1,200,000 in the Critical Infrastructure Protection account for the Electric Grid Reliability/Assurance project. The effort will operationalize advanced electric grid modeling simulation and analysis capability that links disparate critical infrastructure sector models that run simultaneously and dynamically to share information providing greater understanding of critical infrastructure status before, during or after a destructive event. Funds will be used for the enhanced development of electric grid modeling, simulation and testing capabilities at the Idaho National Laboratory (INL). Incorporation of both real-time and distributed system modeling capabilities will provide expanded capabilities for analysis of systems critical to DoD. These efforts will provide DoD an enhanced capability to simulate, prove and make recommendations for techniques to sustain mission operations via continued power generation when power from the electric utilities is no longer present. This request is consistent with the intended purpose of this account.

The entity to receive funding for this project is Idaho National Laboratory, located at P.O. Box 1625 Idaho Falls, Idaho 83415

The report contains $1,200,000 in the Advanced Electronics Technologies for the Hybrid Power Generation System. Research has resulted in a breakthrough technology using compressed magnetic fields which can generate power. The continued research, development, testing and validation of the technology should result in mission extension for dismounted soldiers and considerable savings by reducing the reliance on disposable batteries. Approximately $57,000 is being spent per soldier, per year on batteries alone in theatre. This technology will not only reduce federal spending needed for such batteries, but will considerably reduce related military logistics costs, reduce the amount of hazardous waste disposal costs (for the toxic substances used in battery materials), and will reduce the man/machine interface by reducing the 20–30 lbs of extra batteries soldiers are currently required to carry for extended missions. This request is consistent with the intended purpose of this account.

The entity to receive funding for this project is M2E Power, Inc., located at 875 W. McGregor Court, Suite 150 Boise, Idaho 83705

The report contains $3,200,000 in the Chemical and Biological Defense Program Account for the Vacuum Sampling Pathogen Collection and Concentration project. Production

and commercialization potential of the recently completed basic wet-vacuum pathogen collection system will be further enhanced through completion and integration of current prototype-stage ''sister'' technologies. The combined systems will provide safer, more accurate and faster sample collection and processing capabilities with GPS-RFID sample site documentation and sample identification, plus handling, transport and lab traceability. Current outsourced production activities will be centralized through expanded in-house production facilities for more stringent cost, QC and delivery schedule management and control. Integrated technology systems will improve safety, accuracy and standardization of bio-agent detection methods for our soldiers and civilian end users. This request is consistent with the intended purpose of this account.

The entity to receive funding for this project is Microbial-Vac Systems, Inc., located at 160 Bridon Way, Jerome, Idaho 83338.

The report contains $3,200,000 in the Advanced Spacecraft Technology account for the Ultra Low Power Electronics. Ultra-Low Power (ULP) Electronics is an Air Force Research Lab-sponsored initiative working in collaboration with industry to develop electronics that require less power and provide increased efficiency. A key challenge for DoD electronics applications is the reduction of power consumption in the Complementary Metal Oxide Semiconductor (CMOS)—the technology platform used for advanced integrated circuits. Funding in 2009 will develop a high OPS/Watt ULP platform solution for DoD designers of electronic systems and demonstrate a base technology that can be rapidly scaled to meet general ULP industry requirements for portable electronics. The project is an iterative, multi-lot, fabrication research and development effort that includes design tool and model development necessary to deploy the new technology. A viable scaling method for reducing electronic voltage requirements and the associated ULP products will define an alternative CMOS scaling roadmap specific to portable technology. This program will establish a new technical approach and industrial capability for U.S. electronics. This request is consistent with the intended purpose of this account.

The entity to receive funding for this project is American Semiconductor, Inc., located at 3100 S. Vista Ave., Ste 230 Boise, Idaho 83705.

The report contains $800,000 in the New Design Ssn Account for the Highly Corrosive-Resistant Alloy Joining for Nuclear Applications. This funding will be used to develop and test novel prototype design-for-manufacturing methods, flexible automated welding and inspection technology for application in submarine nuclear reactor propulsion systems. The research will result in new joining techniques to shape highly corrosive-resistant alloys to meet the requirements of underwater power generation and radiation containment. This request is consistent with the intended purpose of this account.

The entity to receive funding for this project is Premier Technology, located at 1858 W. Bridge Street Blackfoot, Idaho 83221.

The report contains $1,800,000 in the Air Force Military Construction Account for the Mountain Home AFB Logistics Readiness Center. The Existing Logistic Supply is a condemned 53-year old wooden structure beyond economical repair. The building had to be evacuated and now 60 percent of base supply functions operate from temporary spaces across base, creating significant delays in troop/equipment mobilization. This negatively impacts the Wing's ability to demolish and relocate from other substandard facilities on base. When funded, the Logistics Readiness Center will provide command and control for all materials in-bound and outbound, including freight processing, packing, crating, pallet buildup shop, and provide bulk and bin storage. The facility will also support secure storage and an armory and will include administrative areas. This request is consistent with the intended purpose of this account.

The entity to receive funding for this project is the 366th Wing, Mountain Home Air Force Base, Idaho, located at 366 Gunfighter Avenue, Ste 107, Mountain Home Air Force Base, Idaho 83648.

I appreciate the opportunity to provide a list of Congressionally-directed projects in my district and an explanation of my support for them.

(1.) $4 million for the Power and Cyber Systems Protection, Analysis, and Testing Program; Idaho National Laboratory.

(2.) $1,600,000 for the Read Out Integrated Circuit (ROIL) Manufacturing Improvement; ON Semiconductor.

(3.) $1,600,000 for the Integrated Patient Quality Program; Healthwise Incorporated.

(4.) $2,000,000 for the Accelerator-Driven Non-Destructive Testing; Idaho State University.

(5.) $1,440,000 for the 3–D Technology for Advanced Sensor Systems; Boise State University.

(6.) $1,200,000 for the Electric Grid Reliability/Assurance; Idaho National Laboratory.

(7.) $1,200,000 for the Hybrid Power Generation System; M2E Power Inc.

(8.) $3,200,000 for the Vacuum Sampling Pathogen Collection and Concentration; Microbial-Vac Systems, Inc.

(9.) $3,200,000 for the Ultra Low Power Electronics; American Semiconductor.

(10.) $800,000 for the Highly Corrosive-Resistant Alloy Joining for Nuclear Applications; Premier Technology.

(11.) $1,800,000 in the Air Force Military Construction Account for the Mountain Home AFB Logistics Readiness Center; Mountain Home Air Force Base.

HONORING JOSHUA CARL WITT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Joshua Carl Witt of Blue Springs, MO. Joshua is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1813, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

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

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

RECOGNIZING THE TISON FAMILY AS THE HOLMS COUNTY, FLORIDA FARM FAMILY OF THE YEAR

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the U.S. Congress, it is an honor for me to rise today to extend congratulations to the Tison family for being selected as the Holms County 2008 Outstanding Farm Family of the Year.

Tison Blueberry farm is a bit of an establishment in the Southeast and it is well known that some of the best blueberries can be found there in Bonifay, FL. The entire operation is family run and the picking is done almost entirely by hand. In a time of growing concern over food safety, Tison Blueberry farm offers a unique alternative to the traditional grocery store as its customers enjoy the added comfort of knowing exactly where and how their produce is grown.

After retiring from teaching vocational agriculture for 34 years, Jack Tison was searching for something that would employ his extensive knowledge and occupy his time. But it wasn't until visiting a ''u-pick'' operation in Gainesville, FL that he became interested in growing blueberries. In the fall of 1984, Jack and his wife Hazel prepped five acres of land for planting; the subsequent harvest began just 3 years later. Over the years, the production has increased exponentially. The farm now grows muscadine grapes and prepares various jellies, jams, and syrups.

Every year, the north Florida Fair Association honors farm families in counties throughout north Florida that display leadership through farming techniques and agricultural production. The Farm Family of the Year award conveys the importance of farm families' contributions to some of society's largest needs including food, clothing, and building supplies. Recognition of their work, as conveyed by this award, encourages others in the community to become involved and support local agriculture.

On behalf of all residents of northwest Florida, I hope this family tradition continues for many future generations.

HONORING THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA-LED PHOENIX MARS MISSION

HON. GABRIELLE GIFFORDS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Ms. GIFFORDS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute today to the team of intrepid men and women at the University of Arizona who significantly advanced our knowledge of the universe through their work on the Phoenix Mars Mission. They were led by Peter Smith, principal investigator for the project.

These 21st century explorers achieved a great engineering and scientific triumph earlier this year when the 770-pound Phoenix traveled 420 million miles and successfully parachuted to the rocky surface of Mars. That odds-defying landing, however, was only the beginning of Phoenix's awe-inspiring accomplishments.

On the surface of the Red Planet, Phoenix harnessed the power of the sun to scoop up and analyze the Martian soil. This data—including a series of remarkable photographs—was transmitted back to Earth where scientists made what must surely be one of the most significant discoveries in human history: the presence of frozen water.

For as long as humankind has peered into the heavens, we have wondered whether or not we are alone in the universe. From our earliest ancestors to medieval theologians to the scientists of our day, this question has loomed over us like the stars themselves. Mars has been the focus of much of this speculation. More than 40 missions have been launched to explore this planet but only six have been successful. Foremost among them is the University of Arizona-led Phoenix Mars Mission.

The discovery of frozen water on Mars by Phoenix did not definitively confirm or deny the age-old question of our uniqueness in the universe. No one ever expected it would. But it did give us a deeper understanding of the fourth planet from the sun. This new knowledge is a testimony to the creativity of the men and women who made Phoenix possible at the University of Arizona, the first public university to lead a mission to Mars.

The Phoenix Mars Mission Team members are: Cherie Achilles, Douglas Archer, Chris Adams, Paul Allvin, Maria Banks, Stephanie Barnes, Jean Barret, Carla Bitter, Rolfe Bode, Matt Bomhoff, William Boynton, Robert Bovill, Dennis Bowers, Cassie Bowman, David Burke, Sanlyn Buxner, Ryan Brestel, James Cantone, Chewie Chu, Kevin Corcoran, Jesse Cornia, Michael Drake, Gerard Droege, Alex Ebadirad, Jacob Egan, Heather Enos, Lisa Fahey, Charles Fellows, Tony Ferrow, Michael Finch, Kenny Fine, Mike Fitzgibbon, Gwennie Furr, Connie Garcia, Justin Giacotto, Gabrielle Gilbertsen, Joseph Gotobed, Stephen Gray, Dave Hamara, Sara Hammond, Lori Harrison, Dustin Harshman, Karl Harshman, Chelsea Hodson, John Hughes, Robert Jaw, Monty Kennedy, Hamza Kolaghsi, Frankie Kolb, Melissa Lamberton, Jeffrey Landgreen, Lynn Lane, Therese Lane, Pamela Larrow, Abel Levario, Colleen Lester, Andrew Levine, Robert Logan, Douglas Lombardi, Peter Manning, Katelun May, Rick McCloskey, Evan McKelvy, Trevor Merkley, John Moores, Bryan Morgante, Sean Mulvey, Julie Norwood, Carroll Oquest, Jerry Penegor, Federico Pennacchini, Ian Phillips, Amy Philips, John Pursch, Siddhartha Ray, Robert Reynolds, Garret Richards, Joaquin Ruiz, David Sage, Tisha Saltzman, Walter Seaman, Jeff Seligman, Andrew Shaner, Adam Shaw, Robert Shelton, Chris Shinohara, Peter Smith, William Sperry, Lori Stiles, Johnathan Strootman, Kari Sturm, Roger Tanner, Lisa Tatge, Lisa Tidwell, Cheryl Tomoeda, Kimmie Varela, Cindi Ward, Heather Weisacosky, Mike Williams, Galen Woida, Patrick Woida, Rigel Woida, Patricia Wroblewski.

I commend them for their success and for all they have done to expand our knowledge of the planet Mars.

HONORING SISTER'S JOURNEY AS THEY CELEBRATE THEIR 10TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, the first of November will mark an important milestone for an outstanding organization in my community—the 10th Anniversary of Sister's Journey. Founded by my dear friend, Linda White-Epps, as she coped with her own battle with breast cancer, Sister's Journey has been an invaluable source of comfort, compassion, and support for women diagnosed with this disease for the last decade.

The diagnosis of breast cancer can be overwhelming—not only for the woman who has been told she has this battle to face but for her loved ones as well. It is important for women to know that they are not alone and that there are others who are facing comparable challenges, asking the same questions, and enduring similar hardships, physically and emotionally. That is what Sister's Journey is all about.

In facing her battle with breast cancer, Linda White-Epps saw the need in her community for a group that could help women to heal physically, emotionally, and spiritually. She recognized the need for education and advocacy, for women to share the trials and tribulations of cancer, and to celebrate survivorship. What began as a monthly support group meeting has grown into a community educator and a strong voice of advocacy for early detection and quality treatment for every woman fighting breast cancer. But perhaps the organization's greatest contribution has been that of the Sister's Journey annual calendar. With each month comes the face and the story of a woman still facing breast cancer or who has survived—each page highlighting their personal journeys. The calendar has proven to be a tangible example of the encouragement, support, and vision that is Sister's Journey.

Though Linda lost her battle in 2003, today her legacy—Sister's Journey—is carried on by her family; her mother Phyllis White, and her daughter, Dawn White-Bracey, who serves as its current President. Today as members gather for the annual Pink Tea, we celebrate the remarkable 10 years this organization has been supporting those struggling with the ongoing challenges of breast cancer. I am proud to stand today to pay tribute to Sister's Journey and their decade of good work. We all hope for a time when breast cancer will no longer be a threat to our health, until then, our community could not be more fortunate than to have Sister's Journey for those in need.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. JERRY WELLER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. WELLER of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today to identify an earmark that I obtained in H.R. 2638—Homeland Security Division D for the Coast Guard account for the Elgin, Joliet, and Eastern Railway Company Bridge, Morris, IL in the amount of $2,000,000.

In February 1995, the Coast Guard declared the EJ&E Bridge across the Illinois Waterway to be an unreasonable obstruction to navigation and issued an Order to Alter. The EJ&E Bridge is the most hit bridge on the entire inland river system.

Funding will allow design and construction for widening the width between the bridge piers. Currently, the width of the EJ&E Bridge is only 113 feet. Typically, barge tows that operate within the inland river system are 105 feet wide, leaving only a total of 8 feet of room for the barge to fit between the piers. According to the Coast Guard, modifications made to this bridge will save $1.1 million in damage each year. Funding this project will make the Illinois River safer for maritime traffic and will substantially reduce the number of accidents at this site.

The entity to receive funding for this project is the United States Coast Guard located at Office of Bridge Administration, CG3–PWB Room 3500, U.S. Coast Guard Headquarters, 2100 Second Street, SW., Washington, DC 20593. It is my understanding that the funding would be used to the design and construction for widening the width between the bridge piers. I certify that neither I nor my spouse has any direct financial interest in this project.

Consistent with the Republican Leadership's policy on earmarks, I hereby certify that to the best of my knowledge this request (1) is not directed to an entity or program named or will be named after a sitting Member of Congress (exception must be justified here); (2) is not intended for a "front" or "pass through" entity; and (3) meets or exceeds all statutory requirements for matching funds where applicable.

HONORING HELEN JONES, M.D.

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dr. Helen Jones upon being awarded with the "Community Health Champions Award" at the 2008 West Fresno Health Care Coalition's 4th annual "This is Your Life of Service" dinner and award ceremony. This year the ceremony will be held at the Radisson Hotel Conference Center in Fresno, California on Friday, October 24th.

Dr. Jones was raised in San Francisco, California. She graduated from Lowell High School, one of the oldest and most prestigious schools in the San Francisco school district. She earned a Bachelor's of Arts in biochemistry from the University of California, Berkley and her Medical Doctorate from the University of California, San Francisco. Dr. Jones also attended classes at the Universities of California, Irvine and Riverside and attended summer courses in biomedical engineering at Clark College in Atlanta, Georgia. She originally made her way to Fresno to train under Dr. Howard Morelli, the former dean at the University of California, San Francisco. Currently, Dr. Jones is in private practice with Internal Medicine Associates and was formerly with Linder-Quann Medical Group.

In addition to being an internist, Dr. Jones specializes in palliative medicine, a form of medical care or treatment that concentrates on reducing the severity of disease symptoms

rather than halting or delaying progression of the disease itself or providing a cure. This form of medicine allows seriously and terminally ill patients comfort and relief from the pain of their disease. Palliative care educates the patient on symptom management, provides information about their illness, communicates with the patient and their families about their disease and provides them with emotional and spiritual support. Dr. Jones has served as the Hospice Medical Director and Ethics Chair of Saint Agnes Medical Center. She is a past president of the Fresno Madera Medical Society. She has developed an obesity prevention toolkit for medical providers through the California Medical Association and has been an advocate for cleaning the air throughout the San Joaquin Valley. Dr. Jones has also served as Chair of the Fresno Unified School District Wellness Policy and was a board member of the Central California Blood Center.

Dr. Jones has been a tireless advocate for accessible healthcare particularly in West Fresno. Through various faith-based and community organizations she has assisted in promoting the awareness, prevention, and care of breast cancer. She is a strong believer that proper education and awareness in disease prevention is the key to keeping the residents of Fresno County healthy. Dr. Jones credits her success to her parents' guidance. The family motto growing up was "Keep it real, roll up your sleeves and get it done." She has held that motto close to her heart.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Dr. Helen Jones upon being awarded with the "Community Health Champions Award". I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Dr. Jones many years of continued success.

TRIBUTE TO ST. BONAVENTURE PARISH

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. PASCRELL. Madam Speaker, I would like to call to your attention the work of an outstanding religious institution, St. Bonaventure Parish in Paterson, New Jersey, which is celebrating its 130th Anniversary of dedicated service to its parishioners, and by extension, the greater community.

It is only fitting that St. Bonaventure Parish be honored in this, the permanent record of the greatest democracy ever known, for all the spiritual home it has provided to American families, especially those just embarking on their path to the American dream, and the dedication to the entire community that helps keep this deeply rooted parish family growing towards the future.

St. Bonaventure Parish was founded in 1876 by a group of six Franciscans who had been expelled from Prussia by Otto Von Bismarck. They came to the United States and asked Bishop Michael Corrigan of Newark for a place to live and minister. Just then, a group of Carmelite priests who had been displaced from Bavaria returned to their homeland, leaving a partially constructed monastery on Ramsey Street in Paterson. The Franciscans moved to the building and in 1877 the bishop elevated the church to parish status. Soon the monastery was completed and the religious community built a parish church. St. Bonaventure's was the area's first Franciscan community, and served for many years as its center of activity. The monastery functioned as a seminary, a novitiate, a retreat house and a motherhouse of the Holy Name Province, established in 1901. Thousands received the Franciscan habit here and began their period of initiation into religious life.

From St. Bonaventure's, the Franciscans established dozens of missions and parishes in New Jersey and throughout the Eastern United States. Many others who studied at the monastery went on to serve abroad. The monastery once operated St. Anthony's Guild, which published countless books and pamphlets here before its move to New York City.

The parish has built its tradition by giving its parishioners spiritual roots in their neighborhood, providing a deep sense of community to those who have grown in the church, receiving their sacraments there, as well as welcoming newcomers to the surrounding area. The St. Bonaventure's parish family has expanded throughout the years to include many parishioners who have moved out of the neighborhood, but return with their families to worship at the parish. Building on its legacy, it is looking to reach out to some of the newest residents around the parish, many of whom are from Central and South America, and just beginning their American journeys.

They are seeking as they move into the future to see more parishioners young and old become involved in the church's ministries that reach not only their faith community but the greater Paterson region. I am certain that St. Bonaventure's will continue to thrive and enrich not only those who worship there but so many others in need throughout the area.

The job of a United States Congressman involves so much that is rewarding, yet nothing compares to learning about and recognizing the efforts of wonderful, thriving community like St. Bonaventure Parish.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join all of the parishioners and clergy of St. Bonaventure Parish, all those whose faith has been enriched throughout the years, and me in recognizing the outstanding contributions of St. Bonaventure Parish to the church community and beyond.

HONORING KENANIAH THOMAS REISER

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Kenaniah Thomas Reiser of Farley, Missouri. Kenaniah is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1028, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

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

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

IN RECOGNITION OF JOYCE SANDERS UPON HER RETIREMENT AS PUBLIC RELATIONS MANAGER OF EMBARQ CORPORATION

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Joyce Sanders, who is retiring as Public Relations Manager of EMBARQ Corporation. Ms. Sanders has played a vital role in the community service organizations of Northwest Florida, and I am honored to recognize her achievements.

Joyce Sanders moved to Northwest Florida in 1993, and she has been a community leader ever since. Her local leadership includes serving on the Board of Directors of the Fort Walton Beach Chamber of Commerce, the Board of Trustees of the Okaloosa County Economic Development Council, and the Board of Directors of the Walton County Economic Development Council. Ms. Sanders is actively involved with the United Way of Okaloosa County and the March of Dimes WalkAmerica program. She has been a mentor to numerous young women across Northwest Florida by working with the University of West Florida Small Business Development Center. Through EMBARQ, Ms. Sanders provides numerous scholarships to the UWF Women in Business Seminar and to underprivileged students at Northwest Florida State College.

Ms. Sanders' commitment to service can be seen through her numerous awards, including her selection in 1998 as Honorary Commander for the Eglin Air Force Base 33 Fighter Wing Program. This award recognizes the value of military and civilian partnerships, a fundamental component of Northwest Florida. Awards alone, however, cannot describe the true value of Ms. Sanders' service to our area. In the aftermath of natural disasters Hurricane Opal and Hurricane Ivan, Ms. Sanders used her position at EMBARQ to place mobile telephone trailers throughout the affected regions so those displaced from their homes could contact their families and friends. Her courage in the face of these disasters exemplifies Ms. Sanders' devotion to the people of our community.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I would like to thank Joyce Sanders for her years of public service to the community of Northwest Florida. Vicki and I wish her and her family best wishes for continued success.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF JASON ANTHONY VAZQUEZ

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. EMANUEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of a constituent who gave his life in service to our country. Staff Sergeant Jason Anthony Vazquez, a member of the 2nd Battalion 122nd Field Artillery, died in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in Gerdia Seria, Afghanistan on September 17, 2008.

Jason was taken from us too soon, but although he was only 24 years old, he had a profound effect on members of his family, community, and workplace.

Jason was engaged to Genevieve Gonzalez, who remembers with joy the time they shared and the future they planned together. While her future will not be as she thought, she gains strength from the relationship they built and the values he imparted. To honor Jason, Genevieve has helped raise money to provide care packages and cards to the troops serving in Jason's unit.

As an officer with Cook County's Department of Corrections, Jason always left an impression with his optimism, energy and cheerfulness. To honor his memory, the Department has created the Jason A. Vazquez Leadership Award to be given to the most deserving Training Academy graduate each year.

Jason's many aunts, uncles and cousins gained strength from the joy he shared with each of them. His grandparents, Francisco and Leonor Vazquez, cherish the time Jason spent playing catch in the front yard as a young boy, helping with errands as he grew stronger, and sharing stories and wisdom as he grew into a man. His brother and sister, Jose Jr. and Janice, take comfort in the memory of his love of music, his passion for basketball, and his place in the center of any party or gathering. His parents, Jose and Lisa, take pride in the son who grew from a popular and fun-loving Schurz High School '02 classmate to the dedicated young man who wore the uniform of this country, and made the ultimate sacrifice for us.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to this young man, and I am humbled by his service and his sacrifice. I ask that we remember Jason and his family and friends in our thoughts and prayers, and that we honor him and the rest of the men and women who have given their lives in service to our country.

HONORING DEACON HENRY WILFORD ELLIOTT, SR.

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Ms. LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life of Deacon Henry Wilford Elliott, Sr. A dedicated educator and family man, Henry tirelessly devoted his life to his community and used his many talents in the service of others. He passed away on November 3, 2008. Although we have said goodbye to our dear friend, his spirit will live on in our hearts through the love he shared with us.

Born on May 20, 1917, in Vian, Oklahoma, Henry was the child of Frank Van Elliott and Beatrice Johnson Elliott. A small and loving family, the Elliots had only one other child, Henry's brother Othello, who preceded him in death.

After graduating from Manual Training High School, Henry went on to college attending the Tuskegee Institute and Langston University, respectively. While in college, Henry joined the Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity in 1935 and was a founding member of the Kappa Omicron Lambda chapter. He graduated from Langston in 1938 and went on to teach high school for several years in Wagoner and Tallahassee, Oklahoma.

Henry, known as Hank to his family and loved ones, served in the military for 21 years. By the time he retired he had earned the rank of captain. On January 11, 1943, Henry married the love of his life, Lydia Marie Pitts, in Porter, Oklahoma. This inspiring union would last almost 66 years, until Henry's passing.

During the first years of their marriage, Henry and Lydia traveled extensively, living overseas in Japan and Germany as well as several States throughout the United States while Henry completed his service in the military. Their first child, Henry, Jr., was born in 1952 in Alaska. Their second child, Terence Todd, was born in Okinawa, Japan, in 1957. The family eventually settled in Richmond, California, in 1963. In love with their new home State, Henry and Lydia remained in California from that point forward. They become true Californians and contributed to their local communities with an uncompromising level of compassion and selflessness.

Henry was a devoted educator and taught for many years in the Vallejo school district. He retired as a junior high school principal in 1978, served on the school board for 8 years, and was elected board president. Throughout this time and after his retirement, Henry was relentlessly devoted to his community of Vallejo, his church, and services and organizations committed to assisting those most in need and improving opportunities for people of color.

He served in numerous capacities and board positions, including the Vallejo Neighborhood Housing Association and the Adkins Project, of which he was a founding member. He served on the boards of Vallejo's Fighting Back Partnership and Meals on Wheels, and was a member of the Masonic Lodge Firma Chapter, the Omega Boys and Girls Club, the Pan Hellenic Council and the Solano County Juvenile Justice Board. Henry was also a past Patron of the Eastern Star, Princess Zorah Chapter #70 and a lifetime member of Veterans of Foreign Wars and the NAACP.

Henry's life spanned across the most influential, politically dynamic, and hard-fought social justice moments in our Nation's history. Henry Wilford Elliott, Sr., worked hard for everything in his life and did so with a calm and elegance often unmatched. The values that Henry developed early in his life—those of education, faith in God, and community service—would remain with him throughout the nine decades he witnessed. He was known as a hardworking and respected man who was cherished by all who knew him.

On a personal note, I have had the privilege to have known Henry since I was 2 years old. He is the godfather of my sister, Beverly, and has been a loving part of my extended family. As a young girl, I fondly remember babysitting for Henry and Lydia. They were skilled and adoring parents and I often marveled at their unmistakable love for one another and their children. He was a very close friend of my family, and we will all miss him tremendously.

On behalf of California's Ninth Congressional District, I would like to extend my deepest condolences to the family and friends of Deacon Henry Elliott, Sr., especially to his wife, Lydia, his loving children, Henry, Jr. and Terence, his daughters-in-law Sabrina and Amanda, his granddaughters Hasana, Karinda, Nyeri and Imani, his sisters-in-law Vonia Johnson, Velma McCann and Laura McCann, and his brother in-law, Floyd Pitts, as well as a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and others whom Henry dearly loved. Thank you for sharing this kind spirit with us. May his soul rest in peace.

HONORING TOM GOODWIN

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today along with Congressman RADANOVICH, to congratulate Tom Goodwin upon his induction into the Fresno Athletic Hall of Fame. Mr. Goodwin will be honored at the 50th anniversary enshrinement dinner of the Fresno Athletic Hall of Fame on Thursday, November 6, 2008.

Tom Goodwin excelled at every level of baseball which was highlighted by 14 years in the major leagues. He was so fast that he turned groundballs hit to the left side into infield singles, which excited both teammates and fans, and frustrated opponents. After starring at Central High School in Fresno, California, he energized Bob Bennett's California State University, Fresno, teams for 3 seasons, topped by the 1989 campaign when he was named an All-American, the Big West Conference Player of the Year and the Bulldog's Male Athlete of the Year. A year earlier, Mr. Goodwin played in the College World Series and experienced Olympic glory as a center fielder on the gold-medal-winning U.S. team in Seoul. He left California State University, Fresno, as a two-time NCAA stolen-base champion. He was the Bulldog's career stolen-base leader with 164 and is among the school's Top 10 in many season, and career, offensive categories.

Drafted in the first round by the Los Angeles Dodgers, Mr. Goodwin reached the major leagues in just his second season and became a regular in 1995 with the Kansas City Royals; hitting .288, with 50 stolen bases. He would go on to steal 50 or more bases during 4 seasons, with a high of 66 during one season. He finished his career with a total of 360 stolen bases. His career batting average is .268, with 636 runs and 284 runs batted in. Mr. Goodwin's handling of the bat and commitment to winning is illustrated by twice leading the American League in sacrifice bunts. He played in 7 postseasons with the Texas Rangers, Chicago Cubs and reached the World Series in 2002 with the Giants.

Madam Speaker, we rise today to commend and congratulate Tom Goodwin upon his achievements and induction into the Fresno Athletic Hall of Fame. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Mr. Goodwin congratulations on his many accomplishments.

HONORING KYLE BRYSON EVANS

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Kyle Bryson Evans of Holt, Missouri. Kyle is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1494, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

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

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

A TRIBUTE TO ANISH BERRY

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute and to honor Mr. Anish Berry. Mr. Berry is the President of the Diagnostic Imaging Group, which operates 38 diagnostic imaging centers, 23 of which are in New York and 6 in New Jersey under the name Doshi Diagnostic Imaging Services, as well as 16 centers in Florida under the name Signet Diagnostic Imaging Services.

Mr. Berry helped to engineer the aggressive growth of the Diagnostic Imaging Group by leveraging hardware-and-software prowess with the talents of a diverse medical, technical, and administrative staff to deliver high-caliber customer service to patients and over 40,000 referring physicians. This excellent team of medical professionals is paired with state of the art equipment in each facility where the full range of imaging services are offered, including MRI/MRA, CT, Ultrasound, X-ray, Mammography, PET/CT, Nuclear Medicine, Nuclear Cardiology, DEXA, Echocardiolgraphy and Vascular Duplex.

Mr. Berry takes the same aggressive approach to his charitable works. He is the cofounder of the Doshi Difference Program at the John Bowne High School in Flushing, NY. This unique, selective program affords its students an outstanding introduction in research techniques as well as valuable learning experiences including scientific competitions, mentoring, field trips, and speakers. Mr. Berry was also responsible for the recent construction of a brand new science lab at John Bowne High School to further assist the students in their quest for educational excellence.

Mr. Berry is also a staunch supporter of law enforcement, serving as the Director of the New York Law Enforcement Foundation, the Medical Director of Amtrack Police, the Director of the Suffolk County Police Reserves, and as a member of the Nassau County Police Reserves.

Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize Mr. Anish Berry for his extraordinary accomplishments in diagnostic imaging, science education, and community service.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Mr. Anish Berry.

RECOGNITION OF MR. ROBERT S. HEKEMIAN

HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. ROTHMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Mr. Robert Hekemian, a resident of Saddle River, New Jersey, for his lifetime of dedication to the improvement of the community, and being awarded the Bergen Community College Foundation's 2008 Medallion Award of Merit for Corporate Responsibility and Philanthropy.

Mr. Hekemian currently serves as Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer of both Hekemian & Co., Inc., a real estate investment, management and brokerage company, and First Real Estate Investment Trust of New Jersey. He has been active in the real estate business for more than 6 decades, and is esteemed by his peers.

Mr. Hekemian, who is of Armenian descent, is a devoted member of the Armenian Presbyterian Church in Paramus, New Jersey and serves on the Board of the Armenian Missionary Association of America. During the past 50 years, he has contributed substantially to numerous civic and community organizations, as well as domestic and international charitable endeavors, both personally and through the Robert and Mary Jane Hekemian Foundation. Benefactors of the Foundation include The New York Philharmonic, Hackensack University Medical Center, Bergen Community College, Boy Scouts of America and The Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA). Finally, Mr. Hekemian is a devoted husband, father, and grandfather. He has been married to his loving wife Mary Jane for 51 years, and they have been blessed with 4 wonderful children and 7 grandchildren.

Today, I would like to recognize Robert Hekemian's leadership by example for more than half a century. I am proud that such an honorable man resides in my Congressional District. My constituents' lives are better for all his many and generous contributions to the community. I offer my sincere and hearty congratulations on the occasion of this well-deserved and distinguished award.

RECOGNIZING THE CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER OF GENESEE COUNTY AWARD WINNER

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating the individuals honored by the Child Advocacy Center of Genesee County for their service to the young people of the greater Flint area that are the victims of child abuse. Genesee County expressed its gratitude to these persons at a dinner on November 6, 2008 in Flint, Michigan.

The Child Advocacy Center of Genesee County was founded to react to allegations of child abuse. A multidisciplinary team responds by providing forensic interviews, medical evaluations, therapeutic intervention, and victim support/advocacy. Their goal is provide these services to children and families in a safe and consistent manner.

Three persons were honored that evening. The 2008 Stars for Children Awards Law Enforcement Officer of the Year is Detective Diana Mills of the Mt. Morris Township Police Department. The 2008 Stars for Children Awards Child Protective Services Worker of the Year is Marie Putnam. Andrea Legendre was named the 2008 Stars for Children Awards Prosecutor of the Year.

May the House of Representatives rise with me and applaud the work of these individuals. Their commitment to abused and vulnerable children is exemplary. They perform an invaluable service to our community and through their work abused and neglected children in Genesee County have help for a safer, happier life.

IN RECOGNIZING OF MAJOR BRIAN SITLER, UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the service of Major Brian Sitler, United States Air Force. Brian served as the Military Fellow in my office during the second session of the 110th Congress and was an integral part of the staff. He took the lead on 9 important portfolios: Defense/Foreign Policy, FEMA, Homeland Security, Immigration, Postal TRICARE/Military Health Care, Labor/Trade, Resources/Interior/Environment, and Science and Technology. He also served as my subject matter expert for important Air Force issues which included the Air Force Tanker replacement and the BRAC-mandated Joint Strike Fighter beddown at Eglin Air Force Base. Brian's counsel on the strategic as well as tactical implications was extremely valuable.

Brian's performance in dealing with constituents and case work should be commended. He effectively negotiated the executive and legislative barriers to solve constituent issues. One case in particular should be highlighted. He received a constituent request from a military retiree whose daughter was diagnosed with autism. Brian took the initiative to investigate this case further and uncovered a significant gap between active duty and retiree TRICARE coverage in the Extended Care Health Option, ECHO, program. After bringing this to my attention, Brian worked with the Congressional Budget Office, Professional Staff Members from the House Armed Services Committee, autism advocacy groups, and offices of other Members of Congress and Senators. As a result of his diligent work, the $231 million bipartisan ''Military Family Autism Equality Act'' was introduced. Without Brian's initiative, hard work, and attention to detail, this act would not have been possible.

In addition to the accomplishments already noted, Brian served as a pivotal staffer and organized escorts for two Honor Flight trips. Honor Flight brought 203 World War II heroes to visit Washington, DC's war memorials. He also assisted me in high level meetings with the Ambassadors from the Republic of Korea and Mauritania. He served as an outstanding ambassador of the United States Air Force, and I was proud to have him as an integral part of my staff.

Brian excelled in every area and exceeded all fellowship expectations. While I am saddened that he will soon leave my office, I am delighted that Brian was selected for Squadron Command. I have no doubt that he will excel in this role as a Commander, and I will feel comfortable knowing that the lives of our Airmen are in his hands. Vicki and I wish Brian, his wife, Suzanne, and their children, Meagan, Cory, Gabe, and Emily our best wishes for future success and happiness.

HONORING MARSHALL FRITZ

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to my friend Marshall Fritz who passed away on Tuesday, November 4, after a long battle with pancreatic cancer. Marshall was a true champion of freedom whose impact on the cause of liberty will be felt for years to come.

Marshall, with his booming voice and good humor, was the happy warrior of the freedom movement, as well as the movement's Will Rogers. Marshall never met a fellow fighter for liberty, a single-issue ally, or a potential convert he did not like—and to Marshall anyone who did not already share his love of liberty was a potential convert.

Marshall was a model of an ideological/political entrepreneur. In 1984, Marshall saw that the growth of the freedom movement was handicapped by the lack of an organization to help activists better communicate the freedom philosophy to the general public. While Marshall was not the first person to have this realization, he was the first person to attempt to remedy the situation by founding Advocates for Self-Government, an organization designed to teach activists how to effectively communicate their principles.

In the years since Marshall founded the Advocates for Self-Government, the organization has helped countless libertarians by providing them with the intellectual resources necessary to effectively battle for a free society.

While serving as president of the Advocates, Marshall created the World's Smallest Political Quiz. The quiz graphs an individual's political philosophy based on responses to a series of 10 questions that measure one's commitment to economic and personal liberty.

Under Marshall's leadership, the Advocates undertook an aggressive program of distributing the quiz. There is no doubt that this has been the Advocate's most successful and popular program. The quiz is responsible for many Americans' first contact with libertarian ideas. While traveling around the country, I have often heard people say, "I never knew I was a libertarian until I took the quiz!"

In 1990, Marshall stepped down as president of the Advocates to found the Alliance for the Separation of School and State, an organization focusing on the vital issue of parental control of education. Thanks in large part to Marshall's work, the idea that parents, not the government, should control education is no longer excluded from public debate as a "fringe" notion. One of the features that most impresses me about the Alliance is the way that Marshall brought libertarians, conservatives, liberals together to work for education freedom.

Anyone who knew Marshall and worked with him would not be surprised that he was able to forge a coalition of people of diverse views. Marshall's focus was always on building alliances and trying to persuade those with whom he disagreed, rather than on scoring debating points. While he never compromised his principles and never hesitated to criticize even his closet allies if they took what he considered an anti-liberty position, Marshall never personalized disagreements and always treated his opponents with courtesy and respect. I believe the freedom movement would be more successful if more libertarians followed Marshall's example of never turning policy disagreements into personal attacks.

All of us who care about building an effective freedom movement owe a debt of gratitude to Marshall Fritz. I join Marshall's family in mourning his loss and I urge all of us who work for liberty to honor Marshall's memory by following the example he set.

DANIEL W. BLANKENBURG

HON. JOHN T. DOOLITTLE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Madam Speaker, Daniel W. Blankenburg first came to Washington in 1994. He began working in Congress for Rep. DON MANZULLO and then Rep. Tom Ewing. He then served as Legislative Director to Rep. JOHN SHIMKUS until he moved to the private sector to work for the National Federation of Independent Businesses. In 2005, Dan decided to return to public service, and I was fortunate enough to have him join our office. At that time, we were looking for a person to build coalitions and form alliances, and Dan's impressive record made him the perfect candidate.

In his role as Chief of Staff, Dan has made each decision with careful attention to ensure the best possible outcome. His meticulous approach, vast knowledge and inquisitive nature have been tremendous assets to me personally as well as to our entire organization. I am always confident that Dan leaves no stone unturned when making decisions on my behalf.

Dan's highly regarded character is demonstrated by his popularity around the capitol. It is difficult to walk down a hallway, enter an elevator or sit at a local restaurant with Dan without striking up a conversation with one of his many friends and acquaintances. While most of us simply wave or exchange salutations in passing, Dan takes the time to catch up with friends whenever possible. There is even a chance for encounters with complete strangers if they happen to be wearing a Bears or Cubs hat.

While Dan's professionalism is truly impressive, his personal qualities are also admirable. Dan often speaks fondly about his family: he enjoys visiting his parents, Millie and Dan, along with his grandmother, Mildred, in Colorado. Dan speaks with great pride about his brothers, Jason and Chip, and his sister, Jodie. He enjoys being an uncle to his nephew, Parken, and his nieces, Jodie and Mattes. Perhaps most notably, Dan relishes every opportunity he can find to talk about his lovely wife Cate, whom he truly adores.

Dan is a man of great talents, and I know he will do well in whatever future opportunities he pursues. I wish him all the best wherever life may take him.

HONORING HARRIS FARMS

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Harris Farms upon being honored with the 2008 Baker, Peterson and Franklin Ag Business Award. Harris Farms was honored at a luncheon November 5, 2008 held at the Radisson Conference Center in Fresno, CA.

Harris Farms was founded in 1937 by Jack and Teresa Harris on 320 acres of prime land in the central California's San Joaquin Valley. Over the past 70 years, Harris Farms has grown to cover thousands of acres and has become one of the most vertically integrated, diversified and largest agribusinesses in the U.S. Harris Farms has grown to include Harris Ranch Beef Company, Harris Feeding Company, Harris Fresh, Harris Ranch Restaurant, Harris Farms-Thoroughbred, Harris Ranch Inn and Harris Ranch Online Country Store.

Today, under the direction of John and Carole Harris, the operation produces 33 crops including everything from carrots, lettuce, tomatoes, garlic, onions, citrus, nuts and grapes. Harris Ranch Beef and Harris Feeding companies have earned a reputation as two of the largest and most innovative firms in the industry, pioneering the development of branded beef and value-added beef products. Their thoroughbred division breeds, trains and races thoroughbred horses at tracks across the county. The Harris Ranch Inn and Restaurant serves 2,000 guests per day and showcases their beef products and produce. Harris Farms is one of the largest employers in the Coalinga area with 1,500 hundred employees.

Harris Farms received the 2002 Fresno Bee Excellence in Business Award. John Harris has been recognized by his peers with State Fair Agriculturist of the Year, Livestock Man of the Year and Cattle Businessman of the Year. He serves on the California Horseracing Board, Western Growers Board and is past president of the American Cattleman Association and the California Thoroughbred Breeders Association. He is past chair of the St. Agnes Hospital Foundation Board. He has also served on the University of California, Davis Foundation, Alumni Boards and the University of California President's Agriculture Advisory Board. Carole Harris is a member of La Feliz Children's Hospital Guild and past member of the Fresno County Historical Society Board. Mr. and Mrs. Harris are involved with countless organizations and annually award scholarships to children of employees.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Harris Farms upon being honored with the 2008 Baker, Peterson and Franklin Ag Business Award. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Harris Farms many years of continued success.

A TRIBUTE TO KEN BURNS

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute and to honor Mr. Ken Burns, one of the most celebrated documentary producers of our day. His films have captured the American experience and have forever elevated and enriched our understanding of American history.

Ken Burns, born in Brooklyn, earned his Bachelor of Arts degree from Hampshire College in Amherst, Massachusetts in 1975, and went on to become one of the co-founders of Florentine Films. His first Academy Award-winning documentary was Brooklyn Bridge, in 1981. Since then, he has produced nineteen more documentaries, two earning Academy Award nominations and seven winning Emmy Awards.

Ken Burns was the director, producer, co-writer, chief cinematographer, music director and executive producer of the landmark television series The Civil War, considered by many to be his magnum opus. This film was the highest rated series in the history of American Public Television and attracted an audience of 40 million during its premiere in September 1990. The series has been honored with more than forty major film and television awards, including two Emmy Awards, two Grammy Awards, the Producer of the Year Award from the Producer's Guild, the People's Choice Award, the Peabody Award, the DuPont-Columbia Award, the D.W. Griffiths Award, and the $50,000 Lincoln Prize, among dozens of others.

Ken Burns most recent documentary, The War, tells the story of the Second World War from the personal perspectives of men and women from Waterbury, CT, Mobile, AL, Sacramento, CA, and Luverne, MN. Airing in the fall of 2007, it was the most watched series in the last ten years on PBS. One hundred and seventeen PBS stations across the nation participated in some form of community outreach and nearly 30,000 educator guides went to every high school in the country. As was hoped, "The War" started a massive national dialog about this most cataclysmic event in the history of the United States.

Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize Mr. Ken Burns for igniting a passion for American history in millions of Americans throughout his prodigious filmmaking career.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Mr. Ken Burns.

WHEN WILL BAILOUTS STOP

HON. VIRGINIA FOXX

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, last December, I joined 99 of my House colleagues in opposing H.R. 6, the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2008 which authorized a $25 billion bailout for the automobile industry. Nine months later, I voted against H.R. 2638 which designated $7.5 billion in emergency funding for the bailout. Now Detroit is asking for an additional $25 billion as Democrat leaders line up to deem this industry "too big to fail." When will it stop? What means of production are next in line for seizure by our centralized government?

Detroit automakers' management and labor unions have created a toxic combination of poor decision-making that has led to this mess. I understand that prepaid pensions decreased by $16.6 billion or 82.1 percent to $3.6 billion on September 30, 2008 from $20.2 billion on December 31, 2007 and by $15.3 billion or 80.9 percent from $18.9 billion on September 30, 2007. These decreases are due to: (1) losses of $6.3 billion on the hourly and salaried pension plan asset portfolio; (2) recording a $2.7 billion liability related to the Settlement Agreement; (3) recording a $2.7 billion liability due to the increase in the monthly pension benefit paid to salaried OPEB plan participants as compensation for the elimination of post-65 healthcare benefits; (4) the transfer of $2.1 billion of Delphi pension liabilities to GM; and (5) recording a $2.0 billion increase due to the 2008 UAW and IUE–CWA Special Attrition programs. There are some who believe that this means that after combining General Motor's cash losses, and with the losses disclosed in GM's most recently filed SEC 10Q form, it totals about $23 billion. Therefore a $25 billion bailout is little more than a three month band-aid.

The accompanying Wall Street Journal editorial outlines the perils of pursuing this latest bailout. It is my hope that Congressional leaders will reject this latest misguided effort to bailout industries that have made poor decisions at the expense of those who have not.

NOVEMBER 10, 2008.

NATIONALIZING DETROIT

In the Washington mind, there are two kinds of private companies. There are successful if ''greedy'' corporations, which can always afford to pay more taxes and tolerate more regulation. And then there are the corporate supplicants that need a handout. As the Detroit auto makers are proving, you can go from being the first to the second in the blink of an election.

For decades, Congress has never had a second thought as it imposed tighter emissions standards on GM, Ford and Chrysler, denouncing them for making evil SUVs. Yet now that the companies are bleeding cash, and may be heading for bankruptcy, suddenly the shrinking Big Three are the latest candidates for a taxpayer bailout. One $25 billion loan facility has already been signed into law, and Senator Debbie Stabenow (D., Mich.) wants another $25 billion, this time with no strings attached.

Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid met last week with company and union officials, and they later sent a letter urging Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson to bestow cash from the Troubled Asset Relief Program (Tarp) on the companies. Barack Obama implied at his Friday press conference that he too favors some kind of taxpayer rescue of Detroit, though no doubt he'd like to have President Bush's signature on the check so he won't have to take full political responsibility.

We hope Messrs. Bush and Paulson just say no. The Tarp was intended to save the financial system from collapse, not to be a honey pot for any industry running short of cash. The financial panic has hit Detroit hard, but its problems go back decades and are far deeper than reduced access to credit among car buyers. As a political matter, the Bush Administration is also long past the point where it might get any credit for helping Detroit. But it will earn the scorn of taxpayers if it refuses to set some limits on access to the Tarp. If Democrats want to change the rules next year, let them do it on their own political dime.

A bailout might avoid any near-term bankruptcy filing, but it won't address Detroit's fundamental problems of making cars that Americans won't buy and labor contracts that are too rich and inflexible to make them competitive. As Paul Ingrassia notes nearby, Detroit's costs are far too high for their market share. While GM has spent billions of dollars on labor buyouts in recent years, they are still forced by federal mileage standards to churn out small cars that make little or no profit at plants organized by the United Auto Workers.

Rest assured that the politicians don't want to do a thing about those labor contracts or mileage standards. In their letter, Ms. Pelosi and Mr. Reid recommend such ''taxpayer protections'' as ''limits on executive compensation and equity stakes'' that would dilute shareholders. But they never mention the UAW contracts that have done so much to put Detroit on the road to ruin. In fact, the main point of any taxpayer rescue seems to be to postpone a day of reckoning on those contracts. That includes even the notorious UAW Jobs Bank that continues to pay workers not to work.

A Detroit bailout would also be unfair to other companies that make cars in the U.S. Yes, those are ''foreign'' companies in the narrow sense that they are headquartered overseas. But then so was Chrysler before Daimler sold most of the car maker to Cerberus, the private equity fund. Honda, Toyota and the rest employ about 113,000 American auto workers who make nearly four million cars a year in states like Alabama and Tennessee. Unlike Michigan, these states didn't vote for Mr. Obama.

But the very success of this U.S. auto industry indicates that highly skilled American workers can profitably churn out cars without being organized by the UAW. A bailout for Chrysler would in essence be assisting rich Cerberus investors at the expense of middle-class nonunion auto workers. Is this the new ''progressive'' era we keep reading so much about?

The car makers say that bankruptcy is unthinkable and ''not an option.'' And bankruptcy would certainly be expensive, not least for Washington itself, which could be responsible for 600,000 or so retiree pensions through the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corp. In that sense, the bailout is intended to rescue the politicians from having to honor that earlier irresponsible guarantee. But at least that guarantee would be finite. If Uncle Sam buys into Detroit, $50 billion would only be the start of the outlays as taxpayers were obliged to protect their earlier investment in uncompetitive companies.

If our politicians can't avoid throwing taxpayer cash at Detroit, then they should at least do so in a way that really protects taxpayers. That means handing a receiver the power to replace current management, zero out current shareholders, and especially to rewrite labor and other contracts. Anything less is merely a payoff to Michigan politicians and their union allies.

HONORING U.S. ARMY SERGEANT JOSE REGALADO

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Ms. SOLIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to U.S. Army SGT Jose Regalado who died while serving our country.

SGT Jose Regalado was from El Sereno, California. He was born on May 11, 1985, and attended Sierra Park Elementary School, El Sereno Middle School, and Woodrow Wilson High School. As a high school student, Sergeant Regalado joined the Junior ROTC where he worked hard to move up the JROTC ranks. He earned the position of cadet battalion command sergeant major, the highest noncommissioned officer position in the battalion, and received several of the highest awards possible.

Sergeant Regalado enlisted in the United States Army on July 22, 2003. He was a member of K Troop, 3rd Squadron, 3rd Armored Calvary Regiment from Fort Hood, Texas.

On May 3, 2007 Sergeant Regalado married Sharri J. Ford, and on August 6, 2008, they were blessed with the birth of their daughter, Jaime. Sergeant Regalado was allowed to return to the United States for 18 days to meet his daughter; it would be the first and last time he would spend time with her. Sergeant Regalado lost his life on November 12, 2008, in Mosul, Iraq, as the result of injuries sustained from small arms fire.

As a young man, Sergeant Regalado enriched the lives of his surrounding El Sereno community. His JROTC instructors recall his competitive spirit and noted that while he was very demanding of his cadets, he was well liked and respected. He was a devoted father, even carrying the ultrasound of his unborn daughter in his pocket while in Iraq. He was a loving husband and the proud son of Jose and Raquel Regalado.

Sergeant Regalado served this country with courage, pride and loyalty. He gave the ultimate sacrifice to our country and for that we will be forever grateful to him and his family. My prayers and deepest sympathy go out to his wife and young daughter, family and friends.

IN RECOGNITION OF MADISON FORTENBERRY

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. MILLER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Madison Fortenberry, whose incredible contributions to the field of robotics at the age of 16 serve as an example to young Americans throughout the United States.

Mr. Fortenberry, a junior at Pace High School in Pace, Florida, has been pursuing his interests in science and technology from an early age. He utilizes multiple computer programming languages and works with a variety of micro-controllers in the creation of his robotics systems. While maintaining a perfect 4.0 grade point average, Madison finds time to teach both basic electronics and micro-controller programming to his high school Robotics Club and to conduct his own robotics summer camp for elementary school children.

Madison has spent years studying and creating robotic systems, but his recent achievement deserves special recognition. Recently, he built a full-size, operational robot that can perform multiple autonomous tasks around Pace High School. The ''Versatile General-Purpose Experimental Robot,'' or VGER, has the ability to accept a message from the school's front office, ascertain a student's scheduled location, deliver the message, and record a response for delivery back to the front office. This self-navigating robot is 5 feet tall, weighs over 200 pounds, contains 2 full computers and 11 micro-controllers, and even carries another small explorer robot that it can release to perform minor tasks. Robots like the VGER are usually developed in the advanced engineering labs of major universities; however, Mr. Fortenberry has created his robot with little assistance from his teachers. To have accomplished this enormous feat at such a young age is a testament to Madison's dedication and passion in the robotics field.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am proud to honor Madison Fortenberry for his accomplishments in robotics, and I wish this young northwest Florida leader the best of luck on his future endeavours.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF TERRI BARTLETT AND HER CONTRIBUTIONS TO WOMEN'S REPRODUCTIVE HEALTHCARE IN THE U.S. AND AROUND THE WORLD

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, throughout my public career I have been a vocal and determined supporter of women's reproductive healthcare, safe motherhood and the belief that all couples have a right to plan their family size by ensuring that women have access to voluntary family planning services. I want women in the U.S. and in every corner of the world to be healthy. Achieving this goal takes hard work and the commitment of people with passion, intellect and a drive to ensure that women have the right to make choices about their own healthcare needs.

In Congress, I have the privilege of voting to support women's reproductive healthcare, but there are many other important people who do the hard work everyday that makes the real differences in women's lives. I had the honor of working with one such person who dedicated her life to serving the health needs of women and their families.

Terri Bartlett was a champion for women and their families. She dedicated three decades of her life to ensuring the most basic right women so often are denied—the right to access safe reproductive healthcare.

I got to know Terri in 2005 in her capacity as Vice President for Public Policy and Strategic Initiatives at Population Action International. Her mantra was expanding access to contraception for the poorest women on the planet to keep them productive, healthy and alive. Terri impressed me with her energy, good political sense, and tireless commitment.

When Terri and I met it was not a good time in Congress to be advocating for women's reproductive rights. Women healthcare was on the defensive and the world's poorest women who needed U.S. support the most were increasingly being ignored. Their pain, their hopes and their desire for healthier children and control of their own lives was never ignored by Terri. She was their champion. She was often their voice in the halls of Congress.

As we look ahead, with the election of President-Elect Barack Obama and strong Democratic majorities in the U.S. House and Senate, the issues of women's reproductive healthcare and family planning will once again be the focus of constructive action and hopefully increased funding that will put the needs of women first—women in the U.S., as well as women in poor villages in Ethiopia and in the slums of Nairobi. This was the moment and the goal that Terri Bartlett worked so hard to achieve. The repeal of the Global Gag Rule, reinvestment in family planning, and making the lives of poor women a priority were Terri's fights and she fought tirelessly.

On Saturday, November 8, 2008, Terri Bartlett died unexpectedly in Nashville, TN. Her passing was a great shock and loss to friends, colleagues and those who loved her. This was a sad loss for me personally.

In my work I get to meet many, many people who try and influence public policy. Terri Bartlett's work and life went beyond shaping public policy. She helped to improve life for millions of women who never knew her. I am grateful for Terri's work and I am thankful she entered my life. She will be missed by many, including me.

WORLD REMEMBRANCE FOR ROAD CRASH VICTIMS AND THEIR FAMILIES

HON. ROBERT WEXLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. WEXLER. Madam Speaker, I rise today in observance of the World Day of Remembrance for Road Crash Victims and their Families, which was on Sunday, November 16, 2008, and to remember the countless victims of road crashes worldwide and offer my sincerest condolences to their families. Each year, road traffic crashes kill nearly 1.3 million people worldwide and injure over 50 million more. It is time for drastic measures to be taken to counter this unacceptable statistic, and until we take such action, the number of deaths and disabilities from road traffic crashes will continue to increase. At the current rate of growth, road traffic accidents will be the eighth leading cause of death by the year 2030.

The unfortunate reality of traffic accidents is that they are indiscriminate and affect victims regardless of age and class. Globally, more than 40% of all road traffic deaths occur among individuals under 25 years old, and crashes are the second leading cause of death for young people aged 5–25 years. Road crashes also come at a great cost to the

global economy. It is estimated that road traffic crashes cost $518 billion globally each year. In developing countries, road traffic crashes have a dramatic impact on their fragile economies, costing an estimated $100 billion, often exceeding the total amount received by these countries in development assistance.

The real tragedy is that road traffic crashes are predictable and can be prevented. It is critical that America play an active role domestically and internationally to address traffic accidents. Many countries have achieved sharp reductions in the number of crashes and the frequency and severity of traffic-related injuries by addressing key issues, but this progress can be enhanced by encouraging governments to create lead road safety agencies in the image of our lead road safety agency, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). Additionally, the Congressional Caucus on Global Road Safety, which I am privileged to co-chair with Congressman Chris Van Hollen of Maryland, is involved in efforts to encourage governments to improve reporting standards for deaths of their citizens abroad from road crashes so that more light can be shed light on the impact of this global epidemic.

As more Americans travel globally and more of our college students participate in study abroad programs in developing countries around the world, many of them will be at risk of injury or death due to hazardous traffic conditions. Now is the time to do whatever is possible to keep them safe, and it is essential as the international community stands together in remembrance of global road traffic victims that the United States join the United Nations, NGOs, and foreign governments in commemorating this important day and work swiftly to implement policies that will prevent further accidents and the needless loss of life.

A TRIBUTE TO DR. OVIDIO JOSEPH FALCONE

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute and to honor Dr. Ovidio Joseph Falcone. Dr. Falcone, born in Salerno, Italy and raised in Yonkers, New York, displayed a passion for science, math, and sports from an early age, attending Manhattan College and obtaining his BS degree in Biology.

Dr. Falcone began his medical career in 1982, when he entered the New York College of Podiatric Medicine, obtaining his D.P.M. and beginning his residency at the Interfaith Medical Center in 1986, serving as its Chief Resident from 1987 to 1988 and later as its On-Site Director.

Dr. Falcone later became the Director of the Podiatric Surgical Division in 1998, developing one of the strongest Podiatric Surgical Residency Programs in the country as well as a dedicated, vibrant Podiatric Surgical Service at IMC.

Dr. Falcone is a member of the American Board of Podiatric Surgery, a Fellow of the American College of Foot and Ankle Surgeons, and is a member of the Council on Podiatric Medical Education. In addition to these responsibilities at Interfaith Medical Center, Dr. Falcone has private practices in Queens and Brooklyn.

Dr. Falcone has a deep love for teaching the art of surgery, a strong commitment to family, and a passion for patient care. He is committed to serving the underprivileged and he believes that there is a sense of fulfillment in knowing you participated in helping those that are in need.

Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize Dr. Ovidio Joseph Falcone for his extraordinary accomplishments at the Interfaith Medical Center.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Dr. Ovidio Joseph Falcone.

HONORING STEPHEN BAKER

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today along with Congressman RADANOVICH to congratulate Stephen Baker upon his induction into the Fresno Athletic Hall of Fame. Mr. Baker will be honored at the 50th anniversary enshrinement dinner of the Fresno Athletic Hall of Fame on Thursday, November 6, 2008.

A sportswriter once said that Stephen Baker, at 5-foot-8, 160 pounds, was built more for gymnastics than for football. But with his lightning quickness, sure hands and gritty toughness, the wide receiver earned one of the game's enduring nicknames—''the touchdown maker.'' He was given the catchy moniker at West Los Angeles College, where he scored 31 touchdowns in two seasons, before starring at California State University Fresno for two seasons and playing six seasons with the New York Giants (1987–1992). With the Bulldogs, he was a frequent target of NCAA record-setting quarterback Kevin Sweeney, burning opponents for sixty-two receptions, an amazing 26.3 yards per catch and sixteen touchdowns over two seasons. He closed his collegiate career by catching a thirty-six yard scoring pass that gave the West All-Stars a victory in the Japan Bowl.

Drafted in the third round by the New York Giants, Mr. Baker earned the respect of Coach Bill Parcels with his ability to elude defenders and hang onto the ball. Over the course of his NFL career, he lost just one fumble. He started fifty-three games for the Giants and finished his career with one hundred and forty-one receptions, an 18.3 yards-per-catch average and twenty-one touchdowns. His best season was 1988, when he hauled in forty passes and scored seven times. The highlight of Baker's NFL career came in Superbowl XXV, as the Giants defeated the Buffalo Bills 20–19. He caught two passes—one of them a fourteen yard touchdown pass from Jeff Hostetler with just twenty-five seconds left in the first half to cut the Giants' deficit to 12–10.

Madam Speaker, we rise today to commend and congratulate Stephen Baker upon his achievements and induction into the Fresno Athletic Hall of Fame. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Mr. Baker congratulations on his many accomplishments.

COMMEMORATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MENDOCINO STUDY CLUB

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Mendocino Study Club for outstanding and distinguished service to citizens of the village and north coast of Mendocino, California, on the occasion of its centennial anniversary.

Since its founding by seven women on October 30, 1908, when Mendocino was still recovering from the California earthquake and fires of 1906, the Mendocino Study Club has been an intelligent and considerate force adapting to and addressing the issues of the times. The original members traveled by horse and buggy for the first decade in order to get together on the isolated and rugged Mendocino Coast.

In the early years Study Club members met to discuss reading assignments and international cultural and historical topics. It wasn't two years before they were also a contributing force to worthy causes. For many years the MSC was in charge of the local American Red Cross Drive. Active during the First World War, they gave to war related causes, and during the Depression focused on local needs. Health and dental care, education and safety became the stalwart causes for which the MSC has been particularly philanthropic.

In 1943, the MSC began its scholarship program with $100 to study nursing. Since then, members have granted more than $178,400 to high school graduates, as well as to recipients for reentry and job upgrade pursuits, and to economic enterprises. Their Country Christmas bazaar of handcrafted items supports the club programs including scholarships, and humanitarian and civic projects. The Mendocino Community Library is the longest running legacy, initiated by the Study Club in 1947 and incorporated in 1979. In 1988 the Mendocino Community Library moved into its own building which continues to be staffed and supported by the MSC.

Throughout the decades the MSC has been active in improving the quality of life for local residents through their support of such vital entities as the Mendocino Coast District Hospital, Mendocino Historical Research, Inc., Sherwood Oaks nursing home, Meals on Wheels, Hospitality House, a new firehouse, soup kitchens, the Senior Lunch Program and the Food Bank, to name a few. In addition to financial and volunteer support MSC has advocated on issues on behalf of school lunches to Congress, for highway safety to the state of California, and rural community libraries to the County of Mendocino.

Their 2008 centennial activities have included heritage rose plantings, a centennial quilt, and, in honor of the history of the unique village of Mendocino, the creation of walking tour brochures as a birthday gift to community.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring the Mendocino Study Club for 100 years of good deeds on the Mendocino coast. This exemplary organization lives up to its purpose to promote the highest spiritual, intellectual and cultural opportunities for its members, to provide for leadership of women

in the community, and to provide service to the community. It is with pleasure that I have the honor to commend the good work and future of the Mendocino Study Club.

TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL TOBIN

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, Michael Tobin was an exceptional academic leader, a devoted and loving family man, and friend to many. While his passing brings great sadness, the memories of this extraordinary man bring solace to our community.

Early in life, Michael attended the University of Connecticut, where he was an active participant in ROTC. Following graduation, he entered the Air Force and served as a Second Lieutenant. He subsequently earned his PhD from the West Michigan University and would go on to teach at Southern Connecticut State University.

Between 1976 and 1992, Michael was a professor at Southern Connecticut State University. During his tenure, he taught educational leadership to students from our community and communities across the Nation and abroad. His professional work inspired countless students and instilled the qualities that we need in our future educational leaders.

Beyond these professional achievements, Michael was a devoted and loving family man. In his passing, the love shared by his extensive family reflects the strong bond that he shared with each.

Throughout these journeys, Michael called Vernon, Connecticut his home since 1963. He was an excellent neighbor and even better friend and his presence will certainly be missed. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me and my constituents in honoring his life and offering condolences to his family.

HONORING JERRY PRIETO, JR.

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Jerry Prieto, Jr. upon being honored with the 2008 Greater Fresno Area Chamber Agriculturist of the Year. Mr. Prieto was honored at a luncheon November 5, 2008, held at the Radisson Conference Center in Fresno, CA.

Jerry Prieto, Jr. is a native of Corcoran, CA. He is the son of a former migrant farm worker and was raised in a small town with a small family. Mr. Prieto attended California State University, Fresno and obtained his bachelor's of science degree in Plant Science. In 1973, he began working for the Fresno County Department of Agriculture as a Seasonal Agricultural Aide assigned to track the removal and planting of permanent crops. He quickly became a Seasonal Agricultural Inspector assigned to the inspection of cantaloupes and grapes. In 1974, he worked on the Citrus White Fly eradication project and on June 28th was hired as a full-time Agricultural Inspector assigned to the Fresno District performing plant quarantine and pest detection inspections. He also performed inspections on pesticide use, farm worker safety, seeds, and nurseries. In 1977, he was transferred to the egg inspection division where he performed egg quality inspections.

Mr. Prieto was appointed as the Supervising Agricultural Biologist in charge of the egg inspection program in 1979. Within a year he was promoted to the position of Deputy Agricultural Commissioner in charge of the Grower and Consumer Protection Division responsible for the enforcement of laws and regulations pertaining to fruit, vegetable, and egg quality. In this position he was also responsible for gathering crop statistics and producing the Annual Crop and Livestock Report. By 1984, Mr. Prieto had transferred to Deputy Agricultural Commissioner of the Environmental Protection Division, where he enforced the laws and regulations pertaining to pesticide use, farm worker safety, and the coordination of the installation and implementation of the Fresno County Department of Agriculture's first computerized restricted use pesticide permit.

In 1989, Mr. Prieto left the Fresno County Department of Agriculture and took a position as a Senior Personnel Analyst with the Human Resources Division of the Fresno County Personnel Department. He supervised the county's labor relations, recruitment and exam programs. In 1993, he was appointed Fresno County Resource Manager. He was responsible for solid waste issues throughout the county and operated the American Avenue Regional Landfill, the Southeast Regional Landfill and the Coalinga Landfill. He was also responsible for providing road maintenance, street lighting, garbage collection, parks, and sewer and water services to 90 special districts.

Mr. Prieto was appointed to the position of Fresno County Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer of Weight and Measures exactly 25 years after he began working for the department. He was responsible for promoting and regulating the Nation's highest agriculture producing area. Mr. Prieto was appointed Chairman of Secretary Kawamura's AB 771 Honeybee/Seedless Mandarin Co-Existence Working Group. Mr. Prieto also served as a member of Governor Gray Davis' State Committee on Terrorism and the Western Weights and Measures Association Board of Directors. He served as the first Chairman of the California Agriculture Commissioners and Sealers Association's Food Safety and Agriculture Security Committee. He served as Chairman of the Fresno County Department Heads Council for 4 years. He is a member of the California State University, Fresno Agricultural Plant Science Advisory Committee and the Fresno County Farm Bureau. He is the Chairman of the Fresno County Council of Governments Model Farmland Preservation Committee and the Fresno County Land Conservation Committee. He is a past president of the California Agricultural Commissioners and Sealers Association. Mr. Prieto served as a judge for the Future Farmers of America California State Final competition for 23 years. For all of his service he has been honored with the "Distinguished Service Award" from the Fresno County Farm Bureau, and the "Service Award" from the Fresno-Kings Counties Cattleman's Association.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Jerry Prieto upon being awarded as the 2008 Greater Fresno Area Chamber Agriculturist of the Year. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Mr. Prieto many years of continued success.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, November 20, 2008 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

Daily Digest

HIGHLIGHTS

Senator Barack Obama, of Illinois, submitted a letter of resignation from the United States Senate.

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S10607–S10679

Measures Introduced: Eighteen bills and three resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 3691–3708, and S. Res. 707–709. **Pages S10659–60**

Measures Reported:

Special Report entitled "Activities of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs". (S. Rept. No. 110–524)

S. Res. 707, authorizing the President of the Senate to certify the facts of the failure of Joshua Bolten, as the Custodian of Records at the White House, to appear before the Committee on the Judiciary and produce documents as required by Committee subpoena, with a preamble. (S. Rept. No. 110–522)

S. Res. 708, authorizing the President of the Senate to certify the facts of the failure of Karl Rove to appear and testify before the Committee on the Judiciary and to produce documents as required by Committee subpoena, with a preamble. (S. Rept. No. 110–522)

Report to accompany S. 967, to amend chapter 41 of title 5, United States Code, to provide for the establishment and authorization of funding for certain training programs for supervisors of Federal employees. (S. Rept. No. 110–523)

Report to accompany S. 3477, to amend title 44, United States Code, to authorize grants for Presidential Centers of Historical Excellence. (S. Rept. No. 110–525)

Report to accompany S. 1000, to enhance the Federal Telework Program. (S. Rept. No. 110–526)

S. 1695, to amend the Public Health Service Act to establish a pathway for the licensure of biosimilar biological products, to promote innovation in the life sciences, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. **Page S10659**

Measures Passed:

Civil Rights Act of 1964 Commemorative Coin Act: Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs was discharged from further consideration of H.R. 2040, to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the semicentennial of the enactment of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and the bill was then passed, clearing the measure for the President. **Page S10678**

Measures Considered:

Advancing America's Priorities Act: Senate resumed consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of S. 3297, to advance America's priorities. **Page S10627**

Subsequently, the motion to proceed was withdrawn. **Page S10627**

Unemployment Compensation Extension Act—CLOTURE: Senate began consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of H.R. 6867, to provide for additional emergency unemployment compensation. **Pages S10627–29**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill, and, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur on Friday, November 21, 2008. **Page S10627**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill at approximately 10:30 a.m., on Thursday, November 20, 2008. **Page S10678**

Resignation Messages:

Resignation of Senator Barack Obama: Senator Barack Obama, of Illinois, submitted a letter of resignation from the United States Senate, effective November 16, 2008, in order to prepare for duties as President of the United States. **Page S10609**

House Messages:

Albuquerque Indian School Act: Senate concurred in the amendments of the House of Representatives to S. 1193, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to take into trust 2 parcels of Federal land for the benefit of certain Indian Pueblos in the State of New Mexico, clearing the measure for the President.

Pages S10676–78

Appointments:

Congressional Oversight Panel: The Chair, on behalf of the Republican Leader, pursuant to provisions of Public Law 110–343, appointed the following individual as a member of the Congressional Oversight Panel: the Honorable Judd Gregg, of New Hampshire. **Page S10678**

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

Steve A. Linick, of Virginia, to be Inspector General of the Federal Housing Finance Agency.

Alesia Ranney-Marinelli, of New York, to be a Director of the Securities Investor Protection Corporation for a term expiring December 31, 2011.

Mark S. Shelton, of Kansas, to be a Director of the Securities Investor Protection Corporation for a term expiring December 31, 2011.

Thomas Joseph Dodd, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Inter-American Foundation for a term expiring June 26, 2014.

Gary C. Bryner, of Utah, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Inter-American Foundation for a term expiring June 26, 2014.

Roger W. Wallace, of Texas, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Inter-American Foundation for a term expiring October 6, 2014.

Rodney G. Bent, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Inter-American Foundation for a term expiring September 20, 2014.

1 Air Force nomination in the rank of general.

1 Coast Guard nomination in the rank of admiral.

Routine lists in the Air Force, Army.

Pages S10678–79

Measures Placed on the Calendar: **Page S10648**

Executive Communications: **Pages S10648–50**

Petitions and Memorials: **Pages S10650–59**

Additional Cosponsors: **Page S10660**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S10660–76**

Additional Statements: **Pages S10644–48**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Page S10676**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 9:30 a.m. and adjourned at 6:42 p.m., until 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, November 20, 2008. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S10678.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

DOMESTIC AUTOMOBILE INDUSTRY

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: On Tuesday, November 18, Committee concluded a hearing to examine the state of the domestic automobile industry, after receiving testimony from Senator Stabenow; Ron Gettelfinger, International Union, United Automobile, Aerospace and Agricultural Implement Workers of America (UAW), and Rick Wagoner, General Motors Corporation, both of Detroit, Michigan; Alan R. Mulally, Ford Motor Company, Dearborn, Michigan; Robert Nardelli, Chrysler LLC, Auburn Hills, Michigan; and Peter Morici, University of Maryland Robert H. Smith School of Business, College Park.

NOMINATION

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nomination of Neil M. Barofsky, of New York, to be Special Inspector General for the Troubled Asset Relief Program of the Department of the Treasury, after the nominee, who was introduced by Senators Dodd and Schumer, testified and answered questions in his own behalf.

ECONOMIC STIMULUS

Committee on the Budget: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the economic outlook and options for stimulus, after receiving testimony from Mark M. Zandi, Moody's Economy.com, West Chester, Pennsylvania; Simon Johnson, Massachusetts Institute of Technology Sloan School of Management, Cambridge; and John B. Taylor, Stanford University, Palo Alto, California.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

Committee on Finance: Committee concluded a hearing to examine health care reform, focusing on the economic perspective, after receiving testimony from Ivan Seidenberg, Verizon, Inc., New York, New York, on behalf of the Business Roundtable; Andrew L. Stern, Service Employees International Union, Washington, D.C.; Uwe Reinhardt, Princeton University Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs, Princeton, New Jersey; and Amitabh Chandra, Harvard University John F. Kennedy School of Government, Cambridge, Massachusetts.

BANKRUPTCY LAW

Committee on the Judiciary: Committee concluded a hearing to examine helping families stay in their homes, focusing on the role of bankruptcy laws, including S. 2136, to address the treatment of primary mortgages in bankruptcy, and S. 3690, to help struggling families stay in their homes and to ensure that taxpayers are protected when the Secretary of the Treasury purchases equity shares in financial situations, after receiving testimony from Tom Dart, Cook County Sherriff's Office, Chicago, Illinois; Michael D. Calhoun, Center for Responsible Lending, Durham, North Carolina; Adam J. Levitin, Georgetown University Law Center, David G. Kittle, Mortgage Bankers Association, and Scott A. Stengel, Orrick, Herrington, and Sutcliffe LLP, all of Washington, D.C.; and Christopher J. Mayer, Columbia Business School, New York, New York.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 23 public bills, H.R. 7272–7294; 1 private bill, H.R. 7295; and 3 resolutions, H.J. Res. 101; and H. Res. 1529–1530, were introduced. **Pages H10843–44, H10845**

Additional Cosponsors: **Page H10845**

Report Filed: A report was filed today as follows: Select Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming: Final Staff Report for the 110th Congress (H. Rept. 110–915). **Page H10843**

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein she appointed Representative McNulty to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H10829**

Notification of Reassembly: Read the text of the formal notification sent to Members on Thursday, November 13, 2008, of the reassembling of the House. **Page H10829**

Commission to Study the Potential Creation of a National Museum of the American Latino—Appointment: Read a letter from Representative Boehner, Minority Leader, in which he appointed Mrs. Rosa J. Correa of Bridgeport, Connecticut as a voting member to the Commission to Study the Potential Creation of a National Museum of the American Latino. Further, Dr. Aida Levitan of Key Biscayne, Florida, previously appointed, shall also be a voting member. **Page H10830**

Moment of Silence: The House observed a moment of silence in honor of the men and women in uniform who have given their lives in the service of our nation in Iraq and Afghanistan, their families, and all who serve in the armed forces. **Page H10830**

Oath of Office—Eleventh Congressional District of Ohio: Representative-elect Marcia L. Fudge presented herself in the well of the House and was administered the Oath of Office by the Speaker. Earlier, the Clerk of the House transmitted a facsimile copy of a letter from Ms. Pat Wolfe, Elections Administrator, Office of the Secretary of State, State of Ohio, indicating that, according to the unofficial returns of the Special Election held November 18, 2008, the Honorable Marcia L. Fudge was elected Representative to Congress for the Eleventh Congressional District, State of Ohio. **Pages H10830–31**

Whole Number of the House: The Speaker announced to the House that, in light of the administration of the oath to the gentlewoman from Ohio, Ms. Fudge, the whole number of the House is adjusted to 435. **Page H10831**

Recess: The House recessed at 1:32 p.m. and reconvened at 3:04 p.m. **Page H10831**

Calendar Wednesday: Agreed that the business in order under the Calendar Wednesday rule be dispensed with today. **Page H10831**

Presidential Message: Read a message from the President wherein he submitted a certification pursuant to sec. 115(a)(2) of PL 110–343—referred to the Committee on Financial Services and ordered printed (H. Doc. 110–158). **Pages H10829–30**

Senate Message: Message received from the Senate by the Clerk and subsequently presented to the House today appears on page H10830.

Quorum Calls—Votes: There were no yea-and-nay votes, and there were no recorded votes. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 1 p.m. and adjourned at 3:05 p.m.

Committee Meetings

F–22 FIGHTER JET PROGRAM

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Air and Land Forces held a hearing on the F–22 program. Testimony was heard from the following officials of

the Department of Defense: John Young, Under Secretary, Acquisition, Technology and Logistics; and David M. Van Buren, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Air Force, Acquisition and Management.

U.S. AUTO INDUSTRY STABILIZATION

Committee on Financial Services: Held a hearing entitled "Stabilizing the Financial Condition of the American Automobile Industry." Testimony was heard from Senators Levin and Voinovich; Representatives Levin, Upton, Hoekstra, Miller of Michigan, and Kilpatrick, the following CEOs of the automobile industry: G. Richard Wagoner, Jr., Chairman, GM; Robert Nardelli, Chrysler; and Alan Mulally, President, FMC; Ron Gettelfinger, President, United Auto Workers; and public witnesses.

OVERSIGHT—FINANCIAL RESCUE PLANS

Committee on Financial Services: On November 18, the Committee held a hearing entitled "Oversight of Implementation of the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 and of Government Lending and Insurance Facilities: Impact on Economy and Credit Availability." Testimony was heard from Henry M. Paulson, Jr., Secretary of the Treasury; Ben S. Bernanke, Chairman, Board of Governors, Federal Reserve System; Sheila C. Bair, Chairman, FDIC; and public witnesses.

U.N. MANDATE FOR IRAQ

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Subcommittee on International Organizations, Human Rights, and Oversight held a hearing on Renewing the United Nations Mandate for Iraq: Plans and Prospects. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

IMPLEMENTING NEW G.I. BILL REQUIREMENTS

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: On November 18, the Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity held a hearing on VA's Short- and Long-Term Strategies for Implementing New G.I. Bill Requirements. Testimony was heard from Keith Wilson, Director, Office of Education Service, Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs.

Joint Meetings

TURKMENISTAN

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe: Commission concluded a hearing to examine Turkmenistan, focusing on prospects for change and a new legislative framework that will result in real reform for upcoming parliamentary election, after receiving testimony from George Krol, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State; Eric McGlinchey, George Mason University Department of Public and International Affairs, and Anthony Bowyer, Caucasus and Central Asia International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES), both of Washington, D.C.; and Cathy Fitzpatrick, Jacob Blaustein Institute for the Advancement of Human Rights, New York, New York.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2008

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

No meetings/hearings scheduled.

House

Committee on Agriculture, hearing to review the role of credit derivatives in the U.S. economy, 10 a.m., 1301 Longworth.

Committee on Small Business, hearing entitled "Review of Recent Federal Efforts to Improve Credit Conditions for Small Businesses," 10 a.m., 2360 Rayburn.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

9:30 a.m., Thursday, November 20

Senate Chamber

Program for Thursday: After the transaction of any morning business (not to extend beyond one hour), Senate will continue consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of H.R. 6867, Unemployment Compensation Extension Act.

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

10 a.m., Thursday, November 20

House Chamber

Program for Thursday: To be announced.

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

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